

Wednesday 4 May	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Thursday 5 May	Ascension Day
Monday 9 May	Men's Fellowship Annual Service, AGM and closing supper
Sunday 15 May	Pentecost / Whit Sunday
Monday 16 May	Teenage Parenting course starts, 8 pm
Monday 16 May	Anchor: "Cherry Trees", for children with special needs
Sunday 22 May	Trinity Tea and Songs of Praise
Saturday 28 May	Africa evening, with Julian and Meg Merrifield
Wednesday 1 June	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Monday 6-10 June	Seniors House Party at Pilgrim Hall
Sunday 26 June	Deanery Evensong with Bishop Christopher, Hershaw
Tuesday 28 June until Sunday 3 July	"The Life of Christ" - Wintershall's open air play 10.15 am - 4.30 pm each day
Monday 18 July	Meet Bishop Christopher at Holy Trinity, 7.30 pm

### 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

Insight is the Parish Magazine of Holy Trinity Claygate, published monthly.  
 Editor: Jon Davey, 71 Hare Lane, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0QX  
 Phone: 01372 810106 email: annandjon.davey@ntlworld.com  
 Subscriptions and distribution: Merle Liddiard, 01372 465038  
 Church Office Church Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0JP  
 Phone 01372 463603 Fax: 01372 464894  
 email: htclaygate@aol.com

May 2005

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and a lot more to  
keep you in the  
Holy Trinity picture

## CRISIS SUPPORT SCHEME LAUNCHED

Valerie announced at the Annual Church Meeting that Holy Trinity was establishing a scheme which would show our care in a practical way towards those who find themselves in serious need. The case for such a scheme had been urged from the floor at the Annual Meeting two years ago, and the PCC had set up a group to consider the idea and work out the details.

The scheme would be funded by pledges made by members of the church family, which would be called in as the need arose, with the PCC providing urgent cover to be reimbursed from the pledges. The letters about this year's Finance Review outline the Church's intentions and invite pledges for this purpose.

Valerie would be the contact for those who found themselves facing a one-off financial crisis, from church or community, and there would be documentation to be completed. She would be helped in the administration of the scheme by Brian Howells, dealing with the financial side, and by Gill Kelly, who can advise on other support services for those in need.

VICAR: CANON JULIAN HENDERSON  
 LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY  
 CURATE: THE REVD DAVID KING  
 NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD PROF LINDA MORGAN  
 YOUTH WORKERS: ASA HUMPHREYS, STUART WRIGHT

Phone 01372 463603 Fax 01372 464894  
 email: htclaygate@aol.com  
 www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk

I am deeply grateful to God for all who made it possible for me to be away from my usual responsibilities at Holy Trinity for the first three months of this year and to be able to do so without anxiety. The whole church family rose to the challenge so well. It is a tribute to the practice of shared every-member ministry at Holy Trinity that the work continued in the way it did.

The second thing to say is that I really enjoyed my three months. Though I missed everyone and the work, it was good to step back and discover that my service of God as a Vicar is not an idol I worship and cannot do without. All Christians need to watch that their work for Christ does not become more important than their walk with Him.

Thirdly, my first two months here in Claygate were spent catching up on reading, having more time with the family, attending three short conferences, visiting family and friends, attending the General Synod of the Church of England and just being free of the usual deadlines that work brings.

Fourthly, my trip to Africa for the month of March was a huge privilege. I will report more fully at an African evening on 28th May and show pictures of the trip. And it will be good to have Meg Merrifield there, not only informing us on her work in East Africa, but also commenting on Nigeria as well, since she worked there before moving to Kenya.

It was so encouraging to visit Martin and Lucy Brown in Niamey in Niger Republic. They are doing a great job and were so grateful for the electrical equipment I took out for the Radio Station. Thank you to all who contributed to that gift.

My visit to the centre of Nigeria and the Diocese of Kafanchan renewed my link with Bishop William Diya, who visited us in 1998. His oldest daughter aged 34 had recently died in January, but he was working hard in this missionary Diocese and while I was there one of his archdeaconries became a new Diocese with its own Bishop. I attended the consecration in Abuja of ten new Bishops!

