

# HTC News

## 100 Years Young!



Congratulations to Ruby Thompson, a member of Holy Trinity Claygate, who celebrated her 100th birthday this summer, firstly with her daughter Rosemary and son-in-law Charles at the family home in Hermitage Close, Claygate and the next day with fellow residents at Thameside Nursing Home in West Molesey!

Ruby joined HTC in 1981 when she came to Claygate to live with her daughter and family. She was an active member of the church

playing the organ for the 11am services and the piano for Toddlers' Praise. She always thoroughly enjoyed her annual visits to Pilgrim Hall and through her contacts in the church made many good and supportive friends. In latter years she joined the Emmanuel Hall group as again she felt she was using her music in service to God. Her faith and her music have always been an important part of her life.

## Autumn 2010

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... and a great deal more to keep you in touch!

### Our vision is:

- more followers of Jesus
- deeper followers of Jesus
- closer followers of Jesus

To find out more about the Alpha Course, come to the Alpha Supper in the foyer from 7.45pm on Thurs 23 Sept



7 & 19 Oct, 4 & 16 Nov  
and 2 & 7 Dec

## Holy Trinity Claygate

*Following Jesus Together*

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5 - 14 March 2012

Philip will be leading a 10-day HTC pilgrimage based in the Galilee and Jerusalem.

If you are interested please collect a brochure from the foyer.

## Thanksgivings

### We ask God to bless the marriages of

Gavin Pollock & Sophie Darwent  
*10 July*

Paul Cornish & Katherine Dagnall  
*7 August*

Gavin Smith & Jennifer Rowlands  
*21 August*

Richard Statham & Charlotte Morris  
*3 September*

### We thank God for the baptisms of

Charlie & Oliver  
Hall Flo Prideaux *11 July*

Eva Sewell  
George Smith  
Hannah Webb *18 July*

Oliver Peacock  
Alex French  
Benedict French  
Joseph Scicluna *15 August*

Daisy Hendriks  
Zack Rogers *12 September*

### We thank God for the lives of

Mildred Gray *6 June*

Luke Alder *11 June*

Michael Rogers *21 June*

Shirley Gatward *4 July*

Lesley Ericson *29 July*

Audrey Breeds *7 September*

Angus Walker *8 September*

## Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

I hope like me you have been encouraged by our summer teaching series on Women in the Bible. Coming after our big picture studies on the Mission of God, I have really appreciated take a closer look at individuals in whom God so clearly worked. And the thing that has struck me about each one of the women is that they were not obvious candidates as participants in God's mission. Sarah was too old, Miriam was too young; Rahab was a prostitute, Ruth was a non-Jew; Esther was a concubine, Mary was a peasant teenager; the Samaritan woman was immoral and Martha was too busy. And yet God worked in and through them all. Each one is – as a wise old friend of mine used to describe it – a 'trophy of God's grace.' We are probably only too aware of the things that might disqualify us from being used by God, but God in His grace has not only called us to Himself but also used us in His mission – in ways that we can see now and other ways we will only know at the end of time. What a privilege that is.

I thank God for so many trophies of God's grace at HTC. First, Jon Hidden who has been Cornhill Ministry Assistant over the last two years and who will be starting ordination training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford this autumn. It has been great serving alongside Jon, and I know God will use him in His mission in the years to come. We will be praying for him and Hannah at our main Sunday services on 26 September. You can find out more about their journey on page 8.

Second, it has been so good to get to know the three new Ministry Assistants over the summer and hear how God has been at work in their lives. Toby Dipper, Alex Evans and Kaitlyn Kurz are all taking a year out in their 20s to serve the church and explore God's call for them, and you can find out more on page 5. Of course, it is always encouraging to see God calling people to Himself and growing faith in them.

I find this time of year really exciting as we prepare for another Alpha Course and think and pray about the people who will take their journey of faith further through doing Alpha. We continue to get great feedback from Alpha guests, so do think about it for someone you know, or come along yourself if you have never done it before. And please pray for people who are doing the course.

