

Tuesday 6 September Monthly youth update and prayer, 9 am and 7 pm
 Wednesday 7 September Holy Communion at 11 am followed by a light lunch
 Wednesday 7 September Prayer meeting in church, 8 pm
 Thursday 15 September Prayer for Surrey with Sandy Millar, Cathedral at 8 pm
 Monday 19 September New Anchor season begins, church foyer, 7.30 for 8 pm
 Tuesday 20 September An evening with Jonathan Aitken, at Holy Trinity at 8 pm
 Thursday 22 September Opening supper for the new Alpha course
 Saturday 24 September Riverside Opera Celebration Concert in church, 7 pm
 Sunday 25 September Julian's last Sunday, with farewell lunch (no 6.30 service)
 Sunday 2 October Harvest Festival
 Monday 3 October New Men's Fellowship season begins, with supper in the hall
 Wednesday 5 October Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
 Saturday 8 October Voices for Hospices concert in church, 7.30 pm
 Sunday 9 October Julian made Archdeacon, Guildford Cathedral, 6.30 pm
 Sunday 16 October Chariots of Fire on Holy Trinity's Big Screen, Church Hall, 4 pm
 Saturday 22 October Claygate Choral Society sing Haydn Masses in church, 8 pm

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

	8 am	10 am	6.30 pm
1st Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Holy Communion Ord 1
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	All Age Service	Evening Prayer
4th Sunday	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion Ord 1	Evening Prayer
5th Sunday	Holy Communion (trad)	Morning Praise	Evening Prayer

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 2 pm: Toddlers' Praise (in the Church Hall)
 Every Wednesday, at 7 am: Prayers for 30 minutes (in the Quiet Room)
 Every Thursday, at 3.45 pm: Intercessions (in the Quiet Room)
 Monthly on a Thursday, at 11.45 am at Wingham Court: Holy Communion
 4th Thursday in month, at 11.30 am at the Day Centre: Holy Communion

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

September 2005

40p

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE

LAST OF THE SERIES
 Julian's final letter - page 2

YF AT THE BEACH
 Asa leads a day out - page 5

FRIENDS IN UKRAINE
 This summer's visit reported
 - in our centre pages

GROWING UP IN BORNEO
 Heather's testimony - page 9

PARTING SHOT
 We get Julian to the back of
 the magazine - page 11

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

JONATHAN AITKEN COMES TO CLAYGATE

One of the most controversial figures of recent years ("no politician has fallen further") is coming to speak at Holy Trinity this month. We are hoping that as many people as possible from the local community will take the opportunity to hear what he has to say.

Jonathan Aitken first hit the headlines as long ago as 1970, when he was charged under the Official Secrets Act, and subsequently acquitted. His next appearance in the criminal courts was less successful: 28 years later, having in the meantime built a successful political career, elected to Parliament in 1974 and promoted to John Major's cabinet in 1994, he was convicted of perjury and sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment. It followed the collapse of a libel action he had taken against *The Guardian* and Granada Television in the face of evidence that his case was based on lies.

In prison, however, something happened, and he found a new direction to his life. Jonathan Aitken's story will make a fascinating evening, at 8 pm on Tuesday 20th September. Get tickets (they're free!) from the Church Office and bring friends.

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

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

I must begin by saying it feels strange to be writing what is my last Vicar's letter for Insight. Where have these last thirteen and a half years gone? And what lies ahead round the corner, as you prepare for a new Vicar to be appointed and as we as a family move to a different kind of ministry?

I can still remember the sense of unbelief I felt when the Patron offered me the post of Vicar at Holy Trinity, Claygate at the end of 1991. And then what a welcome we received as we moved into a newly and imaginatively decorated Vicarage, with a full larder, and as we joined the Holy Trinity family and settled into the wider community of Claygate. And then what challenges and excitements we have shared along the way together, as God has led us to where we are today. And now we find ourselves pulling up those deeply imbedded roots and having to leave a place and group of people who have become so very special to us.

During our time we have tried to share two things with you as readers of Insight, with the Church Family and with Claygate as a whole.