The Diocese of Oleh in Southern Nigeria was home for my final 9 days. I preached seven times in eight days and had to speak informally on many other occasions. The African hospitality was very generous and the growth of the church was so encouraging. Whereas we are in a culture of church decline, they are in a movement of dramatic growth. We shall have to see how a link between our Deanery and this Diocese will shape up.

I am so grateful to God that I was kept safe in all my travel arrangements and that I was well for my whole month away. So thank you for your prayers and I pray that there will be a benefit for all of us from this Sabbatical time.

With my love, best wishes and prayers,



## From the Parish Registers

### *We welcome into the family of the church:*

Téa Sophia McBean  
Matthew Peter Hyland Hicks  
Georgina Rachel King  
Neil Jamie Mackinnon  
(all baptised on 17th April)

### *We offer congratulations on the marriage of:*

William Perron Buckley and  
Susan Marie King  
(married on 2nd April)

### *We offer sympathy to the relatives and friends of:*

Harold Lane  
(15th March)  
Mary Rachel Willgoss  
(18th March)  
John (Jack) Leonard Gale  
(24th March)  
Elsie Mildred Watkins  
(25th March)  
Adeline (Bobbie) Giachardi  
(27th March)  
Maureen Josephine McCaugherty  
(29th March)  
Joan Booth  
(3rd April)  
Simon Neil Aulds  
(5th April)  
Richard Doelly  
(13th April)

## Parish Personalities

This month it is Sylvia Andrews, just re-elected to the PCC, who faces the Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*

In Devon and Essex.

*How long have you been at Holy Trinity?*

For 17 years.

*What do you like most about it?*

The variety of people and friendliness.

*And if there was one thing you could change?*

More interaction between the age groups.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*

Wherever my family is.

*What is the least welcome part of your daily round?*

Struggling with my in-tray.

*Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?*

An aversion to administration and technology.

*What food are you most partial to?*

Soft boiled eggs.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Beetroot.

*What do you watch on television?*

Not much - well, actually, the Weakest Link.

*What would your desert island book be?*

"The Swiss Family Robinson".

*What is your favourite music?*

Classical and jazz.

*And your favourite hymn?*

"O perfect Love, all human thought transcending".

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

Psalm 103.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

To trek in the Himalayas.

## Neil's Baptismal testimony

*Julian writes: Neil Mackinnon, who is one of Stuart's helpers at DV8 on a Thursday night, was baptised in the morning service on 17th April. As is appropriate for an adult being baptised, I asked him several questions about his faith in front of the congregation and thought it would be good to print a transcript of our conversation:*

Julian: Neil, thank you for being willing to answer a few questions today before your baptism. First, can you tell us why you were not baptised and confirmed with all your friends last summer?

Neil: At that time I was on a working placement in Bolivia with a Christian organisation called Latin Link, as the final part of my one year course on Church Youth work in Guildford.

Julian: When and how did you become a Christian?

Neil: It was a couple of years ago that I asked God into my life, as a result of hearing the Gospel at Christian house-parties at Destiny and New Hall and from our Youth Worker Stuart Wright.

Julian: Was it a big step to take?

Neil: Yes

Julian: What difference has it made, if any?

Neil: Being a Christian has made a huge difference to me. I am thinking seriously about training to be a church youth worker. It has also affected my family. They are now asking questions about God.

Julian: That's great. Perhaps it is better not to ask what you might be doing today, if you had not become a Christian! Finally, would you recommend others to become followers of Jesus?

Neil: Yes, most definitely, but it is hard.

Julian: Thank you very much for being willing to be questioned like this and we thank God for what He has done and will go on doing in your life and that of your family.

## This year's Financial Review

Holy Trinity's annual finance review was launched on 24th April. As in previous years, this is the time when members new and old are encouraged to consider, plan and pledge their regular giving for the year ahead. Those who are able are invited to increase the level of their contribution at least in line with inflation.

For many years, Holy Trinity has been able to resource new initiatives and meet those extra costs through the generous giving of its members. And for that we give thanks to God. Those who were at the APCM will have heard (see page 7) that overall ex-

penditure is again set to rise at well over the rate of inflation. As a result, provision has been made to fund a significant deficit from our reserves if necessary.

