

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sunday 30 September     | Harvest Sunday, with Harvest Tea at 4 pm                    |
| Tuesday 2 October       | Marriage Course begins                                      |
| Wednesday 3 October     | Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch          |
| Sunday 14 October       | Christian FAQs: A Christian view of sex and sexuality, 8 pm |
| Monday 15 October       | Men's Fellowship Diamond Jubilee Dinner                     |
| Wednesday 17 October    | Together in Prayer, in the church at 8 pm                   |
| Monday 22 October       | Anchor: a speaker from Community Services                   |
| Tuesday 23 October      | Half-term Holiday Club; Dreamworld                          |
| Wednesday 31 October    | Shine Parties   |
| Sunday 4 November       | Service of Remembrance for the Bereaved, 3 pm               |
| 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   |
| 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<br>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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50p

## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE

**COURAGE AND A CLEAR  
DIRECTION**

Philip's letter - page 2

**UPDATE FROM YF**

After the summer - page 4

**CARING FOR CHRISTIAN  
CANCER SUFFERERS**

Report on a study day  
- in our centre pages

**ON BEREAVEMENT**

First of a three-part series  
- page 9

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

## EVANGELICAL LEADER PREACHES AT HOLY TRINITY

The Revd Dr Richard Turnbull visits Holy Trinity on Sunday 14th October to preach at our 10 o'clock service and to answer questions after the service. He will deal with questions about training for ministry in the Church of England as well as broader issues on the Church's future.

Since 2005, Richard Turnbull has been the Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, one of the leading theological colleges training ordinands for ministry in the Church of England. He is Chairman of the Church of England Evangelical Council and has held leading positions in the General Synod - chairing its Business Committee and working parties on clergy pay and the funding of theological education (he worked as a chartered accountant before being ordained in 1994) - and the Archbishops' Council.

VICAR: PHILIP PLYMING

CURATE: TOM DARWENT

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It has been really good to get going again after the summer break and look forward to all God is going to do over the coming term. Highlights for me so far include

- the Alpha course starting well with over 25 guests coming to explore more about Christian faith in a relaxed and low-key way
- over 50 for the first Christian FAQs – looking at how we relate to other faiths.
- all the children's groups getting back, and with a new group for the under-5s (called Jumpers)
- the Growing Leaders course, which we are piloting this year, starting well
- the opportunity to use the new projection equipment for teaching and evangelism (in fact, we used part of the new kit for the opening Alpha supper!)

There are lots more things in the pipeline, including Hub2, the Harvest Tea, Come Home for Lunch Sunday and much more.

But the best thing is that we have a clear direction as a church about where God wants us to go. Our vision of more followers of Jesus, deeper followers of Jesus and closer followers of Jesus is one we are working through in our autumn Sunday teaching and homegroups; I thank God for the unity he has given us so far.

In fact, I think we are at a crucial stage in our vision process. We prayed and worked hard to discern God's priorities for us, but now we have to ask for His strength and wisdom in making it happen. The illustration I used at the recent Together in Prayer meeting was that we have completed the warm-up lap; now the race proper starts. Over the months and years to come we will be working together to see more, deeper, and closer followers of Jesus in our church and community; it will not happen overnight, but neither will it happen if we do nothing. We are planning already for new things in 2008; I thank God for the people who pray, work and support what God is about in this place.

But I also recognise that the journey ahead is one that can induce a certain sense of anxiety. At our homegroup launch evening we looked at the example of Joshua preparing to lead God's people across the river Jordan and into the promised land. We reflected that going into the unknown would have been exciting for some, and scary for others. As a church we are not venturing into the total unknown, but we are on a journey, the exact details of which are not yet clear. It is natural that we react to this in different ways.

The key is to remember what Joshua was told three times by God: 'Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9). God does not abandon his people when they are seeking to do His will. As we look at the journey ahead of us, we can bring to Him our feelings and hopes, and trust all that happens into His care.

With my love

*Philip*



## From the Parish Registers

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

Lucy Isla Carrington  
Mia Sophie Carrington  
Beatrice Caroline Grace Slater  
Benjamin Thomas Simms  
(all baptised on 2nd September)

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

Andrew John Leighton and  
Gemma Marie Coburn  
(married on 1st September)

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

Joan Maud Witchlow  
(26th August)



## Home Groups

One of the new features in the church foyer - by the Welcome desk - is a focus on Holy Trinity's Home Groups, with a map of Claygate showing where the various Home Groups meet, each one with a photograph of its leader(s).

The latest Group to be established is one led by Pippa and Steve Cramer.

## Parish Personalities

Mark Chapman is the subject of this month's Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*

In Maidenhead, Berkshire.

*How long have you been at Holy Trinity?*

For six years.

*What do you like most about it?*

I always feel at home as soon as I cross the threshold.

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

I would create a dedicated croquet pitch for YF.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*

I'd move the West End of Esher (where we live) into Claygate - the perfect combination.

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

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

Spending too much time on the computer...

*What food are you most partial to?*

Anything Fiona cooks - it's so good that I'll far rather eat at home than go to a restaurant.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Runner beans.

*What do you watch on television?*

Heroes, Dr Who, Documentaries (esp science).

*What would your desert island book be?*

Patrick Moore's Guide to the Night Sky. Am I allowed to take a telescope as well?!

*What is your favourite music?*

I enjoy a wide range of stuff, indie rock & jazz.

*And your favourite hymn?*

"Lord of all hopefulness" - it's been with me since my childhood and touches me still.

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

Matthew 22: 36 - 40.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

Heli-skiing - although I don't think I'm a good enough skier yet!

## Christian FAQs off to a good start

Holy Trinity's new series of teaching evenings, under the title "Christian FAQs" (Frequently Asked Questions, for those less in touch with the computing world) began well last month. Fifty-five people gathered in church after the evening service on 16th September to hear Tom Darwent speak about how we should relate to other faiths.

Other religions were around us in a way that never used to be the case, and Tom suggested that, while we lived on the fringes of a multi-faith city, the main consequence in our community was not dealing with those of other faiths but dealing with a pluralist world view.

Pluralism - essentially the view that all religions are much the same and of equal validity - had gained ground for a number of reasons that Tom discussed, not least that it gave people a convenient excuse to avoid any commitment of their own. So the first part of his talk concentrated on combating pluralist attitudes.

Tom went on to discuss the differences between the main world religions and to examine the uniqueness of Jesus. He spoke about the response that Christians could make, not only at the theological and intellectual level but in our practical dealings with those of other faiths.

The talk, which you can listen to on Holy Trinity's website, was followed by discussion in small groups and then by questions to Tom. It was a valuable evening.

The next session of "Christian FAQs" takes place at 8 pm on Sunday 14th October, when we will be looking at the Christian view of sex and sexuality.

## Much encouragement in Growing Leaders

Holy Trinity's new 'Growing Leaders' course began last month with 24 hours away in Guildford. Twenty people from Holy Trinity are participating in it, together with two from All Saints West Ewell. It is the first time that such a course has been run, based on resources published last year by the Church Pastoral Aid Society, and we are treating it as a pilot for similar courses in the future.

The course is aimed at developing leadership skills for use in the church context. The opening sessions explored "What is leadership?", and monthly sessions will be continuing over the next nine months.

## The Alpha course

Our latest Alpha course was something else just beginning as *Insight* went to press, with an opening supper on 20th September. There were 25 people signed up to attend.

## New congregations

Readers will be aware from what has been said about the outcome of the Vision process that, having enlarged our premises significantly a few years ago, the next step in creating more space for growth in the church is seen to be by means of planting new congregations. Examples tried elsewhere have included another morning service, an afternoon service, youth congregations, new-style services in different venues etc.

To explore this possibility further, the 10 o'clock congregations on 30th September and 7th October will face a questionnaire about the alternative times at which people might come to a Sunday service.

## Thoughts on bereavement

*In this and the next two issues of Insight, we publish one individual's reflections on bereavement; what it has been like, how best to help, and where God is in times of deep suffering.*

### One: On Being Bereaved

I am the sort of person who, faced with a new challenge, initially reacts by getting hold of a book about it. Depending on the size of the challenge the "new something" presents, more than one book might be obtained.

Despite this utility, two particular situations in my own life have rendered this reliance on the textbook approach absolutely useless. Becoming a first-time parent was one. Losing my partner and great love, the other. It seems to me that in neither case was there much preparation that could usefully have been made, and no advice (at least in retrospect) seems to have been of much value. Different though they are, occurrences such as these, for me at least, can only be worked – and lived – through.

Shakespeare (via King Lear) did cry from the heart, however, in a few written words that ring true to me: "the grief hath craz'd my wits" (Act III Scene IV).

An accurate, or at least relevant phrase, because in my own journey, grieving has been disorderly and messy from the beginning. Several years on, the range of emotions remains explosive, and the pain of separation remains agonising. The time-scale seems a continuum rather than falling into easily recognisable stages. The loss of daily companionship makes loneliness tangible. The consequences of loss are worked through hourly as new activities and routines paper the cracks.

A wise comment I do recall reading on bereavement was that "loss is not something you get over, it just becomes part of who you are". And I suppose that is about right.

And, for me, there is also a past to be honoured and plans still to be executed; a burden joyfully carried and in this our partnership remains purposeful. This consoling sense of the departed loved one being a part of the present as well as merely the past is beautifully expressed in this poem, "Farewell" by Anne Bronte:

*Farewell to Thee! But not farewell  
To all my fondest thoughts of Thee;  
Within my heart they still shall dwell  
And they shall cheer and comfort me.*

*Life seems more sweet that Thou didst  
live  
And men more true that Thou wert  
one;  
Nothing is lost that Thou didst give,  
Nothing destroyed that Thou hast  
done.*

Jesus has never been far away from me. He has been endlessly at work through the kindness of others. He has comforted, wept with me and made continuation possible. He has also been unfathomable. He has never answered the question "why us?" and yet he has drawn me to Him partly in the hope of receiving a loving answer, one day.

Now, the book containing that answer really would be well worth exploring.

## Holiday Club again this month

For the first time, Holy Trinity will be running another Holiday Club in the October half term. It will be on Tuesday 23rd October and will be a repeat of the one-day Holiday Club on a 'Dreamworld' theme which was held in August.

This will allow us to cater for the children who had to be turned away when the August Club was full up, though we fully expect that there will be many who attended in August who will want to do it all again!

## Men's Fellowship Diamond Jubilee

A reminder that this month sees the special dinner being arranged to mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Claygate Men's Fellowship. Bob and Helen Hyatt will be the guests of honour. It is on Monday 15th October, at 7.30 for 8 pm, in the Church Hall. Tickets at £8 each will be available shortly.

## Church poster competition

Remember that well-known church poster "CH\_\_CH What is missing? UR"? Well, one of the church insurance companies recently ran a competition offering prizes for the best church posters. The winner announced last month was

"God sees us as we can be but loves us as we are".

Other top entries included

"Carpenter needs joiner - apply within",

"Good Friday: a bad day to bury Good News",

"Give your troubles to God - He'll be up all night anyway" and (with a picture of Clint Eastwood)

"We welcome the Good, the Bad and the Ugly".

You can see a gallery of the favourites at [www.congregational.co.uk/posters](http://www.congregational.co.uk/posters).

## Parish Weekend Away

"Roll on the next one" was the reaction of those coming away from Holy Trinity's weekend at High Leigh in February last year. Well, the next one is happening next April, so now is the time to ensure that you have the dates booked in your diary. It begins on Friday evening, 25th April, and ends on Sunday afternoon, 27th April. Full details will be coming in due course.

## Marriage course

Uncertainty about the starting date of the new Marriage Course prevented us bringing you details last month. It is designed to give any married couple the tools to build a happy and healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime, and now begins on Tuesday 2nd October and runs for seven sessions. Details from Roger and Jill Marsden on 462090.

## HUB2

The second run of Stu's Hub fun and teaching course, for 11 to 15s from the community, began on Thursday 27th September. It continues every Thursday until Easter.

## New contracts for Valerie and Andrew

We are pleased to be able to tell you that Valerie Bagley and Andrew Cowie will be remaining on Holy Trinity's staff for some time to come. New contracts have been agreed which will extend Valerie's time with us up to nine years (she joined us in 2002), while Andrew's one year has been extended for another two years.

## Audiovisual system ready for introduction

The contractors have been hard at work installing projectors and the other elements of Holy Trinity's new audiovisual system, including an extended control desk at the rear of the church, and it should be complete by the time you read this. Its use

will be developed in stages, so do not expect the full works next week!

## Cricket laurels for Diocese

Guildford has for the first time carried off the Cup for the inter-Diocese cricket competition, beating Birmingham by 123 runs in the final. Top scorer, with 68, was Canon Jonathan Frost of Guildford Cathedral. Daniel Jones was Man of the Match with 3 wickets for 9 runs in 5 overs.

## Welcome for new look publications

If you are not a frequent worshipper at Holy Trinity, you may not yet know that last month saw a revamping of the weekly newsletter, to give it a bright new look, mirrored by a new Term Card which gives full details of the preaching programme for the remainder of this year, along with other information about what is going on.

The new look is a fruit of the review of the patterns of communication within the church undertaken as a consequence of the Vision process initiated at the beginning of the year. The objective is, by means of attractive presentation, to keep the church family informed as fully and as clearly as possible.

Reaction to the transformation seems to have been extremely positive. If you have comments, do let *Insight* know!



*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...*

## Learning from the Bible

*"Do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?"*

Luke, chapter 13, verse 4.

At the beginning of chapter 13 of Luke's gospel, we hear of two calamities that had happened in Jerusalem in Jesus' time. These are not incidents that we otherwise know about; they were not mentioned by the historians of the period, but then they were not of the significance likely to attract such attention. It is perhaps typical of Luke, with his historian's eye and desire to record "an orderly account" for those who followed, to want to tie in the story of Jesus with contemporary events.

It appears that Pontius Pilate, with his ruthless reputation for quelling civil disorder, had been prepared to send his soldiers even into the Temple, where some men who had come up from Galilee to worship and make sacrifices - probably at Passover - were put to death so that, we read, "their blood had mixed with their sacrifices".

The second incident was when eighteen people were killed by a collapsing tower in Siloam, probably at the south-east corner of Jerusalem's city walls overlooking the Pool of Siloam.

The Jews of the time usually explained personal disaster as a punishment for sin. We see this from John 9.2, where Jesus was asked whether a man being born blind was because of his own or his parents' sin. Thinking of this kind has not entirely died out today; we hear it voiced from time to time, and it lingers on in a more widespread way when people ask "What have I done to deserve this?"

So when these recent incidents were raised with him, Jesus was able to confront the assumption, and to point to a more general lesson that we need to take from them. His response to both incidents was framed in similar words: in the first case it was "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way?"; and in the second that "Do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

And in both cases he went on to say "I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish". He was reminding his listeners that we are all sinners and that we can expect to die. Disasters of the kind that had befallen the Galilean worshippers and the citizens beneath the tower should be reminders not merely of our mortality but of the urgency of our being reconciled with God before it is too late.

This was by no means the only occasion on which Jesus issued a call to repentance. Its force this time lay in that link with actual events in which lives had been lost, and there is no shortage today of events which bring home to us the urgency of our response. Jesus emphasised that although we are bound to perish in this world, we can escape perishing eternally as well. If we repent and go to God for his forgiveness, we can establish now a relationship which will endure.

*Scribatus*

*The underside of the splendours of the saint's robes  
is the sackcloth of his penitence.*

## YF Update

*Andrew Cowie reports*

Even though the Youth Fellowship doesn't meet over the summer months, that doesn't mean that the members and leaders take a vacation from their Christian walk as well. A large number of YFers were off on Christian camps this year, both participating in and leading camps: Rebecca Gordon and Grace Wakefield taught English at a Christian camp in Hungary; Tamsin Hayes helped lead a camp in Bognor Regis for disadvantaged young people; Amy Hennessy had a great time working at a Christian-run orphanage in South Africa; Rachel Lowe, Jon and Hannah Hidden, Claire Quest and Joel Watkins helped lead at the Haslemere CPAS-organised venture camp, which a large contingent from Holy Trinity attended. It is such an encouragement that so many of our young people are engaged in living out their faith in such a positive fashion.

Youth Fellowship sprang back into action in September with a joint Pathfinders and YF social in the church hall, which is known as Eternal. Eternal takes place once a month, and provides an opportunity for the young people to enjoy each other's company, play some games, and have some food and drink. This term we are also watching a DVD series called Nooma (pronounced pneuma as in pneumonia, from the Greek which means spirit). These DVDs present Christian values in a contemporary and accessible way.

YF went to Dalesdown in West Sussex for a weekend away in September. We were blessed with fantastic weather. The site looks out over the South Downs, just south of Horsham. The YFers were able

to take advantage of the many outdoor facilities, including an assault course, crazy golf, volley ball and five-a-side football pitches. We also enjoyed a superb BBQ on Saturday night, and toasted marshmallows around a camp fire under a starry sky.

The weekend wasn't all play though. The theme of the weekend was forgiveness. The group considered why this was such an important central tenet of Christianity, and looked at three Bible stories that dealt with forgiveness, discussing some questions on each story. On Sunday we looked at a further three Bible stories on forgiveness in small groups, each group putting together a dramatised version of their chosen Bible story, which was performed to the others.

The weekend also saw the introduction of a 'worship jukebox', where the young people were invited to nominate a worship song which we sang to a CD backing track. Suffice to say a great time was had by all, and a big thank you to everyone who helped lead on the weekend to make it an enjoyable time by all who came.

So, having had such a good start to the term, we will be hoping to build on this momentum going forward. We are broadly following the same sermon series as the other Sunday services, looking at more followers of Jesus; deeper followers of Jesus and closer followers of Jesus.

**And from the other end  
of the age spectrum...**

*My deafness I endure  
To dentures I'm resigned  
Bifocals I can manage  
But, God, I do miss my mind!*

# Caring for Christians who have cancer

*This summer Valerie Bagley took part in a study day at the Royal Marsden Hospital on the subject of caring for individuals in the local church who have cancer. In this feature she tells us what she learnt and experienced.*

## About the day

The day was led by four senior staff at the Marsden, involved in the medical and spiritual care of the patients – and including Holy Trinity's Claire Sadler, Programme Leader in the School of Cancer Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are committed Christians, with a concern to raise awareness of the needs of people living with cancer – needs which include the medical and physical, but go beyond these, to the emotional and spiritual. Also in the leadership were two others - a Senior Pastor of a large church, who shared his church's experience in setting up a very organized and specialized team to care for people with cancer in his church, and a young man who was himself a cancer patient at the Royal Marsden. Thus we had an extremely comprehensive input, from a variety of viewpoints.

## About cancer

- A comparison with rebellious teenagers!

John Diamond, the late journalist, wrote: 'A cancer cell is one that never grows up. The metaphor isn't a casual one: the cancer cell bears all the nastier traits of reckless youth. It defies order, goes where it likes and above all, believes itself to be immortal'. A cancer cell refuses to be controlled by the normal body processes; it wants to dominate the body, and a person's life. Thankfully, there are various stages in the development of the illness, where medical interventions can take place.

Cancer is a very widespread illness, and is no respecter of persons – instances are very much at random. But it's reckoned that 1.2 million people are living with differing kinds of cancer in the UK today; it is good for us all to know something of what that means for them.

## The needs of patients

In one piece of research, one third of all cancer patients said they had unmet spiritual needs. In another, patients put God in second place (after the oncologist) as the most important person to them in their illness, whereas doctors (while also putting the oncologist first) put God last! Some interesting and perhaps controversial questions were posed about how to address the spiritual issues which people faced with serious illness very often have, and whether hospitals, society at large, and even churches, tackle these issues, or try to ignore them.

The time of diagnosis, for instance, for all people with cancer, is a very frightening time – do we have the courage to address those fears and walk alongside people as they talk about them? Can we be totally trustworthy, confidential and unjudgmental, when people struggle with their faith in this testing situation? One cancer patient has commented that there are 'few people who have proved safe enough to really talk to.' What a challenge for us Christians!

## Key stages in the journey

A senior pastor of a large church described key stages in the cancer journey when particular pastoral care and support is offered:

- After diagnosis, when a person needs time to reflect, to ask questions, to be assured of future support, to work out where to go from here.
- During treatment, when help with practical tasks is often needed, when a person might be at a low ebb physically and spiritually, when finances might be stretched, when there are emotional stresses from coping with drugs, life questions, waiting for test results...
- If treatment has not succeeded, when one can help people face the pain of reality, support them in discussing what is important for them now (relationships to put in order, unfulfilled ambitions to be achieved...), and talk with Christians about the hope we have, that death is about victory, not failure, and that there is a place being prepared for each of us.

## One patient's experience

A cancer patient (a young, single man) shared some good practice, and some not-so-good, in the support that he has received from his local church. Many of the good things, or the things he had missed, were small and easily achieved, but very meaningful. For instance, dealing with a person's isolation, when off work and at home, by: offering the opportunity to do some gentle tasks at the church; taking the person to the pub for lunch...; having a prayer group praying regularly for the person; sending messages via cards, especially with Bible verses; ensuring a person has someone with them when they go for treatment.... There are difficult life issues not generally talked about, but which cause inner fears and struggles, and it's good to be able to talk with someone about them.

All in all, cancer is a deep challenge to one's faith – but can actually be a big boost to faith!

## A reflection

It is always exciting to see science and Christianity working together in an integrated way, especially for the benefit of others. The Royal Marsden is not a Christian foundation, but it is good to know that there are key people there who are able, in a sensitive and entirely professional way, to integrate their faith with their daily work, and that, when any individual desires spiritual support in their illness, there are folk there on the staff who can provide it.

The Study Day had begun with a time of worship in the beautiful gem of a chapel, situated right in the heart of the hospital complex, totally surrounded by all the more modern buildings. It is hard to resist the sense that, whether He is recognized by many or few, the presence of Jesus is there, caring through others for those at particularly vulnerable times in their lives. Such a realization inspires us all to ask God: May He work through each one of us, to care for and support one another, in all the vicissitudes of life's journey!