

MAY DIARY 2009

Trinity Update

May 2009



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'A Church for Everyone'

1	1.00pm 1.15 for 1.30pm 6-7.30pm	Daytime Alpha – check details with George Parents & Babies/Toddlers Home Group (Fridays in term) Friendzy (ages 8 and up) (Fridays in term) TCPT First birthday celebration
2	8.30am 7.30pm	J-Men breakfast, Queens Head North Lane, £5 per person An evening with Bobby Ball
3	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Alternative Service, with Kids' Praise PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY in Crossover
5	11am & 8pm 7.45 to 9.30pm	Fellowship Groups (Tuesdays) New Life Fitness for ages 20-40 (£3 per head) (Tuesdays)
6	11.15am 7.45pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits (Weds) Freedom in Christ at 2 Cranmore Lane (Wednesdays) Fellowship Groups (Wednesdays)
7	8.30am 10-11.30am 2.30pm 7.45pm	Prayer for Renewal (Thursdays) Contact - for parents & toddlers (Thursdays in term) Women's Hour (Thursdays) Fellowship Groups (Thursdays)
8-10		Soul Sisters weekend away, Axminster
9	10am	Praying Wives at HT
10	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am 1.15-2.45pm 7-9pm	Holy Communion Alternative Service Worship Team practice Inclusion (formerly @7) for 14 to 18s (also 24 th)
11	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER at Park Evangelical Church
13	7.30-9pm 7.30-9pm	G4G Teen Girls Fellowship Group (also 25th, venue varies) J-Ladz (also 25th)
16	8.30am	Ladies Prayer Breakfast at Flat 2, 13 Avondale Rd
17	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Morning Praise Alternative Service with Holy Communion
18	7.30pm	PCC Meeting in Crossover
21	7.30pm	Ascension Day Eucharist service at Church of Ascension
22	7.30pm	J-Men Men & Motors at Holy Trinity
23	10am	Prayer Ministry Team meeting
24	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am 1.15-2.45pm	Holy Communion Alternative Service Worship Team practice
29	8.00pm	TCPT Prayer meeting in Crossover
31	SUNDAY - PENTECOST 9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Alternative Service

WOMEN'S HOUR

On March 26th Alison (Val's daughter) came to Women's Hour and talked about forgiveness and how hard it can be to forgive. Alison opened the subject up to us and there were a lot of questions to talk through. We ended our meeting with the hymn 'God forgave my sins'.

The following week we had some Easter Hymns and Jean led an afternoon of making Easter flower boxes, enjoyed by us all. Our thanks to Jean for all the thought she put into this project.

On April 9th George led a communion service; this is a very special time for us all, as some of our members cannot get to the church services. We all took a small favour of sweets home and we also had Easter cakes with our cup of tea.

Pat was our speaker on the 16th April and she spoke about her trip to Thailand and showed us various gifts she had bought. This was such an interesting talk that we have asked her to come again and tell us some more of her experiences.

Our thanks to Dawn, Jean, Dorothy and Sylvia for the lovely Easter flowers in the church and also for the Easter tableau at the back of the church, which Dawn constructed.

Jean and Daphne

An evening with Bobby Ball @ Holy Trinity Saturday 2nd May, 7.30pm

Tickets £5 in advance, £7.50 on door

Update is now available on line at www.htca.org.uk

**Thank you everyone who contributed to this issue.
The June 2009 issue will be in Church on Sunday 31st May.
The LAST date for June articles will be Sunday 24th May.**

SOUL SISTERS

A BIG HELLO to all persons of the female species, age 14-infinity, reading this, because you are the Soul Sisters!

Without you, Soul Sisters wouldn't exist.

Well, about 20 of us braved the slopes last month for Donuttin & it was absolutely brill. Although it had been raining for most of the day, it miraculously stopped for our session and the rain had the effect of making the slope extra slippery & fast! Whoop, Whoop.

Some of us then rounded the day off with a meal at the AM restaurant.

Well, we hear you asking yourselves, what have you got lined up for us next?

'Refresh, Revive, Come Alive' - Weekend away to Axminster 8th-10th May, Weycroft Hall, Axminster.