Please prayerfully consider your response and pray also that the overall level of regular giving will support our work to build God's kingdom both within the parish and also further afield.

If, for any reason, you have not received your personal copy of Julian's letter and pledge forms by 8th May, please contact the church office.

## Bridges of every description

The Men's Fellowship speaker last month was Hugh Brooman, Principal Bridge Engineer with Surrey County Council. Despite having no responsibility for motorway and trunk road bridges, there were 2,500 bridges in the care of the County Council, ranging from timber footbridges over streams to major road bridges over the Thames. All these had to be maintained and inspected regularly - which sometimes involved crawling along inside the bridge (did you know that there was a passageway inside Hampton Court Bridge, & that it dates only from 1933?).

In the course of a fascinating and educational talk - which deserved a larger audience - Hugh introduced us to the different types of bridges within the county and the factors affecting their maintenance. Masonry arches constituted the largest group (37%), though not all were as old as the 13th Century bridges at Tilford, classified as Ancient Monuments, which meant that any work to them entailed enormous complications.

A third of Surrey's bridges were reinforced concrete, 18% timber and 12% metal, like the wrought iron Onslow Bridge in Guildford. Wooden footbridges in wooded areas were problematical, because fallen leaves rotted the timber very quickly. Plastic bridges (yes, no joke!) were the coming thing, Hugh thought.

Hugh took us through the history of the Walton bridges, from the most beautiful in 1750, painted by Canaletto, to the various options considered for the new bridge, with a computer-simulated video of the design chosen, the contract for which - at last - was about to be let.

## Returning to Ukraine

The first planning meeting for this year's visit to the villages of Akli and Gyula in Ukraine was held on 17th April. A party of 36 people is currently expected to make the journey, from 29th July to 8th August, to offer a range of help similar to last year's. As a result of the participation of health professionals from Petersfield last year, the Minister and others from Petersfield United Reformed Church will be joining the visit this year, giving an ecumenical flavour to the venture.

## Traditional Spirituality - New Orleans style

Holy Trinity has seen a wide variety of concerts since it was enlarged, but few have generated such an enthusiastic response as the latest departure, of traditional jazz. At the invitation of the Men's Fellowship, the French Quarter All-Stars came on 23rd April to play a concert of traditional jazz "with a spiritual flavour".

With a foot-tapping programme comprising Negro spirituals, hymns and other pieces with a positive message such as *What a Wonderful World* and *When you're Smiling*, the audience were put into high good humour. *The Old Rugged Cross* was the final number ('before the encore', clarinettist and bandleader Brian White cheekily told us in advance - and what else could that be, 'this being "traditional" jazz', but *When the Saints go Marching In?*)

A delighted audience assured us that we should do this more often, and generously topped up their giving, enabling the Men's Fellowship to make a very healthy donation to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

## Africa evening at Holy Trinity

Julian will be sharing some of his sabbatical experiences in Nigeria and Niger in the Church Hall on Saturday 28th May at 8 pm. Meg Merrifield, our link missionary in Mombasa who is currently home on leave, will be joining us to talk about Kenya, so from the two of them we should be able to gain a useful briefing about the state of Christianity in both West and East Africa.

## Make Poverty History

Some readers may have seen posters or heard about this campaign, which is gathering momentum and support from churches around the country, in anticipation of the G8 summit in Scotland in July. The literature suggests that three of the biggest barriers to tackling poverty - unjust trade rules, insufficient and inefficient aid and a crippling burden of debt - have the potential to be overcome by decisions made this year.

There will be a Make Poverty History focus at Holy Trinity on Sunday 12th June.

## Anchor

This month's Anchor meeting, on Monday 16th May, will be hearing about 'Cherry Trees', a very special place for children with special needs. It is at 7.30 for 8 pm at 15 Claremont Road.

## Insight

*The deadline for contributions - which are always welcomed - to the June issue of the Parish Magazine will be Thursday 19th May.*

## Come and meet the Bishop

Why not put into your diary now the opportunity to meet the new Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Christopher Hill. As part of his getting to know the Diocese, Bishop Christopher will be coming to Holy Trinity on Monday 18th July for an informal evening to which all in the Emly Deanery will be invited.

## Trinity Tea and Songs of Praise

Trinity Sunday falls on 22nd May this year and again provides the opportunity for our annual Tea party and the popular Songs of Praise evening service.

## Deanery Evensong

There is to be a special service of Evensong, with Bishop Christopher, for the Emly Deanery at St Peter's Hersham on Sunday 26th June.

## 'Welcome home' to David Gerrard

The Venerable David Gerrard has moved back to his family home in Claygate following his retirement as Archdeacon of Wandsworth. Although understanding that he will not be a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity, we nonetheless give him a warm welcome back to the village.

David has agreed to the Bishop's invitation to begin his 'retirement' by taking on the role of Archdeacon of Dorking, on a part-time basis, pending the appointment of a successor to the Ven Mark Wilson.

## Church membership still increasing

This year's Electoral Roll - the adult membership of the Church - has risen to 538 names, continuing the steady growth over the last ten years. It was in 2003 that membership topped 500 for the first time; last year's total was 522.

In some recent years, most of the increase has come from people coming to Holy Trinity from outside the parish. John Smith, our Electoral Roll Officer, told the APCM that this is no longer the case. With more Claygate residents joining the church - and church members moving into the village - locals now constitute 72% of the total.

Attendance at Sunday services has not kept pace with the growing membership. The average adult Sunday attendance rose from 318 in 2003 to 329 in 2004, though this is lower than in 2002.

## Penny Alpass is new Warden

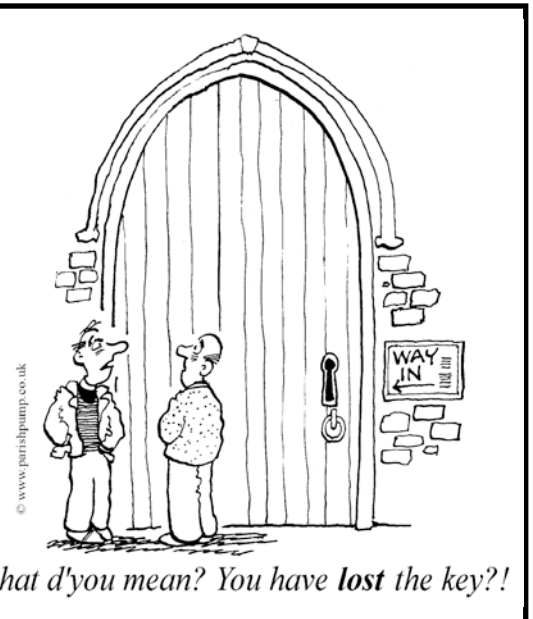
At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, Penny Alpass was elected Churchwarden at Holy Trinity to succeed Rosemary Salter and to join Richard Gordon, who has served 2 years.

Married to John and a Claygate resident for 27 years, Penny was the Administrator at St Peter's Norbiton and helped to establish Holy Trinity's link with St Peter's. She wrote in these pages in January about the plight of people in North Uganda, an interest of St Peter's which we support.

## Mel Gibson at Holy Trinity

Well, not quite, but his film "The Passion Of The Christ" was shown in the Church Hall on Sunday 10th April. The 70 people who attended had the opportunity to experience a portrayal of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life from a perspective that is mostly ignored. It is a controversial film due to its graphic nature but it is very moving to watch. There was a question and answer session afterwards with Julian and Stuart tackling the issues.

Holy Trinity broke new ground again with this showing as the hall was blacked out and a big screen erected to give a real cinema effect. This set-up will be used in the future so watch out for more films (for adults and children) and sporting events to bring your friends along to - what a great way to spread the Good News.



## Learning from the Bible

Since this month sees both Ascension Day and Pentecost, many of us will expect to spend time on the first two chapters of the book of Acts. The first part of chapter 1 dovetails with the final chapter of Luke's gospel in completing the story of Jesus' time on earth following his resurrection, and describes his ascension, while chapter 2 tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the astonishing results that followed.

While the risen Jesus was still with the disciples and enjoying a meal with them, he sought to prepare them for the coming of the Holy Spirit: "Wait for the gift my Father promised", he told them. The rest of the chapter tells not only of Jesus leaving them, but how the disciples then occupied themselves.

How good are you at waiting? Some of us find it difficult, and the sight of a queue may make us turn on our heels. There can be something uniquely unsettling about having to wait, unsure of how long the waiting period is going to be and what can be usefully done while the waiting continues. We can surely learn from what we are told in the second half of Acts 1 of the disciples' experience.

What did they do when Jesus told them to wait? Kick their heels? No, they used their time positively. First, verse 14 tells us that

*"Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."*

Acts chap. 1, verse 4.

"They all joined together constantly in prayer". This, we can note, was when they had already been assured by Jesus of the gift of the Holy Spirit, and of the power that would come with it, so there was no pleading to be done that they might be blessed in that way. But prayer was nevertheless what seemed to them to be appropriate, to keep in touch with God and to prepare themselves for the gift they had been promised.



Secondly, they engaged in Bible study. It was Peter, we are told, who stood up in their midst and expounded what the Scriptures had to say about the situation in which they found themselves. They recognised the Scriptures as a valuable resource to be drawn on as the basis for action.

Thirdly, they settled down to dealing with practical matters of organisation. Having derived guidance from Scripture, they held what has been described as the first ever church business meeting. They held elections to fill the gap left in the twelve by the defection of Judas, and Matthias was duly added to the apostles. So even if church business bores you, don't ever say that it is not biblical!

*Scribatus*

*The ascension of Christ is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. -William Temple*

## Young people today....

Well rested and somewhat stronger, I have returned from a short holiday having enjoyed the TLC of my Mum and Dad at home. This was much needed as beforehand I had - along with Stuart Wright, Tara Watkins and Neil McKinnon - been a leader on the Haslemere CYFA venture Houseparty. This is the new venue just down the A3 for what you might know as Limpsfield/ Mayfield/ New Hall, depending on your age! It is the same group of leaders, just at a new and exciting site (plus it is cheaper).

I arrived the day before the young people did, as I knew that the setting up would be somewhat tricky. The site is huge, and there were many things that needed doing like locking doors to rooms full of running mills and collecting up all the cushions that might otherwise have become very cheap Frisbees.

Stuart had the great privilege of bringing about twenty of the community young people who regularly attend his DV8 and cell group, whereas I brought Tara for her first taste of leading on a Houseparty. By the end of our week Stuart and I were both shattered. What follows is a snippet of the reason why.

All told I got about 30 hours sleep all week, which sounds like a lot until you realise the earliest I went to bed was 0200 and then I was up by 0630 each morning. This was necessary because a group from Guildford, ably assisted by various others, decided to see what exactly they could get away with. Gently persuading them that sleep was in their best interest would have ranked as

one of the Twelve Tasks of Hercules, but we ended the week with only one chair broken and two light fittings, so that is a success!

Putting aside the fire alarm and the late night shenanigans though, I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed myself. To see young people expressing their love for life is always of priceless value, but there were a good number there who channelled this into their faith as well. The murder mystery party and the drama workshops were hilarious; apparently I am like Mr Burns from the Simpsons in the eyes of some of the young people; and the wide game was brilliant too. Also being undefeated at freestyle scrabble is a crowning glory. The random ramble is one invention that I shall always treasure.

Mistakes were made as ever. I made several howlers, which I am sure Tara will tell you about should you be interested! But through the fatigue, ill-discipline and buffoonery one thing rang constant: the Good News was proclaimed through actions and words. This would have been difficult to avoid even amongst the din of stereos and shouting.

I came to faith through these Houseparties and know the impact that the love of the leaders and the truth of their witness had in my life. To be part of something so amazing is immense and to see the next generation of leaders in Tara and Neil come through as faithfully gives lasting hope for the future of this work. Please remember it in your prayers.

*Asa*

*Amanda Jane was next to the font as her baby brother was baptised. She couldn't help adding her advice: "Behind his ears too, Vicar!"*

# In case you missed the Annual Church meeting

## Vicar's address

Julian said that the Annual Meeting allowed us a reminder of what had gone on in the last twelve months. The Reports on Activities during the year made excellent and stimulating reading. As with any church, they displayed both strengths and weaknesses, and his sabbatical travels had given him the opportunity to observe strengths and weaknesses elsewhere. There was usually a correspondence between where a church invests its energy and the blessings it receives.