Finally, this month sees the start of our new teaching series 'Following Jesus: Walking through the Gospel of Mark.' I have written more about this on page 4. If the Mission of God gave us the big picture of God, I am praying that looking at Mark will show us Jesus' steps, and how we can walk in them.

With my love and prayers



# New Mission to India



For the first time, a mission team from HTC will be heading off to India in February. Headed up by HTC's new Associate Vicar, Richard Lloyd plus Roger and Jill Marsden, the team will be working alongside the Rhema Partnership, set up by Richard to support the work of Bishop Samuel in India. They will be based at the Rhema Garden, a compound in Tamil Nadu which includes a school for children with disabilities, a health centre and hospital, an orphanage and accommodation for some widows.

Richard says, "I am very excited about leading this trip to the Rhema Gardens. We will get involved with all aspects of daily life such as helping those with Special Needs, helping in clinics, teaching English, after-school clubs and youth work." He added, "These Indian Christians have such compassion for their neighbours and zeal to evangelise that they serve both the social and spiritual local

needs so effectively. I hope and pray that we will come back with a renewed vision for serving the social and spiritual needs of our locality."

The Rhema Partnership was established to support initiatives such as the RMS Trust which was started in 1986 by Bishop Samuel and his wife, born out of their passion for pastoral ministry for



the very poor in India. Initially just helping to assist and fund education for local children, the RMS Trust now runs the compound's school for the disabled and the health care centre.

The Partnership also supports the Theological College at Rhema Gardens, which is in the process of being upgraded into the first Christian Evangelical University in

India. Many graduates of this college are now pastors who have planted more than 25 mission churches in the district over the last six years.

HTC has supported the Rhema Partnership financially for the last two years, but this will be the first time we have sent a team there. Roger and Jill have served on the HTC Mission Committee for a number of years and this will be their first visit to India, though not their first mission. Roger and Jill were seconded to the USA from 1999 to 2002 and it was at the church they attended in Virginia that their passion for mission work started when working with the Native Americans in South Dakota. They have since been regulars on the Ukraine summer and winter missions.

Jill and Roger are certain that short-term missions have advanced their commitment beyond funding and prayer support. Jill says, "It is only when you actually go, that your heart changes." Roger agrees, "There is just as much impact in the lives of those who go on short-term mission, as on those who are being visited. Missions are not simply about delivering goods and being with people; you are truly blessed in return."

# Mark's Gospel - Sermon Series

**Vicar Philip Plyming introduced the series at a small group launch evening on Wednesday 8 September. This is a summary of what he said:**



"Mark is sometimes regarded as the poor relation of the four gospels. People look at what isn't in his gospel compared to the other three: the Jewish references of Matthew, the pastoral insights of Luke, the dramatic encounters and extended teaching in John. Mark can seem something akin to gospel-lite. I think this approach is unwarranted. Mark's gospel has so much to commend it. Scholars are now agreed it was the first gospel to be written in about AD65, and that the person who wrote it (the

John Mark referred to in Acts 12:12) used the eyewitness accounts of the apostle Peter for much of his writing. Mark therefore takes us back to walking by Jesus' side, and the little eyewitness details (for example the cushion in the boat in Mark 4:38) confirm we are reading a unique account of Jesus' life. Mark also has a clear agenda in writing as he does. Using a punchy style and wasting little time, Mark hones in on two questions in his gospel: who is Jesus? and what does following Him involve? The first question then is one of identity, and Mark's agenda is to show the reader that Jesus is who Mark declares Him to be in the first verse of the gospel – the Christ, the Son of God.

The second question is one of discipleship, and Mark's concern is to show that a proper response to Jesus is not one epitomised by the crowd who mobbed Him as a celebrity, but rather by a decision, sporadically lived out by the disciples, to follow Jesus in the path that He walks – a path

of service and self-denial.

Let me give you an example where these themes come together: Mark 8:27-38 is properly understood as the heart of the gospel, both literally and thematically, and it touches on both of Mark's key questions. Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ, and then receives this injunction, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' It was a hard thing to hear, but Jesus followed it up with a promise that the person who denies himself for the sake of following Christ will actually discover what life is really about.