Stunning location for some fellowship, fun and freedom to draw closer to the Holy Spirit. We now have about 30 ladies signed up for this event, but it's not too late to join us, as the accommodation can sleep about 50.

Total cost is £65 & this includes B&B, two main meals, Archery, Quad bikes, worship & teaching. We do now need all outstanding monies to be paid, please, unless you have an arrangement with us.

For any further info on this exciting event pls have a chat to one of us, Susan Wiggam, Kris Hicks, Heidi Towner, Marion Maskell or Trish Haley. We would love to have you, your friends & family join us, as this is not an exclusive club, but an event for all.

There is a meeting planned for all those attending on Saturday 2nd May at 10am to go over some of the smaller details such as car sharing, etc.

Future Events:

- 3rd July Skittles Evening, Wanborough.
- August, Walk from the Canal Centre, Mytchett.

See you all there!

on behalf of the Soul Sisters xx

Heidi



THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO DO!

Since reading last month's Update, some of you have asked me about the voluntary work I've done over the years. Here's a bit more detail.

Whilst I was still at school I used to go to a local children's home on a Friday afternoon and stay there until Sunday evening. I helped the children with homework, played with them, cleaned, washed up (that's where it all started Susan!) and generally helped out when needed.

When I moved down to Guildford I had very little spare time to start with, so I did no voluntary work until I became a Civil (no comment Jonathan!) Servant and became an assistant Cub Leader at Holy Trinity (where else?!) in Guildford.

I joined the W.R.V.S. when I moved to London and started helping out at the tea bar for prisoners and visitors at Wormwood Scrubs. I realised that there was nowhere in the City to get a drink or a sandwich on a Sunday, as this was before all the Barbican flats were built and so no one lived in the City at weekends, so I also started the tea bar in Barts hospital. One day, just after I arrived at work, I got a phone call to say there had been a train crash at Moorgate underground station, so I went there and spent part of the day helping people underground and the rest of the time dispensing tea and cakes. During my time in London I also helped prepare packed lunches for a parade of boys clubs – this involved buttering 150 sliced loaves before 9 a.m.! I also helped with packed lunches for the police at a couple of Lord Mayor's parades – and removed all the apples so that I could feed the horses!

Whilst at college, I volunteered to help with a street collection for the Church Army and spent 8½ hours on the wettest day of the year standing on a cold and windy corner rattling a collecting tin (or maybe it was my teeth that were rattling!)

Since giving up full time teaching I have helped at the tea bars in St Luke's Cancer Centre and Send prison and have been an Appropriate Adult helping Surrey police. I also helped Hampshire police for a while and have been called on recently to help both Hampshire and the Metropolitan police and involved in a visit to Coldingly prison.

I also help out at the cathedral when they hold workshops for schools at Easter and Advent (they also used to do them at Pentecost) and at various other times when needed.

Volunteering can be hard work, it can be fun and at times it can be boring, it can take up as much or as little time as you like and you can meet some interesting people and make new friends. One of my friends is taking part in the women's world whistling championships in America later this year – I worked with her for a number of years, but didn't know she could whistle!! I have also met the Duke and Duchess of Kent and been invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party through volunteering.

If anyone has any spare time I would recommend finding some way of volunteering - there are plenty of charities and groups who would be grateful for your help, including your local church.

Pat

A MESSAGE FROM A SOON-TO-BE EX-CHURCH WARDEN

I would like to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone in church who has helped and supported me during the last six years. There are too many of you to name individually, but you know who you are. I've had help in so many ways and your prayers and support have really lifted me in difficult times. However, don't get the flags out yet as I'll probably still be asking for help if I'm elected as deputy warden!!!

Pat

LADIES PRAYER BREAKFAST – CHANGE OF VENUE

There is a change of venue for the Ladies Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 16th May at 8.30am. This will now be hosted by Dawn at 13 Avondale Rd, Tel 333895

SPRING HARVEST 2009

"Apprentice - walking the way of Christ." The very title told me that this festival would teach us more about true Christian Discipleship and challenging, radical calling to Leadership with commitment to walking the way of Christ, listening to the Master and working closely with him. The words "Walk, watch and work," kept recurring.

