

Sunday 2 September	Church Picnic lunch on the Rec at 12.30
Wednesday 5 September	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Saturday 8 September	Surrey Churches Bike Ride
Tuesday 11 September	Joint Home Group meeting, 8 pm
Monday 17 September	Anchor for ladies, 7.30 for 8 pm
Tuesday 18 September	Focus on Uganda Mission Evening, Church Hall at 8 pm
Wednesday 19 September	Together in Prayer, in the church at 8 pm
Thursday 20 September	New Alpha course begins with supper at 7.30 pm
Sunday 30 September	Harvest Sunday, with tea in the afternoon
Wednesday 3 October	Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by a light lunch
Monday 15 October	Men's Fellowship Diamond Jubilee Dinner
Wednesday 17 October	Together in Prayer, in the church at 8 pm
Tuesday 23 October	Half-term Holiday Club

### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monthly on a Wednesday (see diary above): Holy Communion (Prayer Book)  
 Alternate Wednesdays, at 10 am: Toddlers' Praise (in Church House)  
 Every Wednesday, at 7 am: Prayers for 30 minutes (in the Quiet Room)  
 Every Thursday, at 3.45 pm: Intercessions (in the Quiet Room)  
 Monthly on a Thursday, at 11.45 am at Wingham Court: Holy Communion  
 4th Thursday in month, at 11.30 am at the Day Centre: Holy Communion

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

## HARVEST SUNDAY IS 30TH SEPTEMBER

As last year, we will be celebrating with a Harvest Tea as an occasion for the whole church family, young and old. This will be held on Sunday afternoon: please listen out for further details.



VICAR: THE REVD PHILIP PLYMING  
 LAY ASSISTANT MINISTER: VALERIE BAGLEY  
 CURATE: THE REVD TOM DARWENT  
 NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER: THE REVD PROF LINDA MORGAN  
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Dear friends

I hope you have had a good summer and had the chance to recharge batteries and enjoy yourself - despite the variable English weather! Annabelle and I had a fortnight away with the boys in this country, and really appreciated the break; my first year at Holy Trinity has been really exciting and enjoyable, but, if I am honest, at times quite tiring, so it was really good to have some extended time off.

I also had the privilege of travelling to Trans-Carpathia in Ukraine to visit those from our church and elsewhere who were serving on the mission trip to villages of Gyula, Akli and Uj Akli. As I shared at our prayer meeting in August, it was a humbling and encouraging time. It was humbling to see the hardships endured by the villagers, in many ways worse off than under the former Soviet regime, and then to receive so much from them in hospitality, welcome and gifts. Also humbling was the spirit of service shown by the team from the UK and Hungary, of gifted people serving after the manner and with the love of Jesus. I was privileged to be linked to such a great team and pay tribute to Stuart Sadler and Andrew Tarcy for their exemplary leadership of the mission trip.

Indeed, the overall sense I had was one of encouragement. This encouragement came from many sources: from watching the team serve so sacrificially, from observing the children and young people respond to the Christian message and witness, from hearing the appreciation of those who had received medical care or a home visit, from getting to know wonderful local Christians committed to seeing growth in their home churches. Certainly, one of the things I took home with me was the absolute centrality of the local church in God's mission to his world. Here at Holy Trinity we have reaffirmed our commitment to that through our vision process. The PCC in July affirmed our three aims as a church:

- to bring more followers to Jesus
- to grow as deeper followers of Jesus
- to live as closer followers with Jesus

More, deeper, closer. These words sum up where we believe God wants to take us in the years to come. Over this autumn we will be starting to make this vision a reality. Using the metaphor of a walk, we will be looking at what it means to follow Jesus together:

- September - Starting the Walk (looking at how we start as followers of Jesus)
- October - Continuing the Walk (looking at how we grow as followers of Jesus)
- November - Walking Together (looking at how we live as a community of Jesus' followers)

And as you will see on page 4, there are other new initiatives starting as well this autumn.

With my love and prayers for the journey ahead

*Philip*



## *From the Parish Registers*

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

Theo Heaton Venzelaar-Pelly  
James Timothy John Plyming  
(baptised on 29th July)

Emily Claire Ball  
Chloe Victoria Ball  
Robert Paul Guest  
Toby Alexander Hill  
(all baptised on 5th August)

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

Michael Paul Smith and  
Bethan Sian Howells  
(married on 30th June)

Richard De Freitas Goncalves and  
Louise Catherine Burgess  
(married On 7th July)

Hamish Hunt Irving and  
Emma Leanne Thompson  
(married on 28th July)

Harry Anthony Lionel Brett-Jones  
and Emma Louise Garlick  
(married on 28th July)

### *From the Registers continues opposite*



## **Parish Personalities**

Penny Alpass responds to this month's Insight Inquisition.