There was much encouragement to be had from the energy released as a result of new initiatives within Holy Trinity in the last year, and Julian used his address to highlight the areas where we were investing fresh time, new resources and new people.

One was Evangelism, where a variety of ventures promoted by the Evangelism Team under Ian Vale's leadership were giving fresh momentum to our mission task of taking the Gospel to others. There had been a number of changes in Jigsaw, and the development of its service to the community was a reason to give thanks. Also, fresh resources devoted to administration were paying a good dividend. And the acquisition of a church minibus held huge potential for good.

There had been new moves in pastoral support, with the start of the Marriage Courses, the expansion of the Credit Union's facilities, and the Fair Trade stall. The initiation of working holidays, to the Ukraine and to the Jonas Centre in Yorkshire, was of immense value. The new Mega Mix celebrations for children could have important consequences. And better ways of organising the leadership of Holy Trinity were being developed.

But weaknesses could be spotted, Julian said, in the Church's prayer life, in our life as a church family, in the great need for more volunteers in various aspects of Holy Trinity's ministry, and in our expectations of the power of the Holy Spirit among us.

Following Julian's address, members were invited to discuss over coffee and cake what they saw as Holy Trinity's strengths and weaknesses, and to stick them up on Post-it notes which would be gathered in for the Ministry Leaders Team and the PCC to discuss so as to identify where creative thinking was needed.

*The Annual Parochial Church meeting was held on 20th April. Elections were held, the Annual Report and Accounts were approved, Julian gave his annual 'State of the Church' address, and we reflected on Holy Trinity's strengths and weaknesses.*

## Elections

### Churchwardens

After Rosemary Salter's completion of a five-year term as Holy Trinity's first female Churchwarden, Penny Alpass was elected to replace her, and Richard Gordon, who has served for two years, was re-elected.

### Deanery Synod

Although, strictly speaking, Holy Trinity's growth in membership now entitles it to five places on the Emly Deanery Synod, the following four representatives were elected:

Lesley Cross  
Rose-Marie Francis  
Rodney Luff  
Dudley Sloggett

### Parochial Church Council

This year, four vacancies arose on the PCC and, of the six candidates standing, the following four were elected:

Sylvia Andrews (for a second term)  
Jackie Burton  
Gilly Hayes  
David Wakefield (for a second term)

## Church Finances

In presenting Holy Trinity's accounts for the year to December 2004 - which show an excess of income over expenditure of nearly £27,000 - Jem Salter said that we had again been extraordinarily blessed in the way God had touched the hearts of members to respond generously in their giving to the Church. This had given confidence in meeting the challenge to invest in our work for God - through additional clergy, increased youth work, the extending of pastoral and community support and the modernising of our facilities.

He went on, however, to warn that the growth in activity at Holy Trinity was at an ever-increasing cost. His forecasts for the next few years showed that expenditure will probably exceed our income to a material extent - in each year until 2008 at least. In this current year, there could well be a deficit of about £40-50,000 and thereafter, even after allowing for extra giving from members, annual deficits of about £20,000 could be expected. Deciding what reserves should be held and what is surplus to requirements needed careful thought and prayer, and the PCC would be deliberating on the subject in May.

## Opportunity for Questions

This year there were fewer questions than is often the case, in relation to both the accounts and the reports on Holy Trinity's activities. One gave David, Asa and Stuart the chance to explain the critical need for more volunteers in our work among children and young people.

## Tributes

Special thanks were recorded to various people who were standing down, including Rosemary Salter, our retiring Churchwarden, Pat Salter after long service to Jigsaw, Gordon Raney after 25 years or so maintaining the churchyard and Chris Kingston after 22 years on the PCC / Deanery Synod.

Finally, Richard Gordon paid a warm and much acclaimed tribute to Julian and his leadership, and presented a bouquet to Heather in recognition of and thanks for the way in which Julian was supported by his family.