In a world with more spiritual options available than ever before, we need to be clearer than ever on the uniqueness of Christ and His identity as the Son of God. And in a culture which puts the self first, it is vital to remember that following Jesus means putting Him first and not ourselves. That is the path to a richer life than anything this world can offer."

## Church House Update

The front half of Lower Church House has been transformed following the successful completion of building work over the summer.

Walls separating the two front rooms overlooking The Vicarage were removed to create one large room. The idea was to develop a facility that fits with the vision of turning Church House into a Ministry Centre.

The Discoverers Special Needs

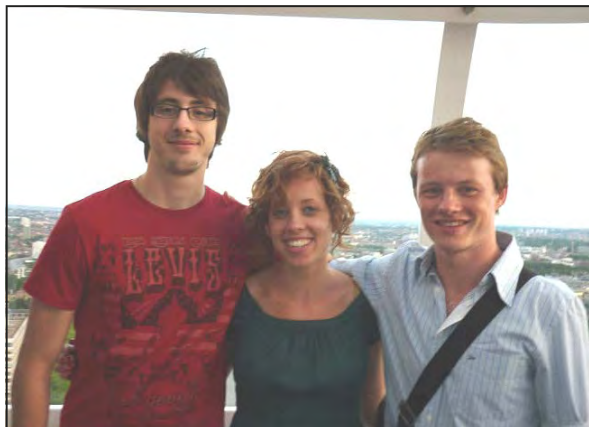


group, which meets during the 9.30am service, has already moved into the new facility.

The new space can also now be used for many other areas of ministry, such as the Growing Leaders course which met there for their first meeting of the new course.

With Phase One of the work on Church House now complete, architects have been appointed to help formulate plans for the whole building, which are due to be announced in January 2011.

## New Ministry Assistants



Toby, Kaitlyn & Alex

HTC is welcoming not one but three Ministry Assistants onto the team this year. Toby Dipper, Alex Evans and Kaitlyn Kurz have already been put to work, serving across the church. Following the success of the Ministry Assistant programme over the last two years, HTC has expanded not only the number of Ministry Assistants but also the scope of the job.

In previous years, Youth Ministry Assistants Jess Balding and Abi Curtis both spent their gap year learning the ins and outs of youth ministry while also contributing to the broader mission at HTC. They helped out with Messy Church,

performed central office tasks and helped in the 20s group and at the 6.30pm service. All three of the new ministry assistants have come to Holy Trinity through the 6.30pm service and all three were involved in the 20s group at HTC before taking up the Ministry Assistant position.

Toby grew up in Cobham and is interested in music - look out for Toby behind a guitar at the 9.30am and 6.30pm services! Alex is from Walton-on-Thames and feels that God might be calling him to a future career either in ministry or teaching. Kaitlyn, who hails from Chicago, is particularly interested in helping to improve our efforts to mentor and disciple teens this year.

Youth and Children's Ministry will still be a core element to the role, but this year our three Ministry Assistants will also be helping with leading services, in the 20s group,

helping in Jigsaw Pre-School and various other strategic projects around church. The Ministry Assistants will also receive mentoring support, training in theology, practical ministry skills and they will have a chance to test their calling to future ministry.

Youth Minister Drew Waller, who will be heading up the programme said, "We have already seen how, in the case of Jon Hidden, Abi Curtis and Jess Balding, when individuals invest a year into doing hands-on ministry and training alongside a great ministry team, they catch a vision for a lifetime of serving the Lord."

Kaitlyn Kurz said "I am really excited about the opportunity that I have been given this year to work with the youth at HTC. I have already had so much fun working with the young people and am looking forward to the rest of the year. I feel blessed that I will be working with such an amazing team that will help point me toward Jesus and challenge me as we work together."

## Staff Away Day

'Preparing to Walk With Jesus' was the theme for a recent 24 hours away enjoyed by the HTC Staff. The 15-strong team went to Cotswold Farm near Cirencester to spend time with God, pray for the ministry of the church and plan for the series on the gospel of Mark. Philip said, "Although the trip



was short it was very worthwhile. There is so much going on at a busy church like Holy Trinity that we need to take time to reconnect with God and prepare to serve the church together. Fortunately with such a wonderful team as we have at HTC, this is a pleasure in every way."