I went to Minehead/Butlins (very comfortable, jolly and healthy, with great sea air) with my niece Liz Read and her youngsters. The "motif" for the week was with a large pair of well worn walking boots, and we were told, "Get on your boots, start a journey together with Christ, walking in his shoes, as an apprentice, one who learns from the Rabbi (in Jesus' day)". When we thought about the word "apprentice" we thought of Alan Sugar (have you seen that programme "Apprentice"?). Whereas he mostly says "You're fired", Jesus says, "You're HIRED", or "Count yourself IN!". Then He says, "Follow me" and we go where he goes and some of the places will not be nice.

The Church Times had a good headline (March 20th) "Getting away TO it all; Christian Festivals 2009", and said that 45,000 people of all ages and church backgrounds go to SPRING HARVEST in the 3 weeks over EASTER.

The Music is of course spectacular, if tiring, in the Big Top, which we attended every day. The main speaker for us was an amazing woman called Danielle Strickland, who flew in from Australia especially, and who is a Salvation Army Officer, who works in the "underclass" in Melbourne among the drop-outs, drug addicts and alcoholics etc. She spoke of "going into darkness where you used to feel terrified" and how "God wants to use you to save another". She was so funny! She talked of "pairing off into the neighbourhood" and "Prayer-walking on roller-blades", calling out "Hey, we're Holy Rollers, do you want some prayer?" She has sat with a drug addict, who was "fixing up", trying to find a free vein where she could inject; Danielle stayed with her, told her of Jesus and had the joy of seeing her turn to Jesus at last, and being transformed utterly.

For ourselves, we had to examine ourselves and our mode of learning. Using a very clever "Scoring Sheet", which we filled in quickly, we discovered whether our approach to learning was as a Theorist, a

Reflector, an Activist, or a Pragmatist. In truth we all agreed that we needed some of each, but we found out which predominated and went to that workshop.

I also went to a wonderful afternoon run by TORCH, which boasts "50 years of Mission and Vision" for folk with sight loss. The 40 year old man I met, with his wife, had lost a lot of sight through MS. They were great Christians, and were an inspiration. It was a good workshop - we could look through glasses to see what Macular Degeneration felt like (most of my blind club, who include HT members, suffer from this).

We could use the funfair (I like the horses going up and down - very sedate) and the super swimming pool (I went on the Master Blaster and got drenched).

The highlight for me, however, was the Easter day service on the beach at 7:30 am (hardly sunrise) for about 1500 people, with full music and Jeff Lucas speaking.

On Easter day on the beach, I had my own special encounter with Jesus, bringing such joy and confirmation that David is with Him. There He was, walking towards me, with David only a step behind and looking so happy. I heard the words, "Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb. Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom...", and saying, "See I have him safe with me". I can trust the Lord, because He raised Jesus His Son, now at his right hand.

Can we walk more closely with Jesus as he walked?
Can we grow as Christ's apprentices?

As we started to learn on our Lenten course, can we watch and copy Him, listen to Him, and increase in wisdom and likeness to Him? Then we can really call ourselves disciples.

Carol

CHIEF'S CONCERNS

Last year I got evicted! Yes you heard me right, no not from my home, though I'm sure Sue would love to kick me out at times, but from my allotment - have you ever heard of such a thing?

I spent three years determined to keep on top of my half plot, but with time constraints and persistent weeds I found it tough going, which eventually led to my 'eviction'. At this point and because I am a 'good' Christian, I shall make no comments regarding allotment association members and their policies - anyway that was 2008.

I really enjoyed having 'a go' at growing vegetables. It was therapeutic, productive and had edible benefits – you can't beat home grown organic veg. So because you 'can't keep a good man down' and because I don't 'roll over and die' easily, I decided that I would 'stick it to the man' and turn some of my garden into a vegetable plot, so a couple of days graft and rearranging the garden and now we wait for first signs of 'green' life. Let me just assure readers it is only a small plot, but still jam packed with potatoes, red and white onions, lettuce, beetroot and carrots - can't wait!