First, Heather and I have tried to share with you the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our message has not been about ourselves or anything we can do, but about Him and the difference that knowing Him can make to our lives. We hope we have been ambassadors for Him and that as we move on, so you will remember Him more than us. There is no greater joy than that of seeing a person come to faith in Christ and then grow in that faith and start to serve Him wholeheartedly. And we have over the years here seen a good number begin and continue that journey of faith. We have also been privileged to see many others grow and develop their faith, their service and their commitment and that has been thrilling for us. Thank you so much for the encouragement you have given us by this spiritual growth.

Secondly, we have tried to give ourselves to you. We have worked and prayed as hard as we can, using the energy, the love, and the time that God has given to us. In response you have shared so much of yourselves with us, your joys and sorrows, that we feel we have become a part of your lives. We are so grateful for this trust you have placed in us and count it a huge privilege to have served here for thirteen years. Thank you for putting up with us for so long and please forgive us our failings and mistakes, which we know have been many.

And our prayer is that you will keep trusting in Jesus Christ, allowing His Spirit and His Word to be your guide into the future that He has in store for you. Church leaders come and go, but Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today and for ever and promises to be with His people to the very end of the age.

With our thanks, and our continuing love and prayers,



From the Parish Registers

We welcome into the family of the Church:

Edward Anthony Thomas
Eleanor Scarlett Hastie
Alexander Tristan John Collett
Sebastian David Hepworth
(all baptised on 3rd July)

Lee Frost
(baptised on 22nd July)
Martha Isabel Aylmer-Hall
Elisa Rose Aylmer-Hall
Hannah Linda Wood
Ailie Margaret Ballard
Ethan James Hostler
(all baptised on 21st August)

We offer congratulations on the marriage of:

Richard Hugh Bennett-Davies and
Catherine Engelhardt
(married on 25th June)

Julian David Coy and
Emma Elizabeth Carter
(married on 23rd July)

Brett Stanley Offen and
Sally Anne Hynes
(married on 6th August)

Adrian Francis Meneses and
Donna Louise Thompson
(married on 20th August)

Parish Personalities

At last, we expose Julian Henderson to the glare of our spotlights.

Where were you brought up?

In the Sussex countryside.

How long have you lived in Claygate?

For 13 1/2 years, since 1st May 1992.

What do you like most about it? Its accessibility, sense of community and its parish church!

And if there was one thing you could change? Fewer cars.

Where would you locate your ideal home?

Close to family, near a lively and Bible-believing church and with a good view.

What is the least welcome part of your daily round? Washing up - it's never-ending!

Which personal trait do you struggle most to overcome? I tend to be a 'last minute' kind of person, which is frustrating for others.

What food are you most partial to?

Partial to everything, but a selection of puddings in one bowl takes some beating!

And leave on the side of your plate?

I prevent parmesan cheese getting on my plate.

What do you watch on television?

Not much. Sometimes the news or Poirot.

What would your desert island book be?

The biggest collection of Su Doku puzzles.

What is your favourite music?

Elgar's cello concerto.

And your favourite hymn?

"All I once held dear....Knowing you, Jesus".

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

John 3. 16 - "God so loved the world....."

Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?

To be a little taller and not have to look up to my curate!

Gathering for prayer

A weakness in our shared life as the church family at Holy Trinity, which the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April highlighted, was our meeting together for intercessory prayer. A faithful group gather on a Wednesday morning at 7 am each week and on the first Saturday each month at 9 am, both for half an hour. But for some while it has been thought we should offer the opportunity for a broader group from church to be encouraged to gather.

That importance has been increased by the needs of the events of this September, the special evening with Jonathan Aitken and secondly Julian and Heather's farewell and the start of the process of finding the next Vicar of Holy Trinity.

So it has been decided to hold a gathering for prayer once a month to which as

many of the church family as possible are invited to come. Home Groups will not meet that week, but there will be times of prayer in our Home Groups during the evening. I know that some find it hard to come to something like this, but nothing could be more significant, especially during an interregnum, than coming to God in united prayer for His work.

The first of these will be on 7th September and thereafter they will be held on the second Wednesday evening of each month, ie 12th October, 9th November and 14th December.

Please put these dates in your diary and aim to be present. Let's follow the example of the early Christians, who, we read in Acts 2.42, devoted themselves among other things to prayer.