*Where were you brought up?*

In Lichfield, Staffordshire.

*How long have you lived in Claygate?*

For 29 years.

*What do you like most about it?*

Shopping - it's so sociable!

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

I would change the A3 into a beautiful river.

*Where would you locate your ideal home?*

On the Isles of Scilly.

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

Definitely housework!

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

*What food are you most partial to?*

Raspberries and melons.

*And leave on the side of your plate?*

Tuna fish.

*What do you watch on television?*

Midsomer Murders, Songs of Praise, University Challenge, News.

*What would your desert island book be?*

A very long and large book of English Poetry - and also please the complete works of William Shakespeare.

*What is your favourite music?*

I enjoy very many different kinds of music.... I think the word is eclectic!

*And your favourite hymn?*

"O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise" - but there are many more.

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

Philippians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 14.

*Do you have an unfulfilled ambition?*

To see the Himalayas.

## New this September!

*As Philip writes on page 2, this autumn marks our first steps in putting our vision into practice. Here is a taste of what is happening.*

### Alpha Course

Our first vision aim is to see more followers of Jesus. The Alpha course is a great way for people to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Many people have found it a relaxed and low-key way to find out more about the Christian faith. Led this year by Philip and Tom, it will take place on Thursday evenings from 7.30 until 9.45 pm and starts with a delicious supper. The opening taster evening is on 20th September.

### "Christian FAQs"

Our second vision aim is to grow as deeper followers of Jesus. We will be starting a new monthly teaching evening aimed at helping us do that through looking in more detail at some of the tough questions Christians find themselves - or others - asking (hence the title: FAQs stands for Frequently Asked Questions).

The evening will include teaching, group discussion and plenty of time for questions. More details can be found in the termcard, but the first evening is Sunday 16th September with the title 'How should we relate to other faiths?' The evening runs from 8 until 9.30 pm.

### Together in Prayer

Our third vision aim is to live as closer followers with Jesus. This refers to how we exist as a Christian community for Claygate and beyond. Key to this is sharing information and praying together. 'Together in Prayer' is the next step in the development of our monthly prayer meeting, and is the one time in the

month when all church members are invited to church to share news, encouragement and pray together, for the needs of our church and the world. If you want to know what is going on at Holy Trinity, this is *the* meeting to attend, and it is a particular priority for all those in leadership, PCC members, homegroup leaders and others. But all are welcome. The first Together in Prayer will be on Wednesday 19th September from 8 until 9.30 pm.

### Growing Leaders

Our new 'Growing Leaders' course begins with 24 hours away at Parkway, Guildford, on 7th to 8th September. Around twenty people from Holy Trinity, plus three from All Saints Church in Epsom, will gather on the Friday evening and stay till the end of Saturday afternoon. This will give time for teaching and discussion sessions, plus the opportunity for participants to get to know one another and begin to form a cooperative group.

This first run of 'Growing Leaders' is intended as a pilot course, so that each person taking part has expressed themselves willing to be something of a guinea pig, as well as making the significant commitment of time and energy involved!

Please pray for all the participants taking this new step forward in training, and also for Philip, Stuart Wright and Valerie, who are to lead the course.

### Hub2

Following last season's run of The Hub, this is an Alpha-Style course for teenagers from the community. See Stuart for more details.

## This year's summer mission to Ukraine

*For ten days from the end of July to early August, a party of forty from Britain, with Petersfield United Reformed Church and Walton Baptist Church boosting the Holy Trinity contingent, spent time in the Trans-Carpathian villages of Gyula, Akli and Uj-Akli. After a Friday flight to Budapest and an overnight stay there, the rest of the journey was in local coaches, finally arriving at 10.30 pm on Saturday to be given hospitality by villagers. Stuart Sadler gives us a taste of the experience.*

Last month I had the great privilege and honour together with Andrew Tarcy of leading this year's mission to the Ukraine. We will be reporting back more fully to the Church family over the next few months but I just wanted to use this opportunity to give you some highlights of this blessed trip.

When I think about the trip the very first thing that I remember is the unity of all involved. The theme of our trip was John 3:16 - 'For God so loved the world ...' - and we were so aware of his love for all the different groups that make up the mission. We really felt as one team albeit that we were engaged in different activities each day: Medical, Dental, Children, Youth and home visits.