# Ukraine Mission - Summer 2010

There was a mood of great excitement on the Ukraine Mission this summer. Not even four days of non-stop rain could dampen spirits among the 66-strong team. This was the sixth time that churches from Claygate, Petersfield and Liss had partnered up for a mission to the Ukraine.



Youth Leader on the mission, Alex Evans, said, "The theme for the mission this year was 'The Miracles of Jesus' which gave us a fantastic opportunity to show the young people in the villages just how powerful, loving and Godly Jesus was and is.

He added, "There was a great mix of people from across the church. Flexibility became our favourite word on the mission, which was

testament to how the Holy Spirit was at work. Everyone rose to the challenges with a great serving attitude and lots of enthusiasm. It was clear that the success of this year's mission completely depended on us leaning on God's strength, not our own."

For Andrew Cope, who was on the medical team, it was his first time on a mission trip. He said, "Before I came I had no idea of the scale and depth of this mission. It requires incredible commitment and effort from so many people whether they're teaching in school, doing the youth and pastoral work, or on the medical and dental teams. I was particularly struck by the warmth and generosity of the local villagers who welcomed us 'strangers' into their homes without a second thought. A truly God-centred, and Spirit-filled experience, this mission was an amazing way to



they have been able to move this along more quickly.

For many children, the school programme, headed up by Simon and Cath Winchcombe, is the highlight of their year. More than 130 youngsters turned up every day for the fun-packed classroom activities and outdoor games, proving just how much they enjoyed their time there. Likewise, the youth team had a very successful year as Alex explains, "Almost double the number of kids turned up this year compared to last year - on the last day we counted 110! It's so exciting to have the opportunity to build relationships and to enable so many of the youngsters to hear the good news of Jesus for the first time."



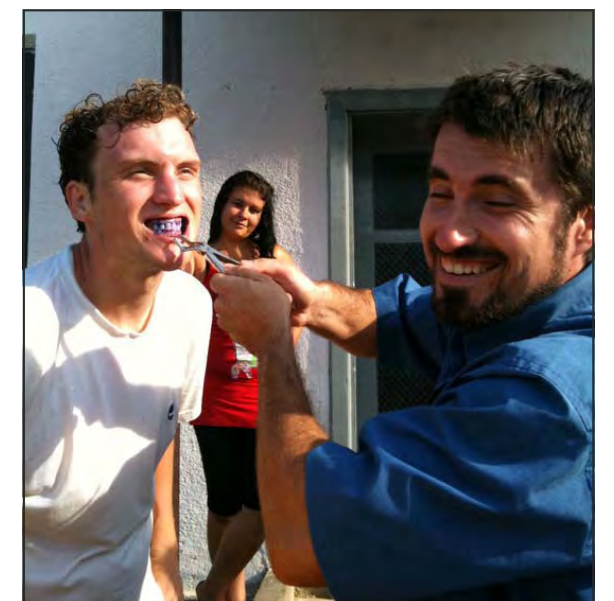
serve, and an especially rewarding experience for the youngsters. We'll be back!"

The team met Pastor Bela, the new temporary pastor who is taking over from Jenó who is retiring. Jenó's wife Chilla gave a very emotional thank you at the end of the mission and touched on how God has been at work through this partnership. They were also able to see the progress being made on the new nursery, which is being supported by HTC donations. The villagers have been desperately trying to finish the roof in time for winter and thanks to an added donation,



The dental and medical team worked tirelessly throughout the week, often until late at night. They provided vital, and in some cases urgent treatment to those who otherwise would receive little or no medical attention due to the cost and logistical problems. The community team offered particular support to the medical and dentistry teams who move around the villages during the week. They also enabled older members of the community to get involved in games and events such as beetle drive and darts to help them feel appreciated and part of the whole mission.