Julian

What the autumn season holds for Home Group studies and Sunday sermons

Following the popularity of combining the Sunday Preaching and Home Group material on previous occasions, it has been decided to do the same this Autumn. We shall be reading, studying and preaching from the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel.

We haven't often looked at the message of the books in the Old Testament that record the history of God's dealings with His people and 1 Samuel will, I feel, provide an appropriate selection of studies that will

The Home Groups will have access to an excellent commentary by Dale Ralph Davis, which helps apply the message across the centuries to the person of Jesus Christ and then on into our own day.

Let's approach our engagement with the text with the attitude encouraged by Eli in his advice to the young boy Samuel:

'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening'. 1 Samuel 3.9

Julian

Love, trust and experience

Heather Henderson spoke at one of our Café Piccolo social evenings about her own path to Jesus, and this is our report.

Heather explained that she grew up in a very committed Christian home in Borneo. "My parents had given up the prospect of a prosperous professional life in England to live amongst a group of spirit worshipping, illiterate, often drunk people whose only decoration in their long houses were the hanging skulls of their families' previous victims! My dad was a fully qualified surgeon but he spent most of his time walking through the tropical jungle from village to village telling people that Jesus could rescue them from the very real fear in which they were living." It was the 'spirits' who determined the complete life of the people from birth to death - "so this was no idealistic primitive paradise but a drunken, fear-filled, unhealthy, miserable existence."

"My mum was a linguist who analysed the local language in order to give it a written form which didn't exist up till then. And she spent 20 years teaching the people to read and translating the whole of the New Testament into their language." So, Heather asked, "how do you reconcile the giving up of home, family, career, wealth, your children's childhood (as they had to go away to school), accepting gratefully a severely handicapped child who eventually died (Heather's elder sister was born with cerebral palsy), with the idea of a God of love who says that he will give us our hearts' desires?" The answer, Heather said, was through an understanding of love, trust and then experience.

"That love led Jesus to give up home, career, wealth and family, accepting poverty, injustice, and death for the sake of the in-

dividuals that He had created. My parents taught me to understand that love, and that real love is sacrificial, that it gives oneself to others."

"Then comes the trust. Trust that when you act in love God will honour that." Heather said that while growing up she was privileged to see that love and trust in action. "The resulting experience is what helps to continue that trust. It taught me that there are things in life that are more important than a safe, comfortable, materialistically wealthy existence. It taught me to look beyond myself and my immediate family and friends. It taught me that children learn more from what they see their parents do and how they live than by what their parents say. It taught me to value contentment. It also taught me that it is important to tell people that Jesus can change their lives and give them hope in a world that is full of fears and confusion."

So did Heather's Christian upbringing automatically make her a Christian? "No. Just because you are born in a garage, it doesn't make you a car. Each one of us has to respond to God's love for ourselves. At the age of 8 I began to understand, and at a Sunday school meeting I made a commitment to follow Jesus; later, as a teenager, I recommitted my life to be a disciple of Jesus and to try to let Him be the driver of my car. Mind you," Heather continued, "I can still be a vocal back seat driver", especially faced with the challenge of being uprooted from Claygate. "But the great thing about being a Christian is that you face such a challenge with a friend who though unseen is always there."

Our new Archdeacon

Julian will be formally commissioned as Archdeacon of Dorking at a service to be held in Guildford Cathedral at 6.30 pm on Sunday 9th October. All members of Holy Trinity are heartily welcomed to that event, and as it is clear that many will want to be there, please note that there will be no service in Holy Trinity that evening.

Time to join the Men's Fellowship

Existing members will this month be receiving their copy of the new season's programme of the Claygate Men's Fellowship. But we extend a warm welcome to other men - whether or not otherwise associated with Holy Trinity - to join us, and you may obtain a copy of the programme from Keith Havelock, the Chairman, or Jon Davey, the Secretary.

The new season opens, as is traditional, with a supper in the church hall. This will take place on Monday 3rd October and the after-dinner speaker will be Stuart Sadler who will offer his "Impressions of the Ukraine".

