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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 31 October | Shine Parties |
| Sunday 4 November | Service of Remembrance for the Bereaved, 3 pm |
| Wednesday 7 November | Retirement coffee and cake for Doreen Griffiths, 9.30 am |
| Wednesday 7 November | Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch |
| Sunday 11 November | Remembrance Sunday |
| Sunday 11 November | Christian FAQs: Living as a Christian in a material world |
| Sunday 18 November | Come Home for Lunch Sunday |
| Monday 19 November | Anchor, with Judge John Main, 7.30 for 8 pm |
| Wednesday 21 November | Together in Prayer, in church at 8 pm |
| Friday 23 November | Faith in Criminal justice conference, Leatherhead (see page 10) |
| Saturday 1 December | Christmas Lights in the Parade, events from 4 pm |
| Saturday 1 December | Claygate Choral Society sing Mozart etc in church, 8 pm (£12) |
| Friday 25-27 April 2008 | Parish Weekend Away |

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 with prayer for healing |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion BCP | Holy Communion Ord 1 | Evening Prayer |
| 5th Sunday | Holy Communion BCP | Morning Praise | Evening Prayer |

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
 Alternate 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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November 2007

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- in our centre pages

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and lots more to keep
you in touch with Holy
Trinity's life and work

NEW MEMBER FOR CHURCH STAFF

Maureen Webb has been appointed as Philip's Personal Assistant. The post was advertised in Holy Trinity's Newsletter, and is on a part-time basis. Maureen begins on 29th October, working in the mornings, four days a week, Monday to Thursday, and will be based in the Church Office.

Maureen joined Holy Trinity thirteen years ago, on moving to Claygate, and is a regular member of the 8 am congregation, where she takes turns in reading lessons and leading intercessions. She confesses to some nervousness in taking on her new responsibilities, though her past experience should stand her in good stead. She has been a PA for twenty years and her work with the Church Commissioners, if not related to parish life, has made her familiar both with the Church of England and its ways and with the relevant reference books.

VICAR: PHILIP PLYMING

CURATE: TOM DARWENT

ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY

ASSISTANT MINISTER: LINDA MORGAN

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This autumn we have been spending a month looking at our three vision aims in turn. In September we looked at 'more followers of Jesus', and also saw the launch of the Alpha course (which continues to go well). In October we looked at 'deeper followers of Jesus' and how we hear, talk and respond to God's call on our lives. This month in November we will be looking at 'closer followers of Jesus'. The aim here is that we think about what it means to be a Christian community in Claygate, and how we can share our lives more as followers of Jesus.

It is worth recalling why this is important. We are aiming to build a community of closer followers of Jesus, not because we want to become insular and cut off from other people, but rather to live out Jesus' teaching: 'By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:35). Jesus believed that if his followers really demonstrated practical love for one another, others would see and notice this. So, the aim of authentic Christian fellowship is to witness to the love of Jesus and the difference he has made in our lives.

But we need to be clear that this Christian fellowship is more than simply bumping into each other on Sundays and catching up on news. It is about sharing our lives, the good and bad, and receiving and giving prayer and support. I have heard many stories, and seen examples, of this taking place, especially within home-groups in this church, and for that I praise God. However, this aspect of the church will often come under pressure in a community such as Claygate where time seems to be in such short supply; if we do not consciously think about it, relationships will tend towards the superficial, which is far short from the biblical ideal.

One of the things that can really promote getting to know each other is sharing food together. Following the example of other churches we will be encouraging church members to have lunch with one another on Sunday 18th November. 'Come Home for Lunch Sunday' promises to be a great opportunity for old friendships to be revisited and new ones to be made. If you haven't signed up on the church notice-board yet, do so quickly and be involved in this pilot for encouraging closer followers of Jesus.

That Sunday is also special because Bishop Ian will be preaching at our 10am service, and he will be preaching on 'Eating Together' from 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. The Christians in Corinth got a bunch of things wrong about how they ate together, and the result was division. We are seeking to learn from God and witness to the welcoming and uniting love of Jesus.