Alex added, "The days were long and hard but also incredibly fulfilling. We had opportunities throughout the week during the evenings, not only to socialize and have fellowship as a team, but also to enjoy time with the villagers where we could share in each others lives and have fun together. I have felt so spiritually refreshed and invigorated following both missions that I've been involved with. It's such a thrill and a privilege to see the love that the villagers have for us through their generosity and hospitality and to see how God is really at work in this partnership."



## Farewell to Jon and Hannah



This August saw us saying goodbye to Jon and Hannah Hidden as Jon joins Andrew Cowie at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford to train for ordained Anglican ministry. Jon and Hannah have lived in Claygate all their married life, but Jon himself has a much longer association both with Claygate and with HTC: having become a Christian through YF and - apart from 3 years at university - having

attended ever since.

Jon has been a particular blessing to our teenagers over many years as a long-term YF leader. He and Hannah also regularly help with the Haslemere CYFA camps, where they themselves met!

They will be greatly missed too by the 20s group, which they co-led with Tom since its inception 20 months ago. And over the

last two years Jon has been involved in many other aspects of church life as our Cornhill Ministry Assistant.

Jon said, "What I will miss most about Claygate is the proximity of everything, with the shops, countryside and church just ten minutes away. I'll also miss feeling like you know everyone and bumping into someone you know every time you go for a walk! I will particularly miss YF, the 20s group, and the music at the 6.30pm service.

For Hannah, the move represents a return to Oxford, as she did her teacher training there six years ago. They both love the city though and are enjoying lots of lovely walks and bike rides and Oxford's many historic pubs! And Jon is looking forward to making lots of new friends, visiting some new churches and all that he will learn in his three years of full-time study.

We will be saying a formal goodbye to Jon and Hannah when they come back to HTC on Sunday 26 September.

## Yuckfest 2010!

The third annual Yuckfest was held for Pathfinders and YF on 9 September, complete with eight rounds of yuck! Kids came out in clothes that they never planned to wear again plus various bin bag costumes.

The rounds consisted of different types of slime,



dough, flour bombs and every ones favourite - or least favourite - lard!

There were many new faces at Yuckfest this year, although everyone was completely unrecognisable by the end of the night!

# Summer of Fun!



**It's been a summer of surfing, raft building and battling ant infestations for HTC youth on their annual summer camps! YF were bused off to sunny Wales and Pathfinders had a week in Kidderminster. Youth Assistant Kaitlyn Kurz tells us more:**

"Andy Howe and I departed for St Davids on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast ahead of the group, to set up for YF's week in Wales. When we arrived at the youth hostel we made the beds and placed a complimentary Haribo on each pillow. All went well until we discovered we'd forgotten to bring a key part of the gazebo for the 'YF Club'. Fortunately we had a civil engineer with us to help resolve the problem! Finally the club was ready, only later to be abandoned due to extreme wind and ant infestation!

The youngsters had a fun-packed week of surfing, hiking and zooming around on jet boats. 'Identity' was the theme of the week, which was brought to life through the brilliant talents of Andy and Abi as Ken and Barbie, with a guest appearance from Jon Hidden as Cindy!

Each night after dinner YF enjoyed a series of talks from Drew which got everyone really thinking, particularly the people who were new to the group and had never heard the true message of why Jesus died for us. As a result great conversations were had during 'cabin time' and ended with some people wanting to make real commitments for Christ. Worship also played a part in the weeks theme with a particularly interesting twist on 'God of Justice' on the last night...!



Although the group was fairly small, there was a real sense of fellowship which grew throughout the week, creating strong friendships. We were also blessed with excellent weather which completed a great week. I can't wait for next year's trip and the opportunity to build on this great experience for YF."



## Kidderminster

Pathfinders headed off to Kidderminster in August for five days of fun at the Pioneer Centre. The group was joined by kids from all over England, Portugal, Northern Ireland and America. The week was packed full of fun activities, complete with a high ropes course, human table football, raft building, and a dodge ball tournament. The week concluded with an 80s disco / county fair where kids earned opportunities to pie their leaders!

Throughout the week the youngsters heard great talks from Matt Summerfield, the director of Urban Saints who ran the camp. The kids were challenged by the message of Matt's talks, and many at the camp made the decision to place their faith in Christ, to take their faith more seriously, and to begin exploring to find out more about Jesus.





# Toddlers' Praise x2!

**A new afternoon session of Toddlers' Praise has kicked-off this autumn thanks to the run-away success of the group over the past year or so.**

Since Toddlers' Praise moved to Emmanuel Hall nearly two years ago, the group, which meets every Wednesday morning, has regularly attracted around 100 children, parents and carers. Now a new trial-run of Toddlers' Praise has started on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm.

Old favourites like Pollyesther the naughty parrot and Max the sleepy bear will still be making an appearance, and youngsters will be able to dance and sing along to their favourite tunes, like the 'Wiggle Song.' There will also be stories and shaker songs, not forgetting home-made cakes and fresh coffee for parents and carers at the end of each session while children play or do crafts.

Annabelle Plyming, who spear-headed the new 1pm session said, "It's been amazing to see how God has blessed Toddlers' Praise, especially since we moved to Emmanuel Hall. Due to a huge growth in numbers of children and carers attending, it's become tricky to fit us all in which is why we're trying out the new afternoon session. We've also taken the opportunity to run craft activities in the afternoon so the children can take something home as a reminder of the Bible story they

have heard. We have also been blessed by the large team of volunteers who help out along with the TP leaders. Our cake rota is full to overflowing (as are the cake plates!) and



there's a great team spirit as everyone joins in to clear away at the end of each session. Now we are looking for people to help us in the afternoons, should the trial continue after half term. We would like two additional people to help with



making and serving coffee, and with clearing up at the end of the session, preferably without school age children, just in case the helpers need to rush off on the school run!"

Fellow leader Sue Cole said, "So

far the atmosphere at the new session has been calm and relaxed as we get fewer children coming along in the afternoon, due to nap times etc. But we're expecting more pre-schoolers to start coming along on a Wednesday afternoon, once the word gets around. A few children who go to Jigsaw Pre-School, which finishes at 12.30pm come along straight after that with a packed lunch which seems to work pretty well. We're normally clearing away from the first session just as they arrive!"

During the summer term the Toddlers' Praise team covered the 10 Commandments during story time. This was beautifully illustrated by a special action song which the children knew off by heart over the course of 10 or more weeks. This term the group are looking at the stories of Joseph and Daniel, followed by edited highlights of the teaching series on Mark. Sue said, "We are always amazed how, on the whole, even very little ones sit down and listen carefully to the story at Toddlers' Praise each week. It's just the grown-ups who get told off for chatting sometimes!! We try and make the stories fun and get the children involved. Whilst telling the first in a series of stories about Joseph, I ended up wearing an enormous multi-coloured parachute, in the absence of a coat of many colours! You have to think outside the box sometimes!"

## Blue Sapphire Celebrations



Victor and Meg Piercey celebrated their 'Blue Sapphire' wedding anniversary on 15 September, marking 65 happy years together! The couple have lived in Claygate since 1965, and have attended Holy Trinity since 2000. Their first encounter at a party on Meg's 18th birthday could not have been more romantic. Victor says, "We both remember thinking, that 'this was it!'" Just six months later the War broke out and Victor, who had worked his way through an apprenticeship in the Royal Air Force, was posted overseas. He didn't return to England until V.E day in May 1945, after which the devoted couple decided not to waste any more time and were married that September.

Victor remained in the RAF after their marriage (where he rose to Wing Commander), taking them around the world, including Singapore and Germany. During this time they had two children and eventually settled in Claygate, where Meg became the secretary at Claygate Primary School in 1966. She said, "I'm always astonished at how previous pupils still recognise me around the village - all adults

now, of course!" Although they have enjoyed many happy years together, Victor and Meg admit that life hasn't always been easy. Victor was once posted to Iran for two and a half years and Meg couldn't go with him because of the children. Meg says, "This was a difficult period for both of us but I received great support from friends and the headmistress of Claygate Primary School, but it wasn't the same as having him here."

Far from relaxing after their retirement, Victor and Meg decided to go travelling to Australia, Canada and America. The couple now have five grandchildren, four of whom are going or have been to University. Meg has joined the welcoming team at church and the Anchor group for ladies. Meg says that the group has really helped her grow in her faith, "The teaching and the discussions are very interesting and helpful and my group are lovely!"

Victor and Meg will be celebrating their anniversary with friends both young and old, and it will be a party that promises to mark their milestone in a very special and memorable way. And the secret to a long and happy marriage? "Keep busy!" says Meg. Victor agrees, "We've always been very active people." One thing is for certain: their 65 married years have been an extraordinary journey - and throughout everything has left them a couple still very much in love.

## Book review

Review by  
Emma Waller

'A Lineage of Grace' is a highly compelling, accessible compilation of five

novellas, each retelling the story of a woman from the Bible - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. Francine Rivers, who was an established romance novelist before becoming a Christian, writes candidly about these five women, all named amongst Jesus' descendants in Matthew chapter 1. Rivers builds upon what is written about each woman in the Bible, adding detail to their histories, developing their characters and bringing them to life.

The stories made me think in a new way about these women's lives and most importantly about their roles in God's plan to redeem His people. I feel challenged to wait patiently on the Lord like Tamar, trusting in His goodness to answer prayers. I was humbled by her obedience to her father, and to the laws of the land, despite what we would consider tremendous injustices. The vivid image of Rahab dramatically hurling her idols, and those of her family, out of the window reminds me of how I should deal with my own idols as unequivocally as Rahab did. Ruth's story demonstrates the importance of seeking after humility, putting others first and yet being bold in following God's will. **(cont. on p12)**



Cont. from p11.....

The epic story about Bathsheba really brought David to life and left me awed at how God can use us while we are still sinners. Rivers opened my eyes to Bathsheba's acceptance of tragic events – the death of her husband and later, her son – and her resolve to stay on God's path, despite her own sin. The final and most moving story is that of Mary. As I watch my little boys grow bigger, I often think of Mary and how her joy and pain both must have intensified as she watched her baby grow into a man, on a mission that would fulfil God's plan to win His people back.

## HTC INFO

### Sunday Services

8am Traditional  
 9.30am Lively  
 11.15am Reflective  
 6.30pm Contemporary  
 See website for more details.

### Church Office

Monday to Friday — 9am to 5pm  
 www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk  
 churchoffice@  
 holytrinityclaygate.org.uk  
 01372 463603

Philip Plyming	Vicar
Tom Darwent	Curate
Valerie Bagley	Asst. Minister
Linda Morgan	Asst. Minister
Jill Griffiths	Children & Families Minister
Drew Waller	Youth Minister
Janet Watkins	Church Administrator



**Mike Harle reports on HTC's inaugural cricket match, described as one of the highlights of the year!**

On Sunday 5 September, more than 150 members of the church family were treated to a breathtaking display of sportsmanship at HTC's inaugural cricket match on Claygate Rec. One spectator described it as, "Probably the happiest event of the church year," made all the more pleasurable by a sustaining tea following the match!

On the field, 'Original Spin' defeated 'Amazing Pace' by just four runs after 20 overs. Requiring 10 runs from the final over, 'Pace', captained by Philip, fell just short of the target. 'Spin' was captained by Ministry Assistant, Alex Evans, and boasted a youthful bowling attack – Toby Dipper, Tom Harle (with three wickets) and Jonny Howe.

Earlier, Man of the Match Derek Stiddard had taken four

wickets and an amazing catch to limit Alex's side to 118 from their 20 overs. But despite good scores from Alan Frewer and Derek again, their reply was insufficient. Umpires Chris Kingston and Jem Salter kept a firm but friendly handle on events!

For many the abiding memory of the event will be the 'off-field' entertainment and fellowship, with Tom Darwent's commentary often reducing the crowd to hysterical laughter.

As tea was served, the sun came out and amongst the crowd, old friends met in a relaxed setting, and new friends were made. An atmosphere of great conviviality and joy reminded us all of God's great blessings to us as His family. Cricket has an almost unique ability to create such an occasion.

Many are already talking of a 2011 repeat, and perhaps a chance for 'Pace' to seek an on the field redemption?