CONCERTS IN HOLY TRINITY

Saturday 24 September at 7 pm
Riverside Opera's 10th Anniversary Celebration Concert (popular choruses and solos), followed by supper

Saturday 8 October at 7.30 pm
Voices for Hospices 'Come and Sing' in aid of the Princess Alice Hospice

Saturday 22 October at 8 pm
Claygate Choral Society sing Haydn's Nelson Mass and Mass in Time of War

Another Alpha

Holy Trinity's new Alpha course will be starting this month, with an opening supper on Thursday 22nd September. It will run through till December, on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm apart from a Saturday meeting on 5th November.

This may be the opportunity that you or your friends really must seize, but Jonathan Aitken's talk on 20th September could help the decision. A brochure with full details is available in the church foyer.

Anchor restarts

The new season of meetings of the Anchor ladies group starts this month, but with a difference. In future, the meetings will be held in the church foyer, on the third Monday of each month, at 7.30 for 8 pm. Any enquiries to Gill Caporn. The first meeting is on 19th September, when the speaker will be Donna Watson from the Alzheimer's Society.

More from the Parish Registers

We offer sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

Herbert Alfred (Bob) Adams (10th June)
Eileen Mildred Woolger (22nd June)
Olive Nancy Porter (24th June)
David Maurice Anderson Smith (30th June)
Joy Margaret Barnes (4th July)
Hannah McKinna Riddell (6th July)
Kitty Nancy Kathleen Hughes (24th July)
Audrey Winifred Helen Taylor (8th August)
Martin Nicholls (18th August)

Henderson family to move to Ripley

The Diocese of Guildford have found a property in Ripley for Julian and Heather to live in and work from when they leave Claygate. It is on the road between Ripley and Send, ideal for the new Archdeacon of Dorking and his successors, being close enough to be convenient for Diocesan House and Willow Grange in Guildford and midway between the southern and northern ends of the Archdeaconry.

Some alterations to the house, to make it more suitable for Julian to work from, require planning permission, and the decision of the local council is awaited. It is hoped that Julian will move his work to Ripley at the end of September, but that he and the family will stay living in Claygate for a further couple of months later, until the work on the house has been completed.

Their new address and phone number will be available in due course.

Huge demand enlarges Julian's farewell lunch

In order to accommodate as many as possible of those who wish to attend the farewell lunch for Julian and Heather on 25th September, it has been decided to use both the church and the church hall.

The original thinking was that since the church hall was likely to be too small for such an event, the church itself should be cleared for the lunch to be held. However, all 310 places that this would allow were very quickly snapped up and a list of additional applicants grew rapidly. Using the hall as well will allow more to attend and to watch and hear the proceedings on a video link - even if it involves an unprecedentedly massive catering operation!

Look out for more details which will be published in the Sunday newssheet early in September.

New Jigsaw Adviser

Mike Benns, who as well as being a member of Holy Trinity is a Jigsaw parent, has been appointed a member of the Jigsaw Advisory Group, which is now chaired by Catherine Winchcombe.



Learning from the Bible

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

Philippians chap. 2, verse 5.

Have you ever stopped to wonder about all the people who want you on their side? Employing all kinds of modern manipulation, innumerable interests strive every day to influence our thinking, guide our spending or secure our loyalty.

Political parties seek to present themselves in the way their analysts tell them will maximise their appeal. Supermarkets and computer stores constantly bombard us with offers which they hope will entice us through their doors rather than their competitors'. Charities like to tell us heartrending or inspirational stories in order to stimulate our financial support. Newspapers design their front pages to attract the undecided buyer, and their columnists and leader writers attempt to persuade us to their view. The burgeoning world of public relations and advertising spends vast sums of money to enhance our perception of people, organisations, products and causes.

It would be a brave, and probably a deluded, person who thought he or she was impervious to all this. The experience of those who indulge in it tells them that, if done well, it works. They reap a harvest. So what guides your thinking? To whom do you listen in order to make your mind up or decide how to act?

Siren voices have been leading mankind astray since the beginning of time - it was Eve, after all, who allowed the serpent to deceive her into disobeying God's word. Today's media-rich world in which we live

means that we are beset with competing voices vying for our attention and our support as none of our ancestors have been. It is a great challenge to avoid becoming confused and to remain focussed. What navigational tool can we look to so as to avoid being misled?