If by now you are wondering what the purpose of my little story is, well I could 'make a mountain out of a mole hill' and produce some amazing reflection about life, but to be honest I think that would be a cliché! What I do want to say, though, is simple; as I planted my onion sets I was thinking "Wow, last year's frustrations have inspired me to do something really creative, positive and it is so satisfying". I have 'cut my cloth' accordingly and turned this situation around – often it lies within our own hand, simple isn't it!



www.htca.org.uk: Can I draw your attention to the church website – Steve has done some brilliant work bringing it up to speed and adding some great features i.e. sermon podcasts and teaching to download and listen to online, Update available to read online and easy access to latest events.

Please read the updated pages and new logos for youth groups, 'Friendzy' and 'Inclusion' (formerly @7)

www.htca.org.uk

And for those of you who are regular web or YouTube users follow this link <http://www.htca.org.uk/youth.htm> to see what some of the young people found out when they took the question 'What is our purpose?' And surveyed the people of Aldershot.

The HT website is a great evangelistic tool – be familiar with what is on it and invite others to view it.

Men & Motors: This month the J-Men are venturing further into the world of 'petrol heads' and car fanatics as we put on a new event titled 'Men & Motors'.



Already in place we have the guys coming from Christians in Motorsport who will be bringing various pieces of hardware - 4 wheeled variety, and will also be hosting the evening. Challenges on the night will include 'Crash the Caravan', 'Beat the Stig' and 'Sega Rally 2' with prizes to be won!

It goes without saying that we will have our usual high standard of J-Men hospitality; Men & Motors is going to be something quite special.

For more details contact Jonathan on 314418 or jonathan@htca.org.uk

Jonathan

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

It seems to have been a busy couple of months with a lot of activity, but it has been good to see some of that activity bear fruit for the kingdom in different ways.

The month of May sees the first birthday of the **Town Centre Pastoral Team**, which has seen many lives touched and blessed in Aldershot through its regular outreaches. There have been literally thousands of conversations and hundreds of people prayed with and for. Over the year, doors have opened up for new forms of outreach, including the dream interpretation and for one member to be in Vox nightclub on a regular basis. Please keep praying for the team and, even if you can't come out with us, you can be part of the prayer backup group. If you are on the team (or interested in being part of it) then don't forget our birthday party on the evening of 1st May.

You may have noticed that Wellington Travel (next to NatWest bank) has closed down and that would make an ideal town centre base for the team. Please pray as I investigate whether it is possible to rent this property during the recession for a peppercorn rent. What a difference this could make!

On 2nd May there is a special, one-off event with **Bobby Ball** at Trinity in the evening. This has been arranged in conjunction with our 20s/30s group but is open to all age groups. Many of you will remember him from his television shows a decade or so back and he will be sharing his testimony with plenty of humour. We can enjoy this event ourselves, but it is also a great one to invite our friends, family and neighbours to. Tickets can be bought in advance or on the door. See the leaflets around church.

As a result of our Lent course on discipleship a few folk have offered to be involved in various ways, which is very positive. One area of possible involvement is **Prayer Ministry**, and before long I will be offering some training for anyone who wants to join the team, so if you would like to be part of that, please let me know.

Our **HT cricket team** will be having its first fixture against St Peter's at 6pm on the evening of 14th May (at the Rectory Road ground in Farnborough - at the end of Priory Street) and then again at 2pm on the afternoon of Sunday 31st against Lightwater at Watchetts Recreation Ground, Park Road, Camberley GU15 2SR. Do come and support and let me know if you want to play.

I am starting a **Freedom in Christ** course now on Wednesday evenings. This is primarily for those who were on the last Alpha course, but if you are interested in joining it, do let me know and there should be room for you. I also intend to start a daytime **Alpha Course** on Fridays at 1pm, possibly in church; again all are welcome and let me know if you are interested.

May the Lord bless, keep, renew and refresh you in body, mind and spirit.

George

Verses and Visions from April's PPP:

There was the sense of the warmth of the Father's embrace and the gifts the Father gives, like in the story of the prodigal son, but there was a question, as well – do we come willingly to receive His wonderful gifts?

A picture of an angel with its wings protecting us.

Rather like the ad on TV for Norwich Union with queues of people coming back, it was sensed there would be a great coming back to the Lord and to church.