Even though we went our separate ways during the day we knew that God had one plan / one purpose uniting all of us. That unity comes from our overwhelming gratitude for what Jesus has done in our lives and how he, through nothing we have done, has brought us into the light and joy of knowing him. This is why we go.

For the children's mission we took each of the parts of John 3:16 on each day and showed the children through art, drama, singing and craft the message of Jesus. In the youth camp we considered some of the challenges of being a young Christian in the modern world.

Both of these groups grew in number each day as word got around the villages. The school peaked at 160 children and the youth camp at 79.

The medical and dental mission saw more people in the first day this trip than in the whole of the first year (just 4 years ago). An especial blessing was an ophthalmologist who could prescribe glasses for people who maybe had not been able to read the Bible themselves for years. We also gave out many Bibles in modern Hungarian translations, getting them into homes which had perhaps previously lacked them.

It was with great pleasure that on the Thursday of our stay we welcomed Philip, who had travelled over for the last few days. He really enjoyed being there but also enjoyed the journey there (do ask to see his photos of eastern European trains!).

Another key aspect of this mission was total dependence on prayer. As we prayed each morning in our three villages over there, a prayer meeting was being held back at Holy Trinity at exactly the same time. It was such a comfort to us to know that you were supporting us with prayer every day - thank you.

We look forward as a team to sharing more with you shortly how God moved through and in us on this His mission.

## Men's Fellowship Diamond Jubilee Dinner

A thanksgiving dinner to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Men's Fellowship will be held in the Church Hall on Monday 15 October 2007 at 7.30 for 8 o'clock.

Tickets priced £8 will cover a two course dinner plus cheese, coffee and wine.

To avoid possible over-subscription, tickets are being made available initially to members of the Fellowship and their guests and are being distributed through committee members.

Members should therefore receive an approach through their regular contacts but any enquiries can be made to Ken Hibberd (telephone 0208 398 7979) or Keith Have-lock (telephone 01372 464716).

The organisers are pleased that former Holy Trinity vicar Bob Hyatt and his wife Helen have agreed to attend the dinner as guests of honour, and other guests connected with the Fellowship are also being invited.

Those who attended the Fellowship's 50th anniversary dinner ten years ago will know that a memorable evening is in store.

## On angels - by children

"I only know the names of two angels:  
Hark and Harold."

"Angels work for God and watch over children when God has to go away and do something else."

"What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them."

## Focus on Uganda

The Mission Team will be organising an evening of illustrated talks about Uganda and Christian work there, which will be held on Tuesday 18th September at 8 pm in the Church Hall. It will embrace the work of COME in Northern Uganda, Elly Steeds' work with Crosslinks in Kampala, Linda and David Morgan's visit to the country, as well as Nicky Morgan and Faith Agua.

## Joint Homegroup meeting kicks off the autumn

There will be a joint Homegroup meeting in the Church Hall at 8 pm on Tuesday 11th September, to which all members of Homegroups are invited. At the meeting the new study for the autumn will be launched, the study material will be available for collection and we will study together the first session.

## From the Parish Registers (continued)

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

Gladys Villa (3rd March)  
Harry Brian Hooper (17th April)  
Rachel Thomson (28th June)  
Beryl Daisy Atkinson (30th June)  
Edward Charles Browning (2nd July)  
Valerie McGrath (11th July)  
Elizabeth Bushnell (23rd July)  
Edward Driscoll (6th August)  
Eileen Gertrude Porter (9th August)



## 'The best yet' is verdict on Holiday Club

The decision to expand the provision of Holiday Clubs for children was vindicated last month, when over 100 children came to Holy Trinity's 'Dreamworld'. There was agreement among both leaders and children that it was a great success, with a number of children commenting that it had been the best they had participated in.

The last issue of *Insight* reported the PCC's enthusiastic support for the idea of building on the success of previous February Holiday Clubs, and last month's was the first one-day Club, and also the first to be held in the summer holidays. Another one-day Club is planned for the October half term.

Andrew Cowie reports more fully on last month's Dreamworld on page 5.

## Audiovisual installation is taking place

Following the grant of formal approval at the end of July, work on installing Holy Trinity's new audiovisual system is now being undertaken. It should be completed in time for it to go operational by the end of the month. The projection facilities will be used mainly at the 10 o'clock service on Sunday mornings, to a lesser extent at 6.30 and normally not at all at the 8 am service.

## Church Bookstall

Following Jan Winsor's move to France, Marion Chapman has taken over responsibility for the bookstall in the church foyer, so this is a chance to remind you that there is plenty of good reading there.

## Christian Aid week

This year's house-to-house collection in Claygate yielded £3146, a total significantly lower than we have been used to. It reflects our lack this year of a volunteer to coordinate the scheme, leaving a question mark over our ability to organise a collection next year.



## Learning from the Bible

*"Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life."*

Matthew, chapter 7, verse 14.

Modern life is full of choices. The abundance of goods in the shops, the variety of holiday destinations, the proliferation of opportunities for leisure activities, the decisions we have to take about whose gas or electricity or telephone service we buy was unknown to earlier generations and can sometimes overwhelm and confuse us. It comes with the increasing wealth that economic advance has brought us - or the ease with which we can run up debts in order to keep up with what we see others doing.

So does that make life easier? In many ways our lives are easier than those of most of our forebears, used to long hours of heavy toil and drudgery, and a much shorter lifespan. But the copious opportunities before us present new difficulties. When there is so much more we can do, can we be sure we choose wisely?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pointed to the hazards of choice. "Wide is the gate and broad the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it," he said. Only a few, he went on, managed to find the narrow gate and road which leads to life. Surely what confronts us today is a gate which is not only wider than ever but hung about with all the glossy, hi-tech, much-hyped blandishments that are part and parcel of modern life. The narrow gate has become even less conspicuous.

How in these circumstances can we find the path to a real and fulfilling life in eternity? Do we simply turn our back on what others are doing? In one of the 20th Century's

best-loved poems, Robert Frost wrote "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference." The idea of diverging from the crowd and following a less trodden path has its attraction, but as a means of seeking the way to true meaning and blessing, it hardly counts as effective navigation. We need a more intelligent and determined approach.

Jesus gave us directions. "I am the way and the truth and the life", he said (John 14.6), and his teaching that we have handed down to us in the gospels does not leave us unsure of the principles and practices on which our lives need to be based. A few verses on from our text above, Jesus went on to say that "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock"; our lives have a firm foundation that will last into eternity.

But the challenge of turning off the broad path and through the narrow gate is substantial. For the broad path is the comfortable one on which we have no need to maintain our concentration or worry about falling off the edge. We don't need to seek directions: we are never short of company and can flick on cruise control and go with the flow. It would be a mistake to under-estimate our human resistance to the challenge of breaking away from those soft options. Keeping our eyes focussed on Jesus is the real priority.

*Scribatus*

*It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to.*

## Holiday Club means summer excitement

*Andrew Cowie writes about the latest successful development of Holy Trinity's activities for children, as the Holiday Club extended for the first time into the summer holidays.*

On the back of the February half term Holiday Club success, a new one-day summer Holiday Club was trialled in early August. The Holiday Club team were uncertain what the demand would be, with some children having already gone away on holiday or signed up for summer activities. So it was with some relief and also some excitement that 105 children signed up to come along.

The one-day club was titled "Dream World". With a number of children already familiar with the Joseph story - either through the musical of Andrew Lloyd Webber, or the TV talent show that ran on the BBC recently - the Holiday Club team wanted to build on this awareness by presenting the Bible story as the drama for the day. Whilst actors being splattered with custard pies may not have been in the original text, the message that God was with Joseph was. The children were also invited to join in the drama, playing impromptu roles of Jacob's sons.

But the drama wasn't the only thing the children got involved in. There were four activities for them to participate in. Taking advantage of the good weather we were blessed with, we had a bouncy castle style obstacle course in the Jigsaw garden, which allowed the children to compete in a relay style race. The cooking activity in the church hall saw the children making their own Joseph, with an ice-cream cone filled with jelly babies, covered in Smarties, and a marshmallow

head, which was purchased in South Africa and brought over especially for the Holiday Club! In the Arts and Crafts activity the children made their own Egyptian style collars, which they decorated with their own designs, using jewels and felt tip pens. The Dream Time activity took place in the Quiet room, where the children reflected on how God is with us, using the poem - Footsteps in the sand, as well as playing some games that presented a range of scenarios for the children to discuss if God might be with them. The children then had some time to write prayers on cut out footprints.

Back in the church for the together time sessions, the children joined in the Holiday club song "Jump up and Down"; and participated in challenges, such as transforming the team leaders into an Egyptian Mummy using only toilet rolls; doing an Egyptian style sand dance, and learning a Bible verse - "Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord", from Romans 8:39.

The day went very quickly, and it wasn't long before 3 o'clock arrived. However, there is the chance to do it all again, as we will re-run the one day format in October.

A massive thank you to the forty-odd people who participated in making the whole day a great success, for keeping the children safe, and well looked after. It is such a privilege to have these children, the majority of whom don't normally come to church, in our care, having fun, and learning about God, and that He is with us always.



# Knowing me, Knowing you - Tom Darwent

Well, it's now the end of my eighth week at Holy Trinity, so it seems just about late enough to reflect on my beginnings as a curate, and yet still just about early enough to introduce myself! So in this little article I hope to tell you a little bit more about me and my background, and also to

confirm just how much I've enjoyed the welcome I've received from you all.

Beginning with my background then, I grew up in Edmonton, which is a working class, multi-cultural district in North East London. My parents were Christians and I attended the local Baptist church throughout my childhood, enjoying the gospel music that was very popular there. I was also part of the Boys Brigade, and it was through the encouragement of some of my leaders there that I made a commitment to Jesus, aged 15. I then became very involved in our equivalent of YF and also in helping with Sunday School and my school Christian Union.

It was at university though that I think my faith gained real depth, mainly because I found such a wonderful community of Christians there – at Robinson College in Cambridge. And this was the same college where Philip also came to know Christ, and from which several other of our contemporaries have gone into full-time ministry. I read Social and Political Sciences, which stood me in good stead for my first career doing social and political research for a polling company in London.

I did that for seven years, which saw me researching what the public think about our politicians and lots of specific areas of Government policy. I wrote questions for telephone and face-to-face interviewers to ask members of the general public, and conducted focus groups to discuss political issues in a more in-depth way. I think this experience made me become very interested in understanding why ordinary people think and act as they do, something which I hope to continue to learn about in my new job! This interest is also served very well by my fa-

## *Holy Trinity's new curate writes his first article for Insight.*

avourite pastime of chatting, so I hope the life of a curate will prove very agreeable....

Other hobbies of mine are football (playing and watching), reading, walking and skiing in the mountains and eating and drinking - though sadly, not yet cooking! I have also found it hard to leave politics behind and am frequently found watching Newsnight and reading the political pages of the broadsheets. And to unwind in the evenings I frequently journey into London to catch up with my friends there. Most of them live around Clapham Junction (as I did for many years), and I am delighted how easy it is to get there by train from Claygate.

So in one sense I feel like I have come home, having done my ordination training in Oxford. Yet I am also having my first experience of semi-rural living (though I'm not sure that is how all of you would describe it!). Certainly what is new for me is the sense of community and of being a 'marked man' – I am always conscious that people around the village seem to know who I am, even if I don't yet know them.... This adds a fascinating new element to my experience of ministry, as does the far broader age range of people here, compared to the student and young professional dominated congregations I have been involved in previously.

And Claygate is of course a wonderful place. I love going for runs in Arbrook and Esher Commons and of being able to spot deer, sheep, cows and rabbits. I look forward too to venturing further afield into the North Downs and to the easier access to the South Coast. Of being able to shop in Kingston rather than the stress of Oxford Street...

But most of all I look forward to getting to know the people of Claygate better, for what has come over so strongly already is just how friendly everyone is. I have received such a warm welcome, and many kind words of encouragement, just

when they have been needed. And have met so many interesting people, of all ages. Whether it is the ideas and perspectives of Generation Y (a significant contrast even to my own Generation X), or those in middle age, doing so many interesting jobs, or those in the older generations, with so much life experience to share. I hope my time in Claygate will be one in which I can learn so much from so many people.

And I also hope to learn lots because it is a church that does so many things well. With such a large and talented staff team, such a wide programme of activities, such a devoted and gifted band of volunteers and such a wonderful building, the church is a very enjoyable and interesting place to work and minister. What also makes it exciting is that the church remains hungry to move forward, to keep growing closer to God and to each other, and to have more and more impact on the wider community.

I hope to play my part in helping us all do that. Whether it is in preaching and leading services, Alpha, working with small groups or in one-to-one conversations, I hope that I will be able to challenge and encourage all of you and you will all be able to challenge and encourage me. Because that is what the Christian life is all about, to my mind. It is about always seeking to grow closer to Jesus, and to experience more and more of the joy, comfort and strength that he offers us, even in the midst of struggles and pain. I think this is what the apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

And let's all continue to do this with gentleness and humour. I think so much of life is much more pleasurable if we can help each other see the funny side of things. My homage to the great Alan Partridge in the choice of title of this article may be lost on many of you, but I hope we will all learn to appreciate what makes each of us laugh.

So thanks again for all the love and support you have shown me so far. And I look forward very much to the next three years!