Paul had the answer. Let the same mind be in you, he wrote to the church at Philippi, that was in Christ Jesus. Part of the purpose of God becoming man in the person of Jesus was to show us how we should live. And if we look for further guidance as to what it means to have the mind of Christ, we have Jesus' own words in John 5.30: "I seek not to please myself but him who sent me".

Having the mind of Christ means having the likes and dislikes and attitudes that Christ has. We have a constant reference point: what would Jesus do in these circumstances? And if we find ourselves uncertain of the answer, there is a very good chance that we will find it by reading the Bible.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson wrote a hymn, already chosen by one of *Insight's* "Parish Personalities" as a favourite, which sums up the message superbly:

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling
All I do or say.*

Scribatius

*The Will of God will never take you where
the Grace of God will not protect you.*

Young people today....

This month we reflect on the height of our summer, I speak of course of the 17th July when YF went to the beach for the day and there was not even one cloud in the sky all day. My grandmother always jokes that the sun always shines on the righteous but this went way beyond that because everyone down at Goring-by-Sea was blessed that day by the greatest of summer days.

We travelled down en masse driven in the church minibus by Hannah Hidden, and I am pleased to report that there was not an iota of bawdy singing to be heard, save for a few verses from yours truly that were quickly extinguished. Nick and Sarah Slater brought their family down with us and after a short hour's untroubled journey straight south we arrived at the beach. The tide was retreating as we pitched our shade shelters and within a few minutes we were wading ankle deep in the warm surf.

We tried to go deeper, but the distance between the high tide berm and the low tide mark could only have been measured by Arthur C Clarke or Douglas Adams. After an exploratory paddle therefore, we returned to the shade and played boule (I lost 15-4 to Neill) and hoopla, flew our kites and had a competition of inflatable snakes and ladders.

Then before our lunch we ventured in the sea again, tiptoeing around the crabs and with an inflatable crocodile in full flow the surf (it was inches high by this time) was engaged once more and everyone returned to our base camp (cunningly placed just opposite the ice cream van) for a hearty lunch. A big thanks goes to Gerda Smit for

the awesome brownies that were enjoyed by all, and to the ice cream van man who gave us all 99's. I think we spent enough to put his eldest through college.

Then once that had settled and we had played consequences and made some parachute men we went down to the sea again and played Frisbee. By this stage the panagean shallow sea was warm, like no other sea I've encountered. Brilliant. The girls kept throwing the Frisbee behind me then walking out to sea (up to their knees) so that I had an inordinate distance to throw it next. By this stage they were laughing so much they were beginning to fall over, which was then making me laugh. I thankfully didn't fall over though, although I did get bitten by a crab.

Finally, with our water and sun cream supplies running dangerously low we sauntered, smiling and content, back to the top of the beach collecting shells along the way. Having then packed up we enjoyed a quiet journey back in the minibus (save for the games YF were playing) and arrived back on time, which is quite an achievement for any Youthwork trip out!

Suffice to say, the looks of joyful exhaustion on the faces of YF when we returned was the cherry on the icing of the cake that was our perfect day out at the beach.

Asa

During the intercessions one Sunday morning, there was a loud whistle from one of the back rows. Gary's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence, and after church asked: "Gary, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Gary answered "I asked God to teach me to whistle... and He did right then!"

Sharing God's love across national borders

A year of planning, reflection, organising and prayer and suddenly 29th July 2005 was upon us. As we gathered in the church car park there were signs of nervous anticipation mixed with a sense of excitement as some of us set off into the unknown and some into the well known. A band of well wishers, including Julian and Heather, waited to wave us off. And finally we *were* off. Two mini buses and a people carrier left Claygate for an experience never to be forgotten.

As we drove along the sunny, empty, August roads to Heathrow airport I suspect that there were as many private thoughts going through people's minds as there were passengers, for this was no ordinary holiday group. We had sent on ahead of us a lorry full of equipment, ranging from plastic cups, gazebos, pencils, paints and shortbread biscuits, to highly sophisticated medical and dental equipment - each object with its own assigned and very specific purpose - each piece equally important to the planned trip.