With my love

Philip



From the Parish Registers

We welcome into the family of the Church:

Maximus Roberts
Sasha Roberts
Scarlett Elizabeth Stocker
(all baptised on 21st October)

We offer sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

Gilian Salter
(27th September)
Gwynneth Hills
(13th October)
Mary Ellen Pauline Moore
(17th October)



Annual Service for the Bereaved

There are few events at Holy Trinity that both attract so many people from outside the regular church family and are so appreciated by them as our autumn Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who have been bereaved.

This year's service is at 3 pm on Sunday 4th November. Personal invitations have been sent to those who have recently been bereaved, but the service is open to everyone, and tea will be served afterwards.

Parish Personalities

Mike Benns is the subject of this month's Insight Inquisition.

Where were you brought up?

In Saltash in Cornwall, though I went to school in Plymouth, just over the Tamar in Devon.

How long have you lived in Claygate?

Julia and I moved here in January 1996.

What do you like most about it?

The ability to walk from my front door to ancient woodland or be in London in 30 minutes.

And if there was one thing you could change?

The state of repair of some of the roads.

Where would you locate your ideal home?

Calistoga in the Napa Valley of California.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round? Queuing in traffic.

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome?

Procrastination - but I will sort it out.... later!

What food are you most partial to?

Roast lamb with homemade mint sauce.

And leave on the side of your plate?

Beetroot and pheasant... don't ask!

What do you watch on television?

Unhealthy interest in Lost and Heroes, but I do like a good historical documentary too.

What would your desert island book be?

1001 Ways to Get Off a Desert Island.

What is your favourite music?

All time: Beatles, Stones, Pink Floyd, Clapton. Current: Seth Lakeman (I'm a bit of an old folkie at heart!).

And your favourite hymn?

"Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord" .

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

1 Corinthians 16, verses 13 & 14.

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

To go on a hot air balloon safari in Kenya and climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Opportunity looms for a new editor

Could you be someone able to play a part in building a community of faith here through more effective communication among members of the church family? With the establishment of a new vision for Holy Trinity's future, the time seems right also to begin a new era in Holy Trinity's magazine publishing.

Insight's current Editor, Jon Davey, has exceeded his quota of magazines, having produced 117 issues over the last eleven years, and will shortly be taking advantage of a vacancy in the Twilight Home for Worn-out Editors. As he casts aside his disintegrating quill, Holy Trinity is seeking a new magazine editor to move us forward.

This is less a question of stepping into Jon's shoes than of bringing your own ideas and freshness of approach to the service of the church, in the expectation that the result will be a different kind of magazine.

Experience in publishing or editorial work could be helpful but is not necessary; the present editor had none (all right, you at the back, we heard that cry of "And it shows"). You will probably have to be reasonably familiar with what your computer can do, though bear in mind that *Insight* has been produced with an ordinary word-processing program, without recourse to specialist desktop publishing. What is important is your commitment to using what skills you have in pursuit of Holy Trinity's vision aims.

If you think you could be interested in serving the church in this way and would like to explore the possibility further, please have a word with Philip.

Celebration of a Diamond Jubilee

A hundred people sat down to dinner last month to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Men's Fellowship. In welcoming everyone, Ken Hibberd recalled the various notable events that had taken place in 1947, not least of which was the decision to establish a Fellowship for the men of Claygate.

Keith Havelock took up the story, his own association, initially through his father, beginning when his family moved to Claygate in 1952. He recalled some of the past personalities of the Fellowship, outstanding speakers over the years, the outings that had been enjoyed and the events that had been organised. There had been a lot to thank God for.

Bob Hyatt recalled that even before he became vicar, he had heard of the Fellowship from a friend who had spoken at one of its meetings and who had commented that they had not seemed a very spiritual crowd! But Bob came to experience the real spiritual element which existed in the life of the Fellowship.

Ken Hibberd announced that despite the lack of a programme for a new season, he hoped there would be another social gathering in the New Year, and that an outing to Chichester Cathedral and Theatre was being planned for the spring.

Philip Plyming brought the evening's proceedings to a close by paying tribute to what had gone before, stressing that he was committed to promoting men's ministry at Holy Trinity and expressing the particular hope that those present would join him at the London Men's Convention in the Royal Albert Hall on 29th March. He ended by leading us in prayer.

Thoughts on bereavement

In the second of three articles, we look at what advice can be given to those seeking to support the bereaved

Two: "If there is anything I can do to help..."

The 19th Century Scottish writer, Jane Welsh Carlyle, wrote: "'Never does one feel oneself so utterly helpless as in trying to speak comfort for great bereavement. I will not try it'".

Echoing this commonly-felt sense of inadequacy, we are all, at times, perplexed by how best to support those we care about, through the most difficult of times.

People's experiences of coping with loss are intensely personal, so my aim here is to make a few general observations that can help any of us best support our friends, family members or others we know who are suffering through grief.

Being There. Being present with time to give, listening and responding. Not inviting yourself, but being ready if the invitation comes. The journey through grief is a long one. Show staying power.

Being a Practical and Emotional Support. Keep both in view. Every practical piece of assistance carries an emotional and even spiritual message.

Being Ready to Share Memories. An important part of grieving is remembering and honouring the one who has been lost. Be prepared to share your memories too, with the laughter and tears that may come along too.

Being a Friendly Face. Awkwardness, not knowing what to say, is normal in chance encounters. Don't feel inadequate.

Feel free to be a friendly face. In conversation, neither "avoid the subject" nor dwell on it; try to judge what seems right.

Being a Resource for Others. Bereaved people can highly value the care of others who have also lost loved ones. Those who have, and carry that experience with them, can be a resource for others. Iris Murdoch once wrote: "Bereavement is a darkness impenetrable to the imagination of the unbereaved."

Being a Follower of Jesus. In the days, months and years following bereavement, faith is robustly tested. It can be lost to doubt, hopelessness and anger. Or strengthened by thankfulness, peace and hope. As His followers, we have a special role in supporting others as part of the Body of Christ. We are called to do so with love and in the belief that our love can make the difference:

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:11-12).

Help comes in other forms too. At Holy Trinity, our own Bereavement Visiting Team follows up on those who have recently lost loved ones. Hospices, such as the Princess Alice Hospice locally, offer counselling services. Cruse Bereavement Care also provides national support, training and advice. The WAY (Widowed and Young) Foundation offers social networks for those losing partners in younger age groups.

"Come home for lunch Sunday"

Philip's letter on page 2 speaks of the value, in the context of our aim of becoming closer disciples, of church members getting to know each other better by sharing food together, and encourages members to have lunch with one another on Sunday 18th November.

The sheets on the noticeboard in the church foyer are filling up fast, but there is plenty of opportunity to add your names. They invite you to say whether you are willing to act as a host or hostess - and how many you can cater for - or would prefer to be a guest, and how many adults and children are involved. You can record any special dietary requirements or dislikes. Many people are indicating that they would be happy either to have people home for lunch or to go out to lunch, and this flexibility will be helpful when it comes to balancing the people going out and the people coming home.

Please do not delay too long in signing up for this new initiative. After all, we need to allow someone time for what is likely to be the complex task of matching guests with hosts. Perhaps there is a computer program available to do it for us??

Christmas lights event

The clocks have gone back, so you may be prepared to get ready for Claygate's big winter event in the Parade, when the village's Christmas lights will be switched on, along with a great many more festivities. It takes place this year on Saturday 1st December, from 4 pm.

Remembrance Day

This year the eleventh day of the eleventh month falls on a Sunday, and Remembrance Sunday will see our usual pattern of a shorter-than-usual service at 10 am, finishing in time for the gathering at the War Memorial for the two minutes' silence. After that, the Remembrance service will take place in the church.

Christian FAQs

A reminder that the third of our evenings looking at tough issues for Christians takes place at 8 pm on Sunday 11th November. The subject is "How do we live as Christians in a material world?".

Faith in Criminal Justice

A conference to explore how faith-based groups and criminal justice agencies can work together, with offenders, ex-offenders, their families or other aspects of the criminal justice system, is taking place on Friday 23rd November at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. If you would like more information, or to reserve a place, contact Jane.schofield@cofeguildford.org.uk, or phone 01483 237866.

Mozart's Mass in C Minor

and other works by Mozart,
Bruckner, Rossini and Handel

will be performed by
Claygate Choral Society
and Musica Academica

in Holy Trinity on
Saturday 1st December at 8 pm
Tickets at £12 from Society members
or 01372 466240

Doreen retires this month

Doreen Griffiths, the longest serving member of Holy Trinity's staff, retires on 8th November as our Church Secretary. She took on the role a quarter of a century ago (the actual date is lost in the mists of time), in Bob Hyatt's early years as vicar. In those days Doreen was the church office, and found herself managing even more single-handedly when Bob went off to Australia on a six-month exchange. Office equipment then consisted of a manual typewriter and a turn-the-handle Roneo duplicator, and Doreen has succeeded in adapting as we became ever more hi-tech. Doreen says she will miss the life after so long, never knowing who will be the next to walk through the church door and what aspect of the human experience they will bring with them.

On the morning of Wednesday 7th November, there will be a Farewell Coffee and Cake with Doreen, from 9.30 on, and there is a clipboard in the foyer to be signed if you would like to attend.

Tearfund's Harvest

At our Harvest Tea on 30th September, we heard about the work of Tearfund, the Christian relief agency chosen as the beneficiary of this year's Harvest Appeal. As we went to press, the result of the Appeal stood at £1215.

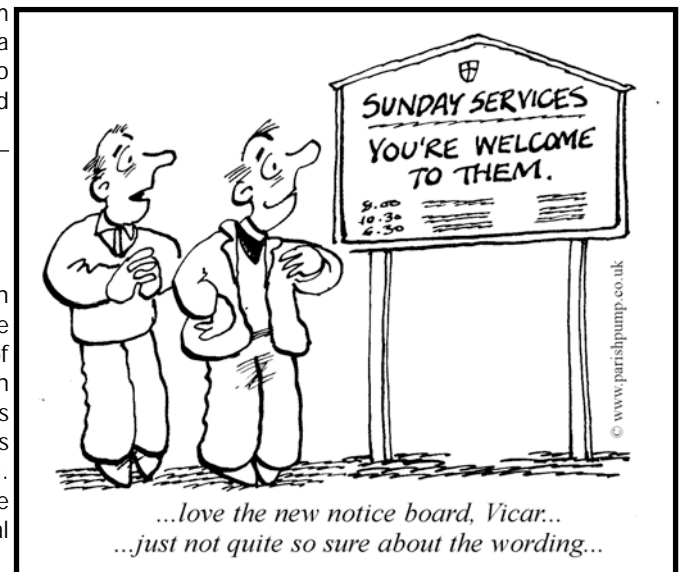
Numbers rise for Alpha and Hub2

Since last month's magazine was published the number signed up for this autumn's Alpha course has risen to 30, with new participants coming to it from both the Baptism course and the Family Time course. Philip is enthusiastic about the way the course is progressing, and its members will be having an Awayday at Reed's School on Saturday 3rd November.

Stu's second run of The Hub is also going extremely well, with 35 young people from the local community taking part in it.

From Norway to Claygate

For the second year running, a party of theological students from Norway visited Holy Trinity last month, to hear from Valerie, Tom and Andrew about their work and to compare their experience, which is more challenging for Evangelicals in Norway.



Learning from the Bible

"When perfection comes, the imperfect disappears."

1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 10.

When I was at school, I heard Paul's hymn to love, in chapter 13 of his first letter to the church in Corinth, read in morning assembly 21 times. How can I be so sure? Well, it was the regular reading for the last day of term, as I have heard it was in some other Surrey schools. I have often wondered who had the idea of associating such a splendid reading in the minds of impressionable youngsters with the excitement and joy of breaking up for the school holidays.

Its popularity has led it to be chosen by several of *Insight's* "Parish Personalities", and it is a favourite reading for weddings, to the extent that some people may automatically place it in that context and in relation to love within marriage.

We need to resist the passage being compartmentalised in that way; it belongs not in a wedding ghetto but in the forefront of the way in which every aspect of our lives is lived out. In identifying love as the greatest of the enduring virtues of faith, hope and love, Paul is pointing to its centrality in what he calls the "most excellent way" of living according to God's will.

Paul is not alone in this. In John's first letter (read 1 John 4. 7-21), he stresses not only the need for us to have and demonstrate love, but why that should be so: "We love because God first loved us", and "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." But it is Paul who most closely examines the nature of love and its

significance.

At the heart of chapter 13, Paul lays open for us the meaning of love, in the clearest possible terms, a fine example of concise writing. He gives us eight things that love is (patient, kind, rejoicing in the truth, protective, trusting, hopeful, persevering, un-failing) and another eight that it is not (envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, angry, harbouring resentment, delighting in evil). It is valuable to us all to go through verses 4 to 8a and to assess our own performance against Paul's criteria. How do we score? And what can we do now to improve our score next year?

If it takes no effort to understand verses 4 to 8a, we get into slightly deeper water with what follows. The references to prophecies, tongues and knowledge all have to be read in the light of what Paul tells the Corinthians elsewhere (see chapter 14 for the first two and chapter 8 for the third). They are matters of this present life and eventually become irrelevant.

But through love, we mature, become whole, are gradually perfected. We are enabled to see ourselves as we really are, and to see God as he truly is. It is by love that we are prepared for the ultimate perfection of the presence of God, the fount of love. And, as Paul writes, "when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears". There is nothing else to be concerned about.

Scribatus

"Paul's description of love is a portrait for which Christ himself has sat" - C H Dodd

About The Hub

Andrew Cowie reports

Most children's groups at Holy Trinity meet on Sunday, but there is one notable exception. The Hub, which is run by Stuart Wright, meets on a Thursday evening. That isn't the only difference however; the Hub doesn't meet on an ongoing basis like Sunday children's groups. The Hub is a course, which runs from September through to March next year. The Hub members are made up of local Claygate eleven to sixteen year olds, who don't normally come to church at all.

So what is the attraction of Hub for these young people? There are a number of factors. The children are taken seriously. The material used is based on the Youth Alpha course. Each week tasty food is served, then there is a time of sung worship. A talk is given by a variety of speakers, usually illustrated with a slide show, or a clip from a DVD. Then the group splits into smaller groups, for discussion about what they have heard, and as the course progresses, an opportunity to pray.

There are, on average 25 young people who attend. In addition, there are a number of leaders who help facilitate at the Hub, give talks, and lead the small groups. A number of leaders work with Stuart including Lee Jones; Pru Bodger; Kim Cross and Matt Knight (who used to be involved in youth work in his native South Africa). There are also a number of young people from Youth Fellowship who also help lead, including Tamsin Hayes; Lauren Aitchinson; Jess Balding; and Neil Smit.

Finally there are a number of Hub graduates from last year, who also completed a Hub discipleship course that Stuart ran

last summer, who are now encouraging the new attendees in their walk of faith. This is a very exciting area of the children's ministry at HTC, as it not only encompasses outreach, and bringing young people to faith in Jesus Christ, but it also allows those who are further in their journey of faith to be encouraged in their leadership and discipleship skills.

Stuart also took seventeen Hub attendees to a camp at Hall's Green in Sussex during the Autumn half term. There are two camps this year, each lasting four and a half days. During the day there are a number of demanding activities for the kids to tackle, including canoeing; archery; rock climbing; high ropes; an assault course, to name some.

Then in the evening, there is a talk covering some aspect of Christian faith, and a chance to discuss with a leader during dorm time. There is always lots to do, and the leaders have a chance to try out all the activities as well. The food, where possible, is additive free, which seems to have a calming effect on the kids.

The people who attend don't just come from Claygate, but from a number of locations across the country. The camp is aimed at children who come from difficult backgrounds, and aims to give them the chance to have fun, and to hear the gospel. If last year's camp is anything to go by, then everyone who goes this year will have a great time.

Voice of experience

"Dad," asked young David, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually", replied his father, "she means exactly what she says."

What is the Christian view of sex and sexuality?

Introductory comments

In his introduction, Philip made three comments about the question which was being addressed that evening, as in our headline above:

- it was a challenging one, for three reasons. First, the cultural context had evolved considerably over recent years, from one in which the accepted norm was that sexual activity took place within marriage to one where the sexual environment was increasingly complex, with marriage being merely one of the valid lifestyle choices. Secondly, there were tensions within the Church itself, with the election of a homosexual bishop in the United States and other developments having split the worldwide church. Thirdly, most of us had personal reasons to be interested in it, because of struggles of our own, or the activities of our children or our having gay friends.
- it was a necessary one to ask, because it would not go away and we needed to know where we stood.
- it was a humbling one, because we could not avoid our own sin and had an ongoing need for God's grace.

What is the Biblical framework?

Philip suggested that four important points could be discerned from what the Bible said:

- Sex is good. It is a gift of God, part of the created order, as emphasised by Jesus in Matthew 19. 4-5 - "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?'" (the reference to one flesh signifying sexual activity, Philip emphasised).
- Sex is precious. The picture that emerges from the Bible - and Philip drew attention to the Song of Songs in particular - is of a high view of sex as something to enhance human relationships, involving intimacy, affection, beauty and tenderness. The Bible had been described as teaching a view of sex as a delicate crystal vase to be treasured.

The second of our evenings on "Christian FAQs" took place last month, and again attracted a good and interested audience. It was led by Philip, and this is Insight's report of what he said. For those with the right technology, a recording of his talk can be heard on Holy Trinity's website.

- Sex is something for marriage. The norm to be found in the Biblical references is that sex takes place within a committed relationship of marriage between a man and a woman. Philip drew attention to 1 Corinthians 7 as a good example.
- Sex is something serious, not a plaything as it was often treated today. One could see this from 1 Corinthians 6. 18 and 1 Thessalonians 4. 2-7. The clear teaching was that physical activity had implications for our spiritual wellbeing.

What does the Church teach?

Philip read three important passages from the documents of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The first was the Preamble to the Marriage Service setting out the purposes of marriage, which expressed an attractive view of the place of sexual activity within it. The second was from the Resolution of the Lambeth Conference meeting in Canterbury in 1998, and the third the Statement of the House of Bishops on Issues in Human Sexuality, approved by the General Synod. The firm consensus that sexual activity was something which should be confined exclusively within marriage between a man and a woman meant that, notwithstanding dissenting views sometimes expressed by others, the official teaching of the church was clear and certain.

Pastoral questions

Philip said that the issue arose in day-to-day life because the church's teaching stood in contrast to widespread present practice, especially in relation to sexual activity among young people. There was an even more heated debate about where the

church's teaching left people of homosexual orientation. It was often asserted, for example, that

- Jesus never spoke about homosexual conduct. But this was because such conduct was almost entirely absent from 1st Century Jewish culture. That was the culture within which Jesus lived and taught, and homosexuality was simply not an issue. But Jesus did affirm that marriage was the place for sex.
- The world has changed since Biblical times. In many ways it has, but the sexual environment within Greek culture, with which Paul was familiar, was not that different from today's.
- The Bible is not clear anyway. But, although not extensive, the references are indeed clear. Romans 1. 26-27 and 1 Corinthians 6.9 address the issue directly.
- Christianity must be inclusive, not exclusive. Certainly, the call of Jesus was to everyone, and it is not for Christians to be judgmental about others or to engage in or condone homophobia. The story of the woman taken in adultery showed that even Jesus would not condemn a sinner.

• Gays cannot help being gay. But we were considering something that seemed to owe more to nurture than nature, and in any case human beings are not robots programmed by their genes. Our Christian faith held out the possibility of transformation and while not condemning the woman taken in adultery, Jesus told her to go and leave her life of sin.

In our pastoral response in the context of sexual activity, Philip suggested that we needed to hold in tension two sets of principles. The first pair were clarity and charity. We had a duty to be clear about the church's teaching of what was right and wrong, but also to ensure that the church represented a loving family, emphasising acceptance, forgiveness and restoration. The second pair were call and cost. Our first prayer had to be that people come to Jesus and begin to follow him, but we also needed to emphasise that this entailed giving things up. Living to Jesus Christ meant dying to self and to those things incompatible with a life with him.

As a final comment, Philip said that sex was not everything. We are not defined by our sexuality; it is only part of what we are, and the community we create should reflect that.