

Tuesday 31 October	All Hallows Eve: Shine parties
Wednesday 1 November	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Sunday 5 November	Annual Service of Remembrance for the Bereaved
Monday 6 November	Men's Fellowship: William Sallitt's experiences of Iraq
Wednesday 8 November	Monthly time of prayer in church, 8 pm
Sunday 12 November	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 12 November	African Children's Choir perform in church, 8 pm
Monday 20 November	Anchor: Members of the Youth Fellowship on youth today
Saturday 25 November	Claygate Choral Society sing Mozart's Requiem, 8 pm (£12)
Saturday 2 December	Christmas lights event in the Parade
Sunday 3 December	Advent Sunday
Monday 4 December	Men's Fellowship Ladies Night: John Alpass on benefits fraud
Wednesday 6 December	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Sunday 10 December	David King's last Sunday as Holy Trinity's Curate

### 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 with baptisms	Evening Prayer with prayer for healing
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 10 am: Toddlers' Praise (in Church House)  
 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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you in touch with Holy  
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## BEATING A PATH TO HOLY TRINITY

Recent groups heading towards Claygate illustrate the importance of Holy Trinity's place within the church and the value of the better facilities we can offer since the expansion of our building.

For example, a party of theological students from Norway, wanting to know more about the Church of England and in particular its evangelical tradition, especially in a local church as opposed to the London churches they also visited, made the journey to Claygate last month for discussions with our staff. Philip writes more about this visit, and explains its background, on page 4.

Also last month, Holy Trinity was the venue for a meeting of the incumbents of the larger churches in the Guildford Diocese, to discuss the particular needs, challenges and priorities of large churches. Holy Trinity is the fifth largest church in our diocese.

Early November also sees Holy Trinity as a Diocesan focus, when curates from all around the Guildford Diocese gather in Claygate for a training day.

VICAR: THE REVD PHILIP PLYMING

CURATE: THE REVD DAVID KING

LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY

NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD PROF LINDA MORGAN

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You will be aware of the public debate that is in progress on the wearing of the niqab, or full veil, by Muslim women in public. Jack Straw has revealed how he asks constituents visiting his surgery and wearing the veil to remove it. A classroom assistant in Dewsbury has been suspended for wearing the niqab while at work. The debate is an ongoing one and yet its tenor reveals something about the complexities of social integration and religious freedom in a multi-cultural society post September 11.

I think it is probably too soon to offer a view on what a Christian perspective on such a complex area is, but one aspect of the story has caught my imagination. As I was reflecting on the language of veils, I was reminded of the passage in 2 Corinthians where Paul speaks of veils in the context of Christian faith. In 2 Cor 3:7-18 he contrasts the behaviour of Moses, who wore a veil to conceal the glory of the Lord from the people of God, with the state of Spirit-filled Christian believers. At the time of Moses the veil symbolised a necessary distance and barrier between God and his people, necessary because of the judgement which was falling upon them. For Christians who have been justified (that is, made right with God) the veil is not only redundant in their relationship with God but also a hindrance to other people seeing God's work in them. Paul finishes his section

'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.' (2 Cor 3:18)

The amazing truth that Paul is exploring is that God's glory can be seen in each one of us as we undergo the Spirit-led transformation of our hearts and minds. If you think about that for a moment, that is an amazing privilege, that God's splendour can be seen in each of our lives being changed. I love the phrase taught to me by an old Brethren doctor who described each new Christian as a 'trophy of God's grace', a reflection of all that God is about.

The hope that we have as forgiven children of God is not one that we should hide, but one that we should be glad, indeed praying, for others to see. In Claygate we need not conceal our Christian faith behind a veil, comfortable though that may sometimes be, but we can be confident that when we as a community live transformed lives for Jesus God's glory will be seen.

With my love and prayers

*Philip*



## From the Parish Registers

*We welcome into the family of the Church:*

Jessica Elsie Napier  
(baptised on 3rd September)  
Heather June Buley  
Jasper James Tabiner Morris  
Ben David Kelt  
(all baptised on 15th October)

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

Kathleen Cartwright  
(17th September)



## Dennys Wheatley

Dennys was not content with celebrating his 80th birthday on 19th October, but added to it as a reason for double celebration his wedding to Janet in Felixstowe two days previously. Dennys and Janet, who had enjoyed a wedding celebration in Suffolk, returned to Claygate to invite another hundred friends to sit down for a second wedding breakfast in the Church Hall on 21st October and to witness the ceremonial cutting of another tier of the wedding cake. We send Dennys and Janet our congratulations and warm good wishes for their future together.

## Parish Personalities

Rodney Luff is the subject of this month's Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*  
In New Malden.

*How long have you lived in Claygate?*  
Nearly 9 years.

*What do you like most about it?*

It is a village with most roads ending in a cul-de-sac, and there is a community.  
*And if there was one thing you could change?*  
The road surface on the A3.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*  
We're here! - when I was a child, New Malden was referred to as the "village", so I hope Claygate can remain one.

*What is the least welcome part of your daily round?* Trying to find something which I put down only yesterday.

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

Putting off the difficult jobs till last.

*What food are you most partial to?*

Grilled king prawns and a home-made summer pudding to follow.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*  
Onion.

*What do you watch on television?*

Detective and naturalist programmes.

*What would your desert island book be?*

The complete Sherlock Holmes.

*What is your favourite music?*

Debussy.

*And your favourite hymn?*

"Make me a channel of your peace".

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

Proverbs chapter 3, verses 5 and 6.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

Hot air ballooning over the wildebeest migration in Africa - without landing in a pride of lions!

## Reflecting on church communications

At its October meeting the PCC took an in-depth look at communications at Holy Trinity. Building on the review of communications of a few years ago, the council worked through a paper written by David King on a theological approach to communication. Through open discussion and small group work PCC members reflected on two aspects of church communication: internal and external. Internal communication was understood as that which builds our Christian community and was focussed on vision, shared life and mutual support. Under external communication we looked at how the good news of Jesus is shared with those with whom we come into contact, both in our local community, and those 'networks' where we have friends and spend time. Using insights from the

Church of England report Mission-Shaped Church we considered the way our society is moving from being one where Christianity is the default religious position of the majority of the population, to one where the church is more at the margins of national life.

Reflection on communication is ongoing, pending more work being done on the overall vision of the church for the coming years and new opportunities from any future upgrade of the audio-visual facilities. For the time being, the sense on the council was that it was a useful discussion in which all had been challenged to think about the important role which communication can play in God's church and his world.

*Philip*

## Sharing experience with Norwegian students

*Philip writes:* On Wednesday 11th October Holy Trinity played host to eighteen Norwegian students who are all studying a course in theological formation and leadership at an evangelical college in Oslo. They were on a week's visit to find out more about the Church of England and especially its evangelical tradition, from which Scandinavians have traditionally derived much inspiration. After visiting a number of central London churches, they were keen to visit a church with a more local focus and, as one of the lecturers had met me at a wedding in Sweden last year, asked if they could come to Claygate.

In their three-hour visit the students were given an introduction to the history and present ministry of Holy Trinity, and had the chance to hear from David about the evangelistic and pastoral opportunities presented by baptisms, weddings and funerals,

and from Stuart about the pioneer mission of which Start is an example. They then had the chance to ask questions of the whole staff team, and shared a fine lunch prepared by Hilary Spooner.

My reflection was that it is always good to meet brothers and sisters in Christ from elsewhere in the world, and their insights of us are often as valuable as anything they took from our example. Certainly it was clear that we have far greater evangelistic freedom than the state church in Norway, and there is greater liberty to preach from the Bible than a system where bishops have more obvious control.

The other reality is that the proportion of evangelicals in the Norwegian state church is much smaller than in the Church of England and thus we will do well to uphold them in our prayers.

## Dealing with domestic violence

Rachel Stiddard, a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, was the speaker at the September meeting of Anchor. She is stationed in Kingston as a Detective Inspector dealing with domestic violence.

Rachel explained that 20 years ago when she began her career, domestic violence was not considered a matter for the police to deal with; now, however, it is recognised as a crime and most instances are investigated and prosecuted. Domestic violence occurs across all social classes and cultures.

One in four women are assaulted by men in their own homes, and in 75% of cases children are witnesses and are usually badly affected as a result. Because abusive behaviour is perpetuated through family example, talks are given in schools by the police to teach children about respectful relationships.

Rachel, who described her job as demanding but rewarding, told Anchor that the cost to the community of dealing with domestic violence is approximately £90 per household per annum.

### *By the way....*

*Philip adds a postscript to his report (on page 4) of the visit to Holy Trinity of a group of Norwegian students:*

*The other good thing was that it gave me a chance to use my only Norwegian joke:*

*"I went to a Norwegian take-away. The only problem was I couldn't a-fjord it"*

*I think after the third telling the staff began to tire of it....*

## A painless way to support charity

Have you heard of everyclick? For those of you with internet access and a tendency to find information via a search engine like Google, switching to *everyclick.com* could be of considerable value to your favourite charity while costing you nothing at all.

This is because everyclick donates 50% of its gross revenues to charity. Once you register with them, you can specify the charity you want to benefit and that charity receives a donation proportionate to the use made by its supporters. You can use everyclick without registering, in which case the revenues go into a charity pot which is distributed pro rata to the revenues attributed to registered supporters.

Everyclick is still in its infancy, with only 28,000 supporters so far. It is being promoted by certain charities more than others, evident from the list of beneficiaries up to the end of September. The RSPCA has raised more money than anyone else (£2,414), while only four other charities, including the National Art Collections Fund and Save the Children, have benefited to the tune of over £1000.

The top Christian charity is the Salvation Army (having received £720), but Tearfund has raised only £3.05 so far and Christian Aid is still waiting for its first donation! There is therefore enormous scope for you to make a difference.

So next time you want to search the web, why not try everyclick instead of Google? It's even more straightforward if you make it your homepage. And remember to register the charity of your choice.

[www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com)

## CONCERTS IN HOLY TRINITY

Saturday 4th November at 7.45  
Richard Jenner Memorial Trust present  
AN EVENING OF MUSIC  
with Kathryn Harries and friends  
Tickets in advance £15

.....

Sunday 12th November at 8 pm  
AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
(see centre pages)

.....

Saturday 18th November at 8pm  
Oxshott and Cobham Music Society  
present  
OBOEWORKS  
(oboe and string trio)  
Mozart, Schubert & Handel  
Tickets £10 on the door

.....

Saturday 25th November at 8 pm  
Claygate Choral Society sing  
MOZART'S REQUIEM  
and AVE VERUM  
BEETHOVEN'S CALM SEA AND  
PROSPEROUS VOYAGE  
Tickets £12 from 01372 466240

.....

Saturday 2nd December at 7.30  
Ember Choral Society sing  
MOZART'S MASS IN C MINOR  
and SOLEMN VESPERS  
Tickets £10 from 01932 781462

.....

Saturday 9th December at 7.30  
CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS  
The annual feast of seasonal music to  
benefit the Princess Alice Hospice  
Tickets from the Hospice  
- 01372 461855

## Service for the bereaved

The service of remembrance for those who have been bereaved has become a valued fixture in Holy Trinity's calendar, allowing an opportunity for named individuals to be remembered with the lighting of candles. This year's service will take place on Sunday 5th November at 3 pm, and refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Shine parties

Holy Trinity's alternative to Halloween takes place on Tuesday 31st October, with a party at 5.30 till 7 for 5-7 year olds and another at 7.30 till 9 for 8-11 year olds. Emma and Julian Coy are in charge, and tickets are available from the Church Office.

## Men's Fellowship

The Fellowship's 60th season got off to a good start on 2nd October with an excellent supper in the Church Hall and a well-received after-supper speech from Philip, in which he disclosed that our area had not been unknown to him, his father having been brought up in Kingston and his parents beginning their married life in Chessington.

The next meeting on Monday 6th November will hear William Sallitt speaking of his personal experiences of Iraq.

## Anchor

The next meeting is on Monday 20th November when members of Holy Trinity's Youth Fellowship will be coming to speak. It's in the church foyer at 7.30 for 8.

## The Hub enjoys an encouraging start

The Hub, Holy Trinity's latest initiative to engage with young teenagers from our community, launched on 12th October with sixteen participants. Since Stu wrote in last month's *Insight* that he was hoping and praying for twelve young people to sign up, this is a good outcome. Remember, however, that Stu's prayer was for committed young people who would attend every week, so there is every reason to carry on praying for continuing commitment on their part.

The Hub will be running every Thursday evening until next March.

## Harvest Appeal

This year's Harvest Appeal raised a total of £1,485, which includes the expected refund of tax through Gift Aid. The money will go to WaterAid to assist its work of ensuring supplies of clean water and of providing adequate sanitation among the world's poorest communities.

## Remembrance Sunday

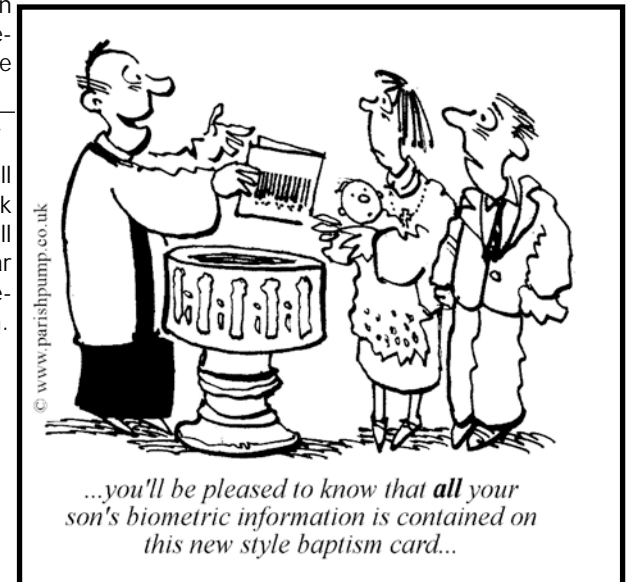
On 12th November, there will be an abbreviated 10 o'clock service, after which we will gather for 11 am at the War Memorial, followed by the Remembrance service in church.



## An eye-opening night in Brixton

Sleeping in the porch of the Church of the Holy Name last year did not quite prepare representatives of Churches Together in Esher and Claygate, including Linda and David Morgan, for the experience of doing the same thing at St Matthew's Brixton. Their sponsored sleepout in aid of homeless projects on 22nd September emphasised how only a few miles can transform the conditions in which people live.

Sleeping across the road from a nightclub which was the scene of a shooting the very next evening, being offered drugs a dozen times while walking to the Chinese restaurant, effectively displacing real rough sleepers from their usual territory, being accused by a pusher of queering his pitch and relying on the protection of the nightclub bouncer, all brought home what a privileged life we enjoy in our locality.



## Learning from the Bible

*"How is it that you are turning back to weak and miserable principles?"*

Galatians, chap. 4, verse 9.

The concept of institutionalisation is well known. The old lag released from prison finds the frightening uncertainties of a life of freedom too difficult to cope with, and seeks ways to get himself put back inside again. The discharged long-serving soldier may struggle to adjust to having to take responsibility for organising his life instead of relying on others to do it for him, and too many like him end up sleeping rough.

We see the same things happening in the Bible. The Israelites, led by Moses from captivity in Egypt, soon began to complain about their new life and to fret that they had been better off in their familiar existence as slaves. And Paul recognised the same problems besetting the new Christians of Galatia. The freedom in Christ to which he had converted them could be daunting, and there were people who were encouraging them to adopt a more legalistic, Judaistic, framework for their religion.

This gave them a safer, more certain environment; keeping to rules meant that they knew where they were, and held attractions for that reason. But as Paul saw it, to embrace such an approach was akin to returning to the paganism from which they had been saved; it was slipping back into slavery. In effect, they would be worshipping created things - "who by their nature are not gods" (verse 8) - rather than the God they had come to know as his children. Freedom lay in knowing him, and being known by him, rather than in ticking boxes in a mechanistic obedience to law.

It is easier to complete a picture by "painting by numbers" rather than to be faced with a blank canvas and to seek inspiration for an original composition. But we understand which is the more worthwhile and which, to quote Paul, is the "weak and miserable" option. That option for the Galatians, Paul complains, includes the observance of the weekly sabbath and special festivals for the new moon, Passover, Tabernacles etc, as if doing that would draw them closer to God. Paul is exasperated: "I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you" (verse 11).

Most of us may sometimes be tempted to check off what we do as a mark of the faith we profess. After all, we went to church last week (or was it the week before last?); we join in Holy Communion every month, or even every week; we say our prayers; we read the Bible quite regularly. But are we at risk of putting our emphasis on keeping up traditions and ritual observance, instead of developing a relationship with our God through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit?

Paul was anxious that the Galatians should continue to build that relationship, and it is equally important for us. To do so opens up a broader and more open compass to our lives, which is less predictable and more challenging, but it is in that way that we find enrichment as a member of his family rather than a slave.

*Scribatus*

*Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.*

*(G K Chesterton)*

## Young people today....

I have wondered on several occasions what to write about this month, but there was truly only one stand-out contender for insightful treatment and that has to be the YF weekend away down in sunny Sussex. Firstly my thanks to you all for your prayers; I hear the weather was torrential back in the *burbs* of Claygate but for us it was windswept and bright: beautiful, in fact. My thanks, along with those of all our young people, also goes to those who gave in time, cake, leading or lifts for the weekend. It would not have been anywhere near as much fun without your help.

And it is on that topic of fun that I shall dwell at some length now, for it was the prevalent theme of the weekend. Sure, I did some talks on the freedom we get in Jesus and how consistency is really quite tough, but that forgiveness is a wonderful blessing when embraced and that we can have confidence in the promises of God despite our shortcomings; but their images and scripture will form only an undercurrent to the tremendous fellowship that these young people have willingly developed among themselves despite a pantheon of different schools and a six year age range.

It exhibits itself in subtle and nuanced ways but it is real enough. Jon Hidden led us ably on a muddy walk whereby we found the River Adur (really quite small), a Convent (mercifully with no sign of Graham Norton or Andrew Lloyd Webber) and were then shadowed by a police helicopter. It was a bit wet and nowhere near 'cool' but the conversation flowed freely

with no impediment at all. Amongst a group of teenagers, this is like finding treasure in a field. We should rejoice that our church supports this work so generously so that we can all be encouraged by moments such as this. Because the conversation was not just about hair products and holiday destinations, but primarily about what it means to be a Christian.

To overhear conversations where no leader is present, yet the gospel is being explained with simple clarity and with passion, was something that I and the other leaders who were present will cherish for a good while. These glimpses of a faith whose depth and width surpasses that even of the Sargasso Sea, are humbling to behold and are the result solely of these young people responding to the grace of God.

I know this to be true because it all occurred before our starlit bonfire, where we watched firework displays and toasted marshmallows on railway sleepers. For such relaxation and openness to occur before such cornucopia, can only be a miracle. As we sat and enjoyed fellowship together under the waning harvest moon, we were all mindful in our own way of how sweet the Fountain of Life actually can be. Let us continue to rejoice together and be glad in it.

*Asa*

*The preacher's lapel mike was not wireless, but on a lead plugged into a socket on the stage. As he strode to and fro in the delivery of his talk, he was going to the limit of the length of the lead and kept almost yanking out the plug. Eventually a little girl near the front whispered anxiously to her mother "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"*

# The African Children's Choir performs in Holy Trinity

## *What is the African Children's Choir?*

The Choir consists of children between the ages of seven and eleven who have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has swept sub-Saharan Africa. They are ambassadors for all those children - estimated to number over 13 million - who have been similarly orphaned, and work to bridge cultural gaps and spread hope and joy, while highlighting the plight of children in Africa and raising money to help them.

## *Who is behind it?*

The organisers are the Music for Life Institute, an evangelical Christian humanitarian relief and development organisation dedicated to the survival, education and well-being of Africa's abandoned children. It supports projects which include the building and staffing of schools and the sponsorship of children in order to improve access to education for the poorest of African children.

## *How did it start?*

The founder was an Irish-Canadian minister named Ray Barnett who arrived in Uganda in 1978 to research a book about the former brutal regime there. The devastation he found made him determined to help in some way, and he spent six years raising money and establishing small relief projects run by local people. When he returned to the country in 1984, the car which transported him also gave a ride to a small boy who sang throughout the journey. It gave Ray the idea of bringing a group of such children to the West in the confident belief that they would win hearts and raise much-needed money to help their country.

The first African Children's Choir arrived in Vancouver in the autumn of 1984, and by the end of the year they had raised sufficient money not only to open the Makerere Children's Home but to fund the choir members' continuing education and ensure they were well cared for. That visit was conceived as a one-off venture, but its success seemed to demand that it should be repeated. And so it continues....

***The resounding success of last year's concert by the Choir in Arbrook Lane means that, although we have a larger venue, it is already too late for you to obtain tickets for their performance in Holy Trinity on 12th November. But you may like to have a better idea of what it is all about.***

## *Who are the Choir's members?*

The choir coming to Holy Trinity comprises twenty-five children from Uganda and Kenya. This is a different group from that which came to the Church of the Holy Name last year, who came from the nKomazi region of South Africa, a particular focus for the work of Music for Life. At the end of each year's tour, choir members will return to their homelands to attend schools sponsored by Music for Life, and the following year a new choir will be formed, often selected from a different region of Africa. They are trained at the African Children's Choir Academy in Kampala before embarking on their tours of Britain, North America and other parts of the world.

Moreover, there is more than one choir in action at any one time. For example, as one choir is currently touring England, others are in the United States. On the same day that the African Children's Choir comes to sing in Holy Trinity, another African Children's Choir is giving three performances in Portland, Oregon (at 9 am, 11 am and 7 pm), while yet another is performing in Kansas, again with three performances, this time starting at 8.30 in the morning.

Former choir members frequently progress to college or university education, and some have returned to work with the African Children's Choir as leaders or the "aunts and uncles" who chaperone the children on their journeys overseas.

## *Where they have been*

### *and what they are doing*

The Choir began their British tour as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. The following quotes from Scottish national newspapers give a flavour of what a Choir concert offers: The *Scotsman* said "These are talented kids but not so overly drilled that they have lost their raw charm or sense of excitement. In fact, it's difficult to say who is having more fun - the choir or the audience. Inevitably, their sincere testimony combined with the unfettered effervescence of the children packs quite an emotional punch". And the *Glasgow Herald* said "From their excited ululating entrance, they're a blast of enthusiasm, movement and song, accompanying their hymns to nature, God and their homeland with expressive actions, natural dance steps, tattooing percussion and occasional thrusting spear".

Since then, they have been slowly working south. After touring the north of England, including Manchester Cathedral, they arrived in southern England in late October and from 1st November are giving 20 concerts before their tour comes to an end in Milford on 6th December.

## *What it is in aid of*

The African Children's Choir is currently providing support for over 6,700 children in Africa, through Music for Life's projects in Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. There are thousands more who, over the last twenty years, have received tuition despite otherwise having had no hope of access to an education.

The Choir's newest venture has been in South Africa, where a base was established in 2001 to select and train children for the Choir. But the situation in the nKomazi region is so desperate that the Choir has diversified into providing relief in the form of food, water containers, clothing and medical supplies to ensure the survival of so many parentless children fending for themselves.