Someone sensed God's heart ache for those going through difficult times at present and that He was with them, helping and encouraging them.

For the J Men weekend coming up there was a picture of Jesus by the shore with food, inviting them to fellowship and to draw deeper in Him, and someone else sensed that God would pour out His Spirit much more powerfully than in previous times.

George

SPOTLIGHT ON PAUL

Paul is single, with a mother living in Lincolnshire and three married brothers living locally and in Oxfordshire.



What are your role(s) at HT?

Currently, I am an Assistant Warden and also on the Bible Reading roster on Sundays. Previously, I was in the choir, and also used to do the sound desk (as was). At present, I generally attend the 09.30 service unless I am on duty, when I stay for the 11.15 also.

I am not a member of a Fellowship Group at present, because of the hours I work.

Where was your childhood spent?

I was born in Middlesbrough on 12 February 1960 at teatime, (and my mother swears that I have never missed a meal since!). I am the oldest of four boys. My father was in the Army, and I spent much of my childhood abroad, including in Libya (where I started school), and Norway (a really beautiful country).

What's the first news story you remember hearing?

The first news story, or piece of what is now history, that I remember as a child is England winning the football World Cup in 1966. I watched the game in Norway, on the first colour TV that I had ever seen. Whilst watching this game, I was asked what football team I supported. Because I had spent so long abroad, I didn't really understand the question, and asked what team Bobby Charlton played for (because he looked a bit like my Dad) – I have followed Manchester United ever since.

What jobs have you done during your career?

I have worked in Parcelforce for 12+ years, starting off as a 'casual', unloading parcels. I am now what is called the Debriefer: That is, I do the daily banking, and interview all the drivers on their return daily, collecting any monies from them and compiling reports. Prior to this, I spent 13 years in the Army, ending up as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Dental Corps. I have also worked for a brief time on fishing trawlers out of Newlyn in Cornwall, and for the CAB in Aldershot and Farnborough, compiling a 10 yearly report for them.

Where have you lived since childhood?

I have lived at various times throughout England: from Middlesbrough (in Yorkshire, as it was then), to Penzance in Cornwall. I have also lived abroad - in Tripoli (Libya), Oslo (Norway) and numerous places in north Germany.

What brought you to Aldershot (and when)?

When I left the Army in 1990 my family was living in Gordon Road and I moved in there.

How did you become a Christian?

When I was young, I was an avid book reader - anything from encyclopaedias to children's novels. I can remember reading bits of a children's Bible (with pictures), and asking my mum questions about it.

We very rarely went to church, except for the occasional Remembrance Sunday service, wedding or funeral. However, whilst at boarding school, I was confirmed, and took a little more interest in Christianity – but certainly not regular church attendance. After I joined the Army, I attended a few compulsory church services and also the occasional Christmas service if I couldn't get home.

Shortly after coming to Aldershot, we had something of a family crisis and I knew that I had to talk to somebody. I realised that the ideal person was God, but how? I started attending HT to find out. Firstly, the 07.30 service for a few months, then more often, the better timed 10.30 one. I used to turn up fairly early to get myself a pew beside a pillar, where I felt that I could hide. But it wasn't long before I realised that I didn't need to hide and joined the church family.

My Christian journey has gone from strength to strength since then.

**Holy Trinity Church Day Away
Saturday 20th June
Aldro School
10am – 5pm**

NEWS FROM **ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER**



As well as the news from the Town Centre Pastoral Team and associate ministries (see opposite), there have been a number of encouraging reports from Aldershot Churches Together, both at the regular ACT prayer meeting in early March and at the Prayer Celebration on 20th April.

The Source Café

Youth workers at the Source have seen a remarkable breakthrough as a result of their regular REAL sessions, which give young people (often from troubled backgrounds) an opportunity to 'explore spirituality in a safe environment'. Through these sessions a number of young people have come to Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit and four have been baptised.

'The Fuse'

The first joint 'Youth Gig', combining young people from a number of churches, was held at Park Evangelical Church in early March and there are plans to make this a regular event, with different venues. Entitled 'The Fuse', these events aim to provide something on a bigger scale than a single church could offer, bringing together young people from churches across Aldershot and drawing in their unchurched friends.