Dudley Sloggett's fantastic forward planning meant that we cleared 'check in' at Heathrow, as a group with no incidents or any questions concerning the large and very heavy cases that Michael Webb-Peploe was carrying! A short uneventful journey and we arrived at Budapest airport where the intrepid Andrew Tarcy had gone before us, and was waiting with our coach, already piled high with our lorry load of equipment and medicines necessary for the visit!

At the Novotel Budapest, Claygate met Petersfield, courtesy of 'Easyjet' from Gatwick, and the adventure really began. We shared a festive type meal together at a very jolly restaurant and breakfast the following morning in the hotel, before we squeezed ourselves - 36 of us, our luggage, about 200 children's Hungarian bibles, Alison's guitar, Alan's keyboard and medical student translators from Hungary into the already over-full coach - and began the final stage of the journey to Gyula, Akli and ujAkli in the Ukraine.

A mandatory stop at Tesco's before we got to the border crossing almost finally put paid to the suspension system on the coach as we loaded up with still drinking water and anything else that we thought we might not be able to get once we had arrived in the villages (surely we had thought of eve-

Ann Smith, who led the teaching team for this year's visit to Ukraine, reports on how the trip went.

rything by now!)

Our long journey was aided however, by a 'choir' practice, managed by 'Alan the dentist' from Petersfield and his keyboard, preparing us for a rousing rendition of our hymns when we took over the three church services in Gyula, Akli and ujAkli on our final Sunday there.

But that is to jump too far ahead too quickly. We had yet to get across the border with our overweight and groaning coach full of boxes, people's luggage, books, bibles, musical instruments, water and above all hope.

But again due to forward planning, we had been forestalled, the Lord had gone before us this time and placed a 'God believing' border guard on duty at the time of our arrival and with a wave of her hand and her 'blessing' we were through. The final hurdle was overcome.

Our final stop before the villages was a joyous one as we met our young, enthusiastic and wonderful Hungarian speaking translators an hour over the border into the Ukraine. At first sight this was indeed a joy, for obvious reasons, (sorry Ferenc, despite all your best efforts most of our Hungarian speaking skills proved to be very inefficient!) and subsequently too, as they became our lifeline to communication for the next week.

This joy was only surpassed by the joy we felt and the welcome we received as we finally arrived in the first village, Gyula. Stopping off at the school we unloaded all the equipment for our 'summer school' for the next week and discovered to our immense relief, fantastic flushing 'loos' just completed and ready for use. Claygate parishioners, you were remembered with great fondness for this generous gesture, by all of us. The school head teacher, children and villagers were all immensely grateful as well.

Suddenly, though, our close companionship, forged on our

long journey, was breaking up: each person or couple was assigned to its own home in three different villages and whisked away with their hosts. For some of us this was a happy reunion and for some a brand new relationship.

These relationships proved to be at the heart of this whole venture. As we look back at the 'work' we undertook - school, medical, dentistry, ministry, outreach, social - all very important and worthwhile in their own rights - we know that the value of our going was just being there with the people. These proud, generous, faithful people, suffer and have suffered many hardships in their lives - beyond most of our imaginations- but are able to offer hospitality and friendship that is without comparison.

We had made our journey to support them, but I suspect that most of us returned more enriched in spirit and faith than we could ever have thought possible. We lived among these villagers, shared their lives, their joys and sorrows for a short week, but they will remain in our hearts for ever.

Everyone will have their own particular memories: bottle rockets in school with the children being a highlight for some of us, the social in the dark in Akli for others, but undoubtedly the people themselves were the main event.

We have formed a friendship with these people that is important for all of us. It is a symbol of Christian fellowship that one would find hard to 'top'. It means so much to them and for those of us who visited it means so much to us.

God willing, another trip will take place next year. Yes, we will take a medical and teaching team, an outreach team and masses of equipment, but above all we will take the love of Christ with us and in return we will bring back again love in abundance.

Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full'. This relationship with our friends in the Ukraine is surely a manifestation of the 'life' we should be living if we are to follow the two great commandments that Christ gave to us, 'love God and love your neighbour as yourself'.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible.