

Wednesday 1 September	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Wednesday 1 September	Claygate Old People's Club tea in the Vicarage garden
Thursday 2 September	Anchor begins new season: Julian is the speaker
Sunday 5 September	Julian's 50th Birthday lunch in Church Hall
Tuesday 7 September	Monthly Youth update and prayers, 9.30 am & 7 pm
Wednesday 8 September	Prayer meeting for next Alpha course
Wednesday 8 September	Ladies Night at Cafe Piccolo in Esher, 8 pm
Thursday 9 September	Meeting for Home Fellowship Group leaders
Tuesday 14 September	Marriage Course begins, 7.30 pm
Saturday 18 September	Harvest Supper in the Church Hall
Sunday 19 September	Fairtrade stall after 10 am service
Monday 20 September	Parenting course (0-6 year olds) begins
Thursday 23 September	New Alpha course begins
Sunday 26 September	Evening Service with Prayer for Healing, 6.30 pm
Monday 4 October	Men's Fellowship Opening Supper
Wednesday 6 October	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Thursday 7 October	Anchor: Kate Kirkland on Burrswood
Thursday 20 October	Selwyn Hughes Book Launch in Holy Trinity

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 2 pm: Toddlers' Praise (in the Church Hall)

Every Wednesday, at 7 am: Prayers for 30 minutes (in the Quiet Room)

Every Thursday, at 3.45 pm: Intercessions (in the Quiet Room)

Monthly on a Thursday, at 11.45 am at Wingham Court: Holy Communion

4th Thursday in month, at 11.30 am at the Day Centre: Holy Communion

Insight is the Parish Magazine of Holy Trinity, Claygate, published monthly.

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and a great deal more!

UKRAINE TRIP A MOVING SUCCESS

Holy Trinity's trip to the Trans-Carpathia region of Ukraine went extremely well, with the team members having found much to be thankful for. Julian made a brief report to those who came to church on 8th August, and promised that more would be said and shown at the Harvest Supper this month.

Andrew Tarcy, the originator and coordinator of the visit, commented "I found the trip to Akli and Gyula a rewarding, humbling, emotional and spiritual week for our family and was so thankful for the way in which God was with us all and answered our prayers - in ways quite remarkable and unimaginable at the start of the visit".

The people of Akli and Gyula are keen for members to return there. The Church Council will be reviewing how we can best take forward this new relationship.

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Selwyn Hughes' book launches in Claygate

Selwyn Hughes, possibly best known as the author of the *Every Day with Jesus* daily Bible reading notes, has written his autobiography, entitled simply *My Story*, and it is to be published on 15th September. On 20th October (a revised date) he will be coming to Holy Trinity for the kind of book launch event we have seen here before.

Selwyn Hughes founded CWR (Crusade for World Revival) as long ago as 1965, to help people to apply God's word to everyday life and relationships. His new book traces his story from his roots in Wales through his conversion and call to the ministry, his experiences as a pastor and pioneer in the fields of Christian counselling and training. In his book, Selwyn bares his heart in telling of God's love, grace and strength upholding him through the loss of family members and in his battle with cancer.

The Marriage Course

The Marriage Course, which starts at Holy Trinity on 14th September, is designed for any married couple who want to build a strong and lasting relationship. It is an eight week course on Tuesday evenings, and includes a meal each week. As we go to press, there are still places available on the course.

Anyone interested in finding out more can pick up a brochure from the church foyer or talk to Roger Marsden who will be coordinating the administration. You can phone on 01372 462090 or email rogandjillmarsden@ntlworld.com

Insight

The deadline for all contributions to the October issue of the Parish Magazine is Saturday 18th September.

Also this month....

If this reaches you in time, please remember to sign up by 29th August for the lunch to celebrate Julian's 50th birthday, in the Church Hall on Sunday 5th September.

The Anchor Group starts a new season on 2nd September, to hear Julian speak.

Invite your friends to a sociable Ladies Night at the Cafe Piccolo in Esher on 8th September, to hear Valerie's testimony. Book places with Vicki Schmidt on 469439 or Heather Henderson on 800923.

The parenting course for parents of children up to 6 years starts on Monday 20th September. Please speak to Valerie in the PCC Children's Garden, but we couldn't control the weather. It rained and rained.

The Church Hall was hastily arranged as a Sports Stadium. At 11am mums, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles turned up. Beanbag races, egg and spoon, running, skipping, jumping races all miraculously came to pass. The children showed that at 3 and 4 years old winning is not the most important thing. Tiny athletes waited for their friends and waved to their families, but all completed the course. They were rewarded by a dip into the sweet bowl.

The adults did not acquit themselves so well - dads cheated in the sideways running, mums failed to skip and there were some very youthful hopping grandparents. David King presented each child with a certificate and a gingerbread medal.

The Holy Trinity grapevine told of David and William's birthday the day before so a belated birthday cake was produced and soon devoured. The Jigsaw "Leavers" parents had a further surprise for the staff - Jigsaw was given a ride-on tractor and a bulldozer. Each member of staff was given flowers. Then tables and chairs were

Holy Trinity packed for Confirmations

It was a crowded church which greeted the Rt Revd Ian Brackley, the Bishop of Dorning, when he came to Claygate to confirm candidates from four other churches as well as our own. Representatives from All Saints Weston Green, St Lawrence Effingham, St Nicholas' Thames Ditton and St Paul's East Molesey swelled the congregation on 18th July.

Fortyfive people were confirmed in all, 29 of them from Holy Trinity, and 18 of them were first baptised. The names of those from Holy Trinity are recorded on page 11.

Ground was broken in this service, since it was the first time we had seen adult baptisms by immersion in Holy Trinity. In past years we have borrowed Emmanuel Hall in Common Road and used their baptistry, but on this occasion we hired a portable baptistry and erected it near the

Our new Bishop

The Rt Revd Christopher Hill, currently Bishop of Stafford in the Lichfield Diocese, has been named as the next Bishop of Guildford. His enthronement will be in Guildford Cathedral at 11.30 am on Saturday 27 November.

Our PCC agreed on 21st July to send him a letter of congratulations and welcome.

Helping neighbours

Our clergy have recently been assisting at Weston Green and East Molesey, and at Arbrook House, to cover staff shortages elsewhere in the Deanery.

NEWS FROM THE PCC

Children's work reviewed

At its July meeting, the Church Council heard and discussed what was described as a thought-provoking presentation by David King about Holy Trinity's work among children. 110 children attend our Sunday groups and between 40 and 50 adults are involved in their teaching.

In addition, the PCC approved the Missionary Team's recommendations for the church's outward giving for 2004, after formally agreeing that the policy should be to allocate an amount equal to 10% of the Church's income (excluding bookstall receipts and Jigsaw income) together with such other amounts the PCC deems appropriate, if any. It also noted that modifications to the interior of Church House were nearly complete, that the woodwork at the entrance to the church was receiving attention, and that the state of health of two trees in the churchyard, an oak and a yew, was



Soul in the City

Back in April, Stuart briefed us on plans for a local version of the Soul in the City event which brought thousands of young people to London in July. He reports on how it went:

We had a great but exhausting week at Soul2004, organised in conjunction with three other local churches.

Each morning we met in the church hall; most days there were about 12-15 teenagers and a couple of leaders. In these sessions we studied the book of Jeremiah together, prayed, enjoyed worshipping together and then, one of the highlights for me, we all ate lunch together.

After lunch we were off to our projects around Claygate. They included painting a mural in the Elm Road Youth Club, designing Christian Graffiti Banners, litter picking around Claygate, clearing and tidying the Day Centre gardens and finally helping to clear the Foxwarren Guide Hut.

As you can imagine, it was a tiring week. But it didn't end there. At 7pm we met in the church car park and were whisked off to the 'Event in the Tent' on West End Recreation ground, Esher. This was great and full of good talks, worship and testimonies. Two Claygate girls gave their lives to Jesus during the week - and we praise God for that.

It was a great week and made me think we

Chartwell visited

When Winston Churchill first saw Chartwell Manor in 1922, he fell in love with it and its situation, and made his home there for the rest of his life.

Members of the Men's Fellowship had a summer outing there, to see over the house, pore over the memorabilia, to hear again his distinctive voice, to view the gardens and of course those black swans - and to enjoy that magnificent setting.

Joan Olivia Wheatley

Dennys wishes to thank all the members of Holy Trinity who took Joan to their hearts when she came up to Claygate from Yarmouth in 1994.

She rapidly made lasting friendships and played a full part in our Parish life, but never forgot her Yarmouth friends, some of whom she telephoned daily. The Church was packed for the Thanksgiving Service on 28th July when family and friends from far and wide showed their love for her by being there. Throughout her long illness and continuing even now, Dennys gives thanks for the wonderful support he has received in his hour of need.

The autumn's sermons

The prophet Amos will be figuring strongly at 10 am services this autumn, as his Old Testament book provides the basis for a series of sermons. His prophecy will also be the subject of study by Home Fellowship Groups during the autumn term.

Congregations at the 8 am and 6.30 pm services will hear sermons focussing on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Hymning a Vicar's birthday

Julian's 50th birthday fell while he was on his way to Ukraine and was celebrated in Budapest. Various odes were offered to honour the occasion, including this contribution from the Winchcombes' House Group. You know the tune....

*All things short and bounciful,
Some preachers not so tall,
All things theological:
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each time our vicar sings -
He holds the notes for longer
Than all us lesser things.

The silver headed canon
Who's always rushing by;
The stripy mustard jumper
Now brightens up the sky.
The meetings in the winter,

The picnics in the sun,
Parties in his garden:
He never misses one.

He watches over all of us
And preaches from on high;
His meaty three point sermons -
How quickly time flies by.

You've reached your fiftieth birthday
And, boy! you're looking good;
With Heather right beside you
So you jolly well should.

Last chorus:

*All things short and bounciful,
Some preachers not so tall,
All things theological:
Our Julian does them all.*

Holy Trinity's Ukraine visit: inside the church at



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

If you struggled with some of the clues in our last issue, here are the correct

A	H	A	B		M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	
M	L	S	N	A	N	E							
M	I	L	E	T	U	S		L	A	T	I	N	
O	O	A	I	E	I	T							
N	E	W	E	R		G	I	B	E	O	N		
I			V	N						C	L		
T	H	E	B	E	S		J	E	T	H	R	O	
E	X					A	X					R	
		C	A	N	A	A	N		C	H	I	L	D
G	M	S				C	U	M	S				
O	R	P	A	H		H	U	S	B	A	N	D	
A		L	E	O	E	G	A						
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	Y		L	E	V	Y	

Perhaps we have mixed feelings, as the Summer draws to its close and we find the Autumn upon us. We may regret the end of the holiday period, yet the changing of the seasons, like the ebb and flow of the tides, and the rising and setting of the sun, is all part and parcel of the cycle of life, and evidence of God's faithfulness towards the world that He has made. September also has some special distinctives - from the return of our children and young people to school and college, to the glorious riot of colour that Claygate's trees and hedgerows become.

This month also contains the celebration of the Harvest Festival. Some have argued that our present urban 21st century lifestyle makes this festival redundant. Most of us live lives far removed from the realities of agricultural concerns. Yet the life cycle of our church, Holy Trinity, has its own dynamic rhythms, akin to ebb and flow, sowing and reaping. Over the Summer there has been a large number of people going out from us in different directions, sowing the seed of the gospel in varied ways. We have seen the notable 'Soul 2004' event, when a number of young people from our church and community worked together with others from different local churches to serve the local community, in activities such as litter-picking and garden work. Another group of individuals and families took a working holiday to spend time with a former churchwarden of HTC, Simon Eastwood and his family, now in Yorkshire, decorating and renovating the Christian conference and holiday centre that they help to run. Two youth house parties at New Hall in Essex saw HTC sending over 30 young people and 9 leaders.

And the outward travelling has not been limited to this country. Four of our young people have been serving in South America with the Christian organisation 'Latin Link', where they worked to build classrooms, teach children, and help in projects with the very poorest communities. And a rewarding but challenging time was also experienced by a large team from HTC going out to two isolated villages in the Ukraine, where they co-operated with the local churches to bring teaching, medical assistance and dental help (including over 200 extractions!).

So, for the last 6 weeks or so, we have been focussing on going out; now, we have a time of in-gathering, when we re-group as a church and seek to welcome others. This month we will see the Youth Fellowship and 'DV8', the young people's groups, starting up again, and Home Fellowship Groups beginning once more. Also, we are planning a new Marriage Support Course, another parenting course for parents of pre-school children, and our regular Alpha course, for all those wanting to inquire more deeply into the Christian faith.

Harvest, then, is a good time to give thanks to God, and not only for his faithful provision for all our needs. We can also look back with gratitude for the opportunities that God has given us to show his love to others in very practical ways, and we can look forward with anticipation to what He has in store for us, as a new time of different activities unfolds. And whatever the Autumn brings, we can rely on the same love and faithfulness that sustains our world in its evolving seasons.

Valerie

From the Parish Registers

We welcome into the family of the Church:

**George Alexander Williams
William Jack McKenzie Ayres
Sophie Elizabeth Lonnon
(All baptised on 4th July)**

We welcome into full membership of the Church:

**Emma Brackenridge*, Kenneth Carruthers, Ashley Davis*, Janet Dewey, Paul Dodson*, Julia Doran*, Heidi Felton, Farzad Ferydooni*, Francesca Gavins, Christine Greaves*, Asa Humphreys, Fiona Kelly, Perye Knight*, Bobby Linkson*, Kyle McKinnon*, Dawn Oades*, Jessica Oakley, Helen Quest, Ashleigh Richardson*, Gregory Stallard*, Michelle Talboys*, Alison Taylor*, Christine Toms, Claire Toms, Michelle Toms, Melissa Twigg*, Carolyn Williams, David Wilson*, Louise Winter
(Confirmed by the Bishop of Dorking in Holy Trinity on 18th July - with * indicating baptism by immersion first)**

We offer sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

**Peter Hamilton Lynwood (6th June)
Margaret Lockhart Torr (7th June)
Phyllis Eggleton (20th June)
Winifred Humberstone (10th July)
Joan Olivia Wheatley (17th July)
Roy Edward Hunt (19th July)
Christine Parsons (30th July)
Eric Ernest Noel Fry (8th August)**

Parish Personalities

This month Siouxsie Wright faces the Insight Inquisition.

Where were you brought up?

In the vicarage at Aldermaston, Berkshire.

How long have you been at Holy Trinity?
4½ years.

What do you like most about it?

Around Claygate, you always bump into someone from church to have a chat.

And if there was one thing you could change? I would love to sing a greater variety of hymns and songs!

Where would you locate your ideal home?
In the New Forest, Hampshire. or on top of a mountain somewhere.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round? House chores!!!

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome? Giving in to the immediate and not the important. The tyranny of the urgent always gets me!

What food are you most partial to? I want to say fruit but I have to say chocolate.

And leave on the side of your plate? Broccoli stalks!!

What do you watch on television?

Films, films, films! Friends, 24, classical drama, The West Wing and nature documentaries especially under water ones!

What would your desert island book be? Knowing God by J I Packer, or anything by C S Lewis.

What is your favourite music?

I love all kinds. Variety is the key!

And a favourite hymn?

"In Christ alone" or "And can it be?"

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

1 John 4. 7-21

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

I have so many unfulfilled ambitions I could fill a church directory with them!

A Moment to Meditate

Paul went on later in his letter to the church at Corinth to develop this idea that we and our bodies are a temple of God. In verse 19 of chapter 6, he wrote "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?". And he came back to the argument when he wrote to them some time later (2 Corinthians 6.16).

The analogy with a temple must have struck the Corinthians more forcibly than it does us, for temples were all around them. Pagan temples, of course, but talking of a temple would have immediately brought to mind suppositions about how a place was to be revered and not defiled.

When we read Paul saying "Do you not know...", we can hear the exasperation in his voice: here was something that should have been obvious to them, but which they were disregarding. The trouble was that some of those whom Paul had converted in Corinth separated body and spirit in their thinking. The godly part of them was their spirit, which would have a perpetual life in the kingdom of God when their bodies were left behind. They therefore discounted the role their bodies had in their relationship with God, and thought it didn't matter if they used or abused them in a licentious way (Paul's comments in chapter 6 are in the context of the sexual immorality that people were falling into).

The gist of Paul's argument is that when we are saved by Christ, we then look for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Surely, we want to offer the Spirit an appropriate welcome and a suitable place to dwell. Is it not an insult to God, showing how little we value his presence, to offer him a home which is contaminated and unhealthy, rather than clean and holy? To that end it must matter how we treat and use our bodies, and it can hardly be compatible to regard ourselves as

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple?"

1 Corinthians, chap. 3, verse 16

open to both the Holy Spirit and an immoral lifestyle.

Paul was writing specifically to point out that the sexual immorality of the Corinthians did not square with being a Christian. But his argument is clearly of wider application. Our suitability as a host for the Holy Spirit is lessened if our bodies are damaged through drugs and alcohol abuse or our minds are polluted by pornography or other unworthy material. But there are also positive ways in which we can make our bodies fitting temples of the Holy Spirit. The Christian life is an active one, in service to God and our neighbour, and we need to ensure that we are fit to pursue it effectively. We can work not only to keep our bodies pure but to nurture our ability to serve him to the fullest. The indwelling Spirit will help us.

- *Scribatius*

It's not the message - blame the messenger!

Printers of the Bible have not always been as reliable as they are now.

"The wicked Bible"

A printing of 1631 left out a crucial "not", in Exodus 20.14:

Thou shalt commit adultery

"The unrighteous Bible"

In 1653 a Cambridge Bible also omitted a "not", in 1 Corinthians 6.9:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit

Young people today....

Well, sometimes it pays not to agree with something that you have not really heard correctly. One of the Youth Fellowship suggested that, after a day out that we enjoyed with several others, I should write it as the Church Magazine article. I said yes, before I engaged my brain, and so what follows is a unique insight into the life of Youth Fellowship at HTC.

A tale worthy of Enid Blyton...

It was the middle of August and the height of the English summer, so what better way to spend some quality time with the boys of Youth Fellowship than at Lord's, the Home of Cricket™. It was a sunny day as I took Joel Watkins, Toby Vale, Sanjay Patel and Jamie Henderson along to Lord's for a day's cricket. Middlesex - Sussex is not a classic encounter, especially for a Kent fan, but under 16's got in for free so I was not complaining!

We were meeting Mike and Thomas Harle up there, as Tom was lucky enough to qualify for a special kids day whereby he got to meet Glenn McGrath no less. Mike and Tom then both joined us at the lunch interval. In the meantime, however, I was in sole charge of four of our church's most exuberant boys. This should have been no problem for an experienced chap such as myself, except that I had made a small misjudgement regarding sugary food stuffs. This was to rear its ugly head later on in the proceedings...

Anyhow, the cricket was particularly uneventful until the luncheon break when we were allowed to play on the outfield at Lord's; a real treat. Lord's was then witness to some of the finest batting since Andrew Strauss made a debut century: until I strode to the crease. Now Tom Harle is a much better bowler than his age

suggests, which is why I was caught out for nought. Still, I bowled Sanjay on my first delivery so I cannot really blame the pitch!!

It was after lunch that the sedate atmosphere of Lord's began to be punctuated with what I can only describe as 'turbulence'. Now the main perpetrators shall remain nameless but I know exactly who they are and am still trying to work out an appropriate retaliation. This however paled into insignificance as compared to the fun that was had after the Tea interval. Mike and Tom had departed by then with Tom enjoying no doubt the rambunctious horseplay that had begun to develop. The next three hours of play were lively to say the least.

First came the love poems in our Ukrainian sweets. They were nauseatingly poor but very funny. Cue loud reading. The field had changed and the boundary was now peppered with fielders all of whose autographs, no matter how obscure, had to be gained. Then they found the umbrellas. Now anyone who says that young people today are not easily pleased will not have seen the faces of those boys when they had us all sitting, in the dry, under umbrellas during a break in play. In case you are wondering they were trying to persuade people it was raining. Finally, one of the Umpires had decided he was not going to call any no-balls during the entire match. So our boys decided to help him out. Loudly.

Suffice to say, I had more grey hairs at the end of the day than at the beginning, but a good time was had by all, with food aplenty. And so, I have kept a promise -

Consider your children

You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk.

Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.

Highlights of Holy Trinity's trip to Ukraine

At 2.15 pm on 23rd July a group of members from Holy Trinity (greatly supported by a few with specialist skills from other churches) boarded the British Airways flight from Gatwick to Budapest. The "working holiday to Ukraine" had started. Ironically, within 3 hours probably the greatest problem of the whole trip became known, when we were told that 10 bags (including many with medical and dentistry equipment) had been left at Gatwick Airport.

The following morning (after a great night out to celebrate Julian's birthday with Hungarian gypsy serenades in a typical restaurant) we left our hotel on a Ukrainian registered bus for Akli and Gyula. Some 7 hours later (after a last minute shop at Tesco and our last restaurant meal for 8 days) we reached the Ukrainian border.

We had been warned about the problematic nature of taking medical supplies across so, after an hour at the border post praying and waiting, we were pleased when the passport official announced that as he was from the next village he would be visiting our medical clinic, and the customs official then gave scant regard to the large number of boxes piled high in the rear of the coach and practically waved us through!

Such coincidences were a hallmark of the trip and showed us that planning for events on our trip was often a poor substitute for relying on God to provide solutions!

Across the border we experienced the potholed roads of Ukraine and picked up 7 translators who were to help our team tremendously throughout the week. Late at night we arrived in Akli and Gyula and a rather chaotic pairing of hosts and guests occurred - there were many villagers who wanted to accommodate people and despite the total group size (with translators and Christian doctors from Hungary) of 43 there was no shortage of beds!

Akli and Gyula are villages in Transcarpathia, a region which has been under German (Nazi), Soviet and now Ukrainian control. Time and time again we heard that more people were lost from both villages in Stalin's concentration camps than in the world wars. There are memorials to those lost, and harrowing tales from those who survived.

The villagers are mostly peasants, with chickens, pigs, perhaps a cow and a horse and other animals in their back

Andrew Tarcy tells Insight's readers something of the experience of visiting the people of Akli and Gyula in Ukraine.

gardens (and the rather difficult-to-get-used-to toilet at the bottom of the plot). We were mostly hosted by the richer families; but many of the team visited and experienced much simpler houses during the course of the week where poverty was all too clear. Ill-health or an accident or early bereavement can transform a family - there is certainly no social security net here!

We attended the reformed church on our first Sunday (men, women and children normally sit separately) and took part in the service, and then used the rest of the day to get to know the village and plan our work for the Monday.

A minibus timetable was set up to link the villages (over the 5km of extremely pot-holed road that would ruin any western car) and this allowed us to go between villages as necessary in our teams to support the medical and dental clinics (in both villages at different times of the week), English language and childrens' camps (in Gyula) and mission activities that occupied us for most of the week. It also allowed Akli children (aged 8 - 14) to attend the school in Gyula where all the children's activities were based.

We were all moved by our experiences of the next week in some way or other, and challenged as God really showed us his presence by slotting many uncertainties into place. Philippians 4 v 12 was quoted by a number in our group as something that was all too apparent: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty".

There was always however lots of laughter, fun and true sharing among our friends in the villages in a way that many of us had not experienced - albeit that the environment was that of subsistence farming that would not have been uncommon in the UK in the 19th century.

We established medical and dental clinics in Akli and Gyula, with doctors, a pharmacist, nurse, radiologist, dentists and technician from the UK together with a very good team of Hungarian medical students and translators all led by

Michael Webb-Peploe. ECG, blood testing and ultrasound were available to us - something that was not even available easily in the main hospital some 50km away - and certainly beyond the reach of villagers.

The demand was exceptional and very moving (people had become used to not being able to see a doctor and certainly to not being able to afford to buy medicines); about 356 patients were seen and 280 lots of medication were provided. (We needed more medicines half-way through the trip and God even provided a way to obtain these.....). The dentists were also very busy with 156 patients and 233 extractions, with some very relieved patients who had never experienced anything under anaesthetic!

An English language camp and children's activities at Gyula school was run by 8 people led by Emma Carter. Lessons in English were held for children on 5 mornings in 5 separate classes (with 2 evening classes for adults), followed by children's activities (using resources given by HT members) in the afternoon. The camp grew in popularity as the week went on - with a peak of 154 children (including 2 minibus loads full of 22 children in a 9 seater minibus from Akli!)

The remainder of our group led by Julian supported the mission work, visiting villagers with a translator and local elder. It was a daunting task to start with but soon the hospitality and kindness in even the poorest families with terrible stories to tell became obvious and brought tears to many of us on occasions. The mission work culminated in the showing of a Jesus video one evening in each village to an audience of 150; and a social evening where along with cups of tea and the English cakes that so many people from Claygate kindly baked, we showed a video of this summer's Baptism and Confirmation service and church life in the UK to an even greater number.

We were very sad to leave on the final Sunday (though perhaps pleased to be facing the prospect of a hot shower and western loos!) but attended both church services and had a full lunch with our hosts and a rousing send-off before facing the journey home!

All of us came back moved and humbled by the experience of the kindness and hospitality shown by Christians in another part of Europe who have so little materially, but so much that is far more important.