Work in schools

The ACT Assembly Team leads a special assembly in all of the local Junior schools three times per year. The most recent was just before Easter. In addition, primary schools are increasingly open to people from the churches coming in to take assemblies at other times.

Last term, for the first time for many years, Connaught (secondary) School welcomed a small team from HT and Park churches to take a series of assemblies and the team are optimistic that there will be more opportunities there in the future.

Lifeline

The former Kingscare initiative, now renamed as Lifeline, offers help to parents with a baby in the Special Care Baby Unit, ie a baby which is sick, disabled or very premature. They are receiving an increasing number of referrals and provide both practical help (eg with household chores) and emotional support for families at a very difficult and stressful time.

TOWN CENTRE PASTORAL TEAM

In case you are not on one or two prayer news emails, here is some general news about some parts of the Christian outreach that is going on in Aldershot.

For three years HT had a team going out on Friday evenings to speak to people and offer them chocolate and prayer (!). On 1st May 2008 this activity was replaced by a rather stronger team put on the streets by Aldershot Churches Together, called the 'Town Centre Pastoral Team' (TCPT). We had some more training and our numbers had been swelled. We also attempted more, in that a better range of suitable gifts was taken out (more varieties of chocolates, drinking water, hot soup in winter, New Testaments, tracts and leaflets) and we were able to offer to pray with people more frequently, because there were more of us. We also had people walking the town in the day time on some weekdays to be available to 'pastor' or to listen to the people we met.

A number of people met in the daytime are busy or have deadlines. Those met in the evenings tend to be moving from pub to pub or between clubs and they are more prone to talk to the team. They speak of a wide range of experiences. A few speak of seeing the men they shot 'crumple' or of how many 'mates' they have lost in Iraq or Afghanistan, or of when they are due to return. A number speak of stressed or broken families, or of severe health problems among friends or family. Some mention addiction or imprisonment. Some of them know they are in need of prayer and are prepared to say so. A few even come back in another week to tell us the latest in the circumstances for which we prayed.

It is a great privilege to be involved in this witness.

A newer venture under the same umbrella is the 'Dream Work' in the Wellington Centre. Two HT members have attended training in Biblical dream interpretation and now offer this as a free service in the Wellington Centre on Thursdays (and experimentally on Saturdays). Initially, some of us had a concern that non-Christians might see this as a very non-Christian, even occult, activity. In the Lord's plan this work is proving very positive – some dreams arise from the activities of the day or from some of the concerns of the mind. Nevertheless, some of those who speak of their dreams come to understand clearly and within a few minutes, that the Lord of the Universe has been speaking to them and attracting their attention.

If you would like to be one of the TCPT 'prayer warriors', praying for team members when they go out and for the people they have met, then ask Gwen Wills, the TCPT administrator, to add you to the email prayer list. If you don't have access to email, your Fellowship Group leader should be able to pass on a print of requests. Gwen's email is gwen.willstcpt@yahoo.com

DELVE DEEPER

- Who is it for?** Anyone who wants to go deeper in their understanding and faith
- Where is it?** St Peter's Church, Farnborough,
7:45 to 9:45 pm
- What is the format?** Speaker, Discussion and Questions

Wednesday 20 May 2009

Christianity and the crisis of capitalism:

Roy McCloughry will consider what Christianity has to contribute about the future now that market capitalism is in crisis and communism has failed. Do we have to change our view of what Christianity is about if others are going to listen?

NEW WARDENS ELECTED AT APM

Two new Church Wardens, Paul and Martyn, were elected at the APM (Annual Parish Meeting) on 23rd April, replacing Alan, who is standing down, and Pat, who has served the maximum permitted term of six years. We are very grateful to Pat and Alan for all their hard work in this demanding position and to Paul and Martyn for their willingness to take this on (in Paul's case for a second time).

Pat will continue to serve as a Deputy Warden, together with Dave and Marion.

Please pray for all the above in their responsibilities.

Contact details for the new wardens are:

- **Paul,** Tel: 317059
- **Martyn,** Tel: 331897, Email: martyn@htca.org.uk

TEAR FUND REP NