

Wednesday 1 March Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by lunch
 Monday 6 March Men's Fellowship Ladies Night: Queen's Messengers
 Wednesday 8 March Monthly Prayer meeting in church
 Saturday 18-31 March Claygate Music Festival - more information on page 10
 Monday 20 March Anchor: Linda Morgan on the Iona Community
 Sunday 26 March Mothering Sunday
 Monday 3 April Men's Fellowship: Eric Fowler's Life in Show Business
 Wednesday 5 April Holy Communion at 11 am followed by a light lunch
 Wednesday 12 April Monthly Prayer Meeting in church, 8 pm
 Thursday 13 April Maundy Thursday Supper in the Church Hall, 8 pm
 Friday 14 April Good Friday
 Sunday 16 April Easter Day
 Monday 24 April Confirmation Service (venue to be announced)
 Thursday 27 April Annual Parochial Church Meeting
 Friday 28 July-7 August Summer Mission to Ukraine

March 2006

50p

PHILIP PLYMING IS TO BE HOLY TRINITY'S NEXT VICAR



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

	8 am	10 am	6.30 pm
1st Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Holy Communion Ord 1
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	All Age Service	Evening Prayer
4th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion Ord 1	Evening Prayer
5th Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 2 pm: Toddlers' Praise (in the Church Hall)
 Every Wednesday, at 7 am: Prayers for 30 minutes (in the Quiet Room)
 Every Thursday, at 3.45 pm: Intercessions (in the Quiet Room)
 Monthly on a Thursday, at 11.45 am at Wingham Court: Holy Communion
 4th Thursday in month, at 11.30 am at the Day Centre: Holy Communion

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At Christmas and Easter time, it is pretty much guaranteed that someone will comment that "it must be a busy time of year for you." It is always encouraging when someone shows concern in this way, although in a church like Holy Trinity, it is often surprising when the busy times are. Take last month for example. February is hardly known for its major Christian festivals and yet somehow we managed to fit in the announcement of a new vicar, a Parish Weekend away at High Leigh and a feverishly paced Holiday Club.

It is perhaps a typical feature of a place like Claygate and a church like Holy Trinity that we are constantly busy. There is something exciting and energising about an environment where people are coming up with new ideas and pressing deadlines. At the same time though, the busyness can leave us disorientated and exhausted. When the other day someone asked me how I was, I replied, "I'll tell you once I've caught up with myself." Or as one person rather more gracefully (and spiritually!) expressed it on the Parish Weekend, she sometimes felt so busy that her soul did not have time to catch up.

It is for this reason that Paddy Beresford's timely message on the Parish Weekend is so important for us all to hear. In the midst of many and conflicting demands, the achievement of various goals and the pressures of time, we must leave time to remember what we are about – or more accurately what God is about. We need to maintain our vision, or as Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) puts it, "without vision the people perish." During Paddy's talks, based on the book of Habakkuk, the verse which stood out for me was Habakkuk 2:1: "I will look to see what God will say to me." It speaks of a determination to wait on God to see how he will lead us through the tasks and challenges which we face.

This was brought home to me during Holiday Club. In so many ways Holiday Club is a fantastic occasion and the children love it and yet the challenge is to maintain God's vision for the Club, namely that children might have a chance to hear and respond to the invitation to enter into a personal relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. What is true of Holiday Club is true of all our endeavours whether in church, work or in our neighbourhood. What is God doing where we are or where might he be calling us? The only way for us to find out is, like Jesus, to spend time with our Heavenly Father. So let us, in the midst of sometimes frenetically busy lives, spend time waiting and looking with Habakkuk, to see what God will say to us.

David

From the Parish Registers

*We welcome into the
family of the Church:*

Isabel Niamh Carville
(baptised on 19th february)

The selection of vicars

Perhaps we should be thankful that Holy Trinity was allowed to play its part in finding our new vicar. Writing in his parish magazine last autumn, the Revd John Silk of Thames Ditton commented that when he was appointed, the interviews neither took place in the parish nor involved anyone from the parish. They were held in Kings College Cambridge, the panel comprising seven Dons, only one of whom had ever visited Thames Ditton!

A Vicar's hobbies

On the Chineham website, Philip Plyming lists his hobbies as watching cricket, travelling by train and "collecting bad jokes". More than one Holy Trinity member has already indicated an ability to help him in his quest. One reader was even unkind enough to suggest that he should find Insight helpful in that regard. So the 'Ed-itor' 'it 'is 'ead (Oh no, there's another one!)

Parish Personalities

John Whitnall faces this month's Insight Inquisition.

Where were you brought up?
In New Malden.

How long have you lived in Claygate?
Getting on for 37 years.

What do you like most about it?
It still retains a village style atmosphere.

And if there was one thing you could change?
The depositing of litter and rubbish, particularly around recycling banks.

Where would you locate your ideal home?
Some preferred spots, but no ideal location.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round? Washing up.

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?

I struggle to restrain my voice to an acceptable decibel level.

What food are you most partial to?
Plain and wholesome ones - not exotic.

And leave on the side of your plate?
None - if I am given a choice of menu.

What do you watch on television?
Certain sports, news and good drama.

What would your desert island book be?
Vocal scores of top musical shows.

What is your favourite music?
Except pop, all if well performed.

And your favourite hymn?
I love all hymns with a good tenor harmony line.

Which passage of the Bible is most telling for you personally?

1 Corinthians chapter 13, verses 1 to 13.

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

To sing a solo role in a major musical production.

"Make straight a runway for our God"

Perhaps Isaiah did not quite use those words, but they are certainly apposite to the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship, which was the subject of David Greenwood's illustrated talk to the Men's Fellowship on 6th February.

If not well-known to the average air traveller, MAF flies to more destinations than any other airline in the world, using its 130 aircraft in the service of Christian mission and the meeting of needs. It is able to assist the work of about 300 other organisations, embracing the familiar relief agencies such as Tearfund, World Vision, Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children, medical agencies such as the Christian Blind Mission, Leprosy Mission and Medecins Sans Frontieres and many smaller bodies. It has understandably been called the Airline of the Church.

MAF flies light aircraft, typically Cessnas, capable of reaching otherwise inaccessible areas quickly, utilising grass airstrips - which still need to comply with safety standards - or even, with its amphibious planes, water, specially useful in Bangladesh in particular. The conditions vary enormously, from the tropics to the deep cold of Mongolia. The common feature is that they are home to some of the world's most vulnerable people, who can be brought help and new hope.

As to "making straight a runway", well, not always. There was one runway we saw where the terrain necessitated a tricky and potentially disastrous kink halfway along it. MAF pilots need to be on their toes!

Space the place for fun and learning

Holy Trinity's half term Holiday Club for children was a resounding success, enjoyed by a capacity 90 primary age children. Devised for the first time within the church, it was built around a space travel theme, allowing much fun and a good element of teaching based on the parables.

Most church members will have seen the space station built at the front of the church for the occasion, and that, along with the other craft elements and all the leadership and help during the week, involved the hard work of more than 100 adults and some of our young people. It was a great exercise in teamwork.

For the first time, the value of the outreach role of the Club was developed by holding a lunch for both children and parents on the final day.

More refurbishment to be undertaken

The last of Holy Trinity's buildings needing renovation is the old garage (perhaps a stable before that) of the original vicarage. Its roof has collapsed, but work will shortly start to refurbish it to provide new storage facilities for the church and the Jigsaw Playgroup.

The Jigsaw garden

The part of the vicarage garden devoted to use by the Jigsaw Playgroup (along the Recreation Ground boundary) needs to be cleared of some brambles and ivy before it is safe for the children to use as the better weather arrives. There will be a working party on Saturday 4th

It's a funny old world

Funny how we call God our Father and Jesus our brother,

- but find it hard to introduce them to the rest of our family.

Funny how much difficulty some have learning the Gospel well enough to tell others,

- but how simple it is to understand and explain the latest gossip about someone else.

Funny how we demand justice for others,

- but expect mercy from God for ourselves.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray,

- but don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

Funny how we are so quick to take directions from a total stranger when we are lost,

- but are hesitant to take God's direction for our lives.

Funny how people want God to answer their prayers,

- but refuse to listen to his counsel.

Funny how we sing about heaven,

- but live only for today.

Funny how people think they are going to heaven

- but don't think there is a hell.

Funny how it is okay to blame God for evil and suffering in the world,

- but it is not necessary to thank him for what is good and pleasant.

Funny how when something goes wrong, we cry, "Lord, why me?"

- but when something goes right, we think, "Wow, look at me!"

Oh wait... maybe all this isn't so 'funny' after all.

Jewish fathers

A Jewish father was troubled by the way his son turned out, and went to see his Rabbi about it. "I brought him up in the faith, gave him a very expensive bar mitzvah, cost me a fortune to educate him. Then he tells me last week he has decided to become a Christian! Rabbi, where did I go wrong?"

"Funny you should come to me," said the Rabbi. "Like you I, too, brought my boy up in the faith, put him through University, cost me a fortune, then one day he, too, tells me he has decided to become a Christian."

"What did you do?" asked the father.

"I turned to God for the answer" replied the Rabbi.

"And what did he say?" asked the father.

"God said, 'Funny you should come to me...'"



What do you mean, 'they need 30 more copies of the parish magazine this month'?

Lenten events

Churches Together in Esher and Claygate are cooperating in the organisation of a Lent course. The course they are using is called *Life Balance*, which focuses on getting the right balance between rest, work and play in the hectic nature of 21st century living. The course runs for five weeks, in parallel in four different churches on four different days of the week, all beginning in the week commencing 6th March.

Everyone is welcome to join in, at any church of your choice, and you will find a clipboard in the church foyer on which you can sign up.

The days, times and venues are as follows:

Mondays at 7.45 for 8pm, till 9.30 pm
Church of the Holy Name, Arbrook Lane

Tuesdays at 7.45 for 8 pm, till 9.30 pm
Holy Trinity Claygate

Wednesdays at 1.45 for 2 pm, till 3.30 pm
Friends Meeting House, Esher

Thursdays at 1.45 for 2 pm, till 3.30 pm
Christ Church Esher

Ladies invited to Men's Fellowship

If you are interested in hearing about Queen's Messengers and their work, do come along to the Men's Fellowship Ladies Night in the Church Hall on Monday 6th March at 7.45 for 8 pm, when we will be hearing from Lt Col J M C Kimmins.

Insight

Contributions to the April (Easter) issue of the parish magazine should reach the Editor by Tuesday 14th March please.

CONCERTS IN HOLY TRINITY

Claygate Music Festival

Claygate's first music festival takes place this month. Copies of the full programme may be picked up in the church foyer. The following events will take place in Holy Trinity:

SATURDAY 18th MARCH at 7.30 pm
CLAYGATE CHORAL SOCIETY
Bach's Magnificat etc
Tickets £12.50

TUESDAY 21st MARCH at 2 pm
THE PASSION PLAY
Rowan Preparatory School (free)

WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH at 8 pm
CLAYGATE GOSPEL CHOIR
A celebration of uplifting music.
Tickets £8 (under 15s £2)

FRIDAY 24th MARCH at 8 pm
AN ENCHANTED EVENING
Jamsheed Master: film/theatre scores
Tickets £8

SATURDAY 25th MARCH at 8 pm
EMERALD ENSEMBLE
Vivaldi, Mozart, Rossini and Haydn.
Tickets £10 (students with ID free)

SUNDAY 26th MARCH at 6.30 pm
SUNG EVENSONG
with Ember Choral Society

WEDNESDAY 29th MARCH at 8 pm
MUSICA VIVA
Favourite baroque concertos
Tickets £10

THURSDAY 30th MARCH at 7 pm
RISING STARS
Claygate Primary School Choir and
St Paul's Primary School Choir
Tickets £3 (under 4s free)

A vicar for Claygate

The Revd Philip Plyming has been selected to be the new vicar of Holy Trinity Claygate, it was announced to congregations on 5th February.

Philip is currently Assistant Minister at Christ Church Chineham, near Basingstoke, but it will be July before he is installed as our vicar. The exact date will be announced once it has been coordinated with the availability of the Bishop.

Philip was appointed curate at Chineham when he was ordained in 2001. He had earlier obtained a degree in Modern Languages (German and Russian) at Cambridge and then did some church work, some teaching and worked in a bank before going to Durham University to read theology and train for the ministry. He is currently undertaking part-time research for a PhD in New Testament studies and communication at Edinburgh University.

Philip grew up in Sussex and says that he became a Christian while at Cambridge. Now 32 ("but already turning grey", he says), he is married to Annabelle, a GP, and - as you will have seen from our front page picture - they have a two year old son, Sam. At Chineham Philip has had particular responsibility for the church's youth work and has overseen the planting of a youth congregation. He also took over the senior ministerial role through Chineham's own interregnum last year.

Churchwarden Richard Gordon said that Philip had been the unanimous choice of the interviewing panel, and they were all excited at the appointment of someone who matched our needs so very well. It was a real answer to prayer and we were incredibly blessed to have someone of Philip's qualities coming to Claygate.

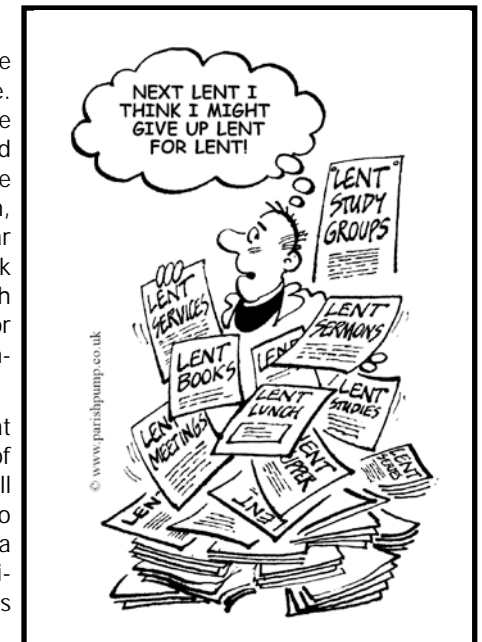
A message from Philip Plyming

I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed to follow Julian as the vicar of Claygate. It will be a privilege to work with such an able staff team, serving the church and community, and I am excited about all that God has for us in the future.

Annabelle, Sam and I look forward very much to moving to the village in the summer, joining the church family and getting to know you all. We will be grateful for your prayers for us as we prepare to move; we will certainly be praying for you all.

God bless

Philip



Learning from the Bible

Lent begins on 1st March. So this is the time for us to give up chocolate and alcohol, right? Well, a little self-denial may be good for us, and the fact that Lent is linked with the forty days and forty nights through which Jesus fasted in the wilderness before he began his ministry (see Matthew 4) gives us some kind of example on which to base our own practices.

But the prime role of Lent is as a devotional preparation for Easter, the most solemn and the most magnificent season of the Christian year. That could well entail some self-denial so that we are better able to concentrate on more fundamental issues, but self-denial is far from being the main point of Lent.

We can readily see that the Pharisee in Jesus' story of the two men praying in the Temple (Luke 18. 9-14) was a stickler for religious observance: fast twice a week? - certainly, he was your man. Give away a tenth of one's income? - see, here are the accounts. He was a strict follower of his religion. But how much time did he spend searching himself and reflecting on his personal relationship with God?

It may not come naturally to many of us to search ourselves. Life is busy. Even if we are the kind to be more naturally introspective than others, there are plenty of things to get on with. It might not be very comfortable to look within and contemplate ourselves. It may be too that we tend to deflect the concern of others if, for exam-

"The tax collector would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast..."

Luke chap. 18, verse 13.

ple, we have an accident. "Don't worry about me - I'm all right." But of course, to say that we are all right may be an exercise in complacency. The Pharisee was complacent: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men."

The tax collector on the other hand knew that he had no reason to be smug. It was with true humility that he had come to the Temple, aware of his shortcomings and probably, given the role of tax collectors under the Roman empire, of the extent to which he had enriched himself at the expense of others. He could not bring himself even to look in the direction of God, but simply said "God have mercy on me, a sinner". It was he, Jesus said, who went home justified before God.

The Pharisee thought there was nothing wrong with him. The tax collector knew there was something wrong with him. He had examined himself and recognised that all was not well between him and God. This is not a story about the relative merits of the mighty and the humble, but about the importance of coming before God with an honest appreciation of the extent to which we are in need of him and his mercy.

Lent is a good time for us to look at ourselves and to assess what needs to be remedied in our relationship with God. Then we might be able to embrace Easter with a richer sense of joy.

Scribatus

A humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after learning (Thomas à Kempis)

Young people today....

Having just returned from the Parish Weekend I thought it was just the right time to sit down and recall for all and sundry the events of the previous few days before I go off on my holiday down in the land of St Piran, the ancient nation of Kernow or as the South West Regional Development Agency would mundanely state, Cornwall.

Two of my very best friends, Richard and Tracy Sherwood-Farnfield came down and very much enjoyed working with the 15 of our young people who were able to make the life-changing trip around the M25 on a Friday evening. They had planned many activities and studies for each of the sessions over the weekend and after the Chart topping dance of the Data Projector fairy, were able to do all they had planned to; to great and hopefully lasting, effect. So from Hangman, to Dingbats and back through Consequences the topics of prayer, Habakkuk and predestination versus pre-termination were discussed. Oh, and a lot of paper planes were engaged in the process.

So, the first night was distinguished by being exceedingly nippy, and then punctuated by a curiosity-induced fire alarm which oddly raised a small cheer when people realised they might get warmer. However the reality was a frost-tinged tramp to an illusory muster point, which would certainly not pass its synonymic inspection. That said, Super Mario Kart certainly produced some heat, although mainly from Yoshi's exhaust fumes!

So, when Saturday came despite much nocturnal Bop It extreme our cooked

breakfast disappeared faster than you can say "I've locked myself out of my room again and need the master key please." The morning passed without incident, save for a classic skiing-based illustration from Senor Richard, until Amelia and Rachel decided that flying a kite in Force 0 wind would be a fun way to pass the afternoon. The intimate embrace enjoyed by the kite and a tree would have made Mills and Boon blush, but undeterred Amelia and Rachel rescued said kite and then a miracle ensued whereby they extricated branch from string. It will be spoken of in hushed reverence by those who witnessed it for many a week.

Seeing David and Angus captain their respective Ultimate Frisbee sides was the culmination of much practice at Pathfinders and with Nico scoring a classic far post steal, it was a triumph for youth over experience. After the dance mats won the youth vote over the hoe down, Sunday brought a competition of Herculean proportions. The challenge was laid that who-soever could convince another High Leigh resident that as sure as bees make honey, wasps make jam, would be rewarded with much praise and prestige. Zoë won out as she managed to persuade someone that earwigs made chutney as well. Sheer class that, and the plaudits that she rightly received at lunch would have rung all the way back through the drizzle to Claygate.

In summation then much fun was had by all and that most elusive prize, fellowship, got a fresh airing and indeed a *Brasso* bur-nish to set up our Lenten run beautifully. And so I depart on my hols tired, but gladdened by all that has gone before and eager with anticipation of all that March brings.

Asa

Last month's Parish Weekend at High Leigh

SHARON LINNEY reports:

We collected the children from school and set off on our journey. Along with everyone else, our journey took 2.5 hours.

We were greeted by smiling Kathryn and Julia and given our room keys.

Delicious Fish and Chips, followed by a hot dessert, yummy!

We all joined in the Yew Tree Hall to be introduced to our fantastic guest speaker, Paddy, along with his wife Ann. It was great to meet up with so many church friends that we knew and be introduced to others that we didn't know.

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, we enjoyed family worship, and then the children went off to their groups. We had superb inspirational teaching from Paddy and joyous worship throughout the weekend from Ann.

Francesca enjoyed being with the "Big Girls" and was thoroughly involved with the Barn Dance. Gabriella delighted everyone by taking Centre Stage and dancing the night away.

Bertie was chuffed to be invited to play his clarinet accompanying the other musicians to *In Christ Alone*. Henry experienced his first ever appearance on a Dance Floor.

Nigel was inspired to persevere in all things. I felt encouraged to listen and hear God more closely and to seek His vision.

The whole weekend was COOL COOL WICKED WICKED BRILL BRILL

Kathryn Walker writes: Over 120 members of Holy Trinity had a successful and very enjoyable Parish Weekend in Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire. We returned to High Leigh Conference Centre, where our two previous Parish weekends have been held, and enjoyed two days of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun.

Our key speaker, Paddy Beresford, led us expertly through a series of talks on a vision of 'praying in faith' referenced on the Book of Habakkuk, which was followed by some challenging small group discussions. Our worship was lively and uplifting, led by Ann Beresford, with an eclectic mix of supporting instruments: trumpet, violin, cello, recorder and percussion.

There was a fantastic programme of children's activities and events, which catered for all ages, and incorporated lively teaching and musical worship.

The weekend was also about relaxation and socialising – we enjoyed a ramble in the countryside in the sunshine, some active outdoor games and some 'active' indoor watching of the rugby on the big screen!

The Saturday evening Barn Dance was a big success and ensured the participation of all ages, even from the tender age of two! Sam Ryder provided his customary performance with a witty song, which received massive applause from all.

For a full perspective, our roving reporters each offer their commentary.

DAVID SHINE (age 13) reports

We arrived after supper and discovered we were in the same bedroom as last time. Shortly after, the fire alarm was accidentally set off and everyone had to evacuate the building! During our first group session, we met our leaders for the weekend, Richard, an RE teacher, and his wife Tracy, a scientist. We got to know one another by playing Consequences, and then by talking late into the night.

On Saturday morning we learned about Habakkuk and how he found it difficult to trust God at first, because he didn't understand the overall plan. We split into small groups to discuss the stresses we face, and the temptations that draw us away from God. Richard answered our questions very thoroughly, sometimes sounding just like a teacher!

On Saturday afternoon we played (a version of) rugby with the younger children, and in the evening some of us joined in the dancing while others just kept talking! During the Sunday morning session we played more games. We talked about how to pray, and made a list of ways to relax and de-stress. Each of us wrote a prayer and then I chose one of them to read out in the final communion service.

I thought the Parish Weekend was great fun; I enjoyed the freedom, and appreciated the depth of discussion in our group sessions. I would recommend it to everyone.

SARAH STROUD reports:

The recipe for a successful parish weekend? Simple, really: the list of ingredients starts with more than 100 adult members of the church family, a selection of youth workers, and two excellent speakers in Paddy and Ann Beresford. Add a generous sprinkling of teenagers, children and babies. Whisk the whole lot up the M25 at varying speeds and pour them into the peaceful setting of the High Leigh Conference Centre.

Next add the Old Testament book of Habakkuk, an essential ingredient in this recipe, and then carefully stir in some Celtic music and four-part singing in harmony. Combine these with Ann's thoughtful prayer songs and, in order to bring out the full flavour of the whole, add a lively country dancing session which certainly sorted out those who stir in a clockwise direction from those who firmly believe the mixture should be whisked anti-clockwise or, indeed, those who couldn't decide which direction they ought to be going in at all.

Gently simmer the mixture in a spirit of fellowship, with a good measure of worship, music and learning, and allow to mature for 48 hours. Finally, bring all together in a warm service of prayer, song and communion, a mixture guaranteed to put the icing on the delightful parish weekend cake.

ANNABEL WALKER (age 5) reports

MY PARISH WEEKEND

I really liked the Barn Dance. We learnt about praying in God it was really exciting fun too and we made a prayer with pictures. Me and Freya went really fast on the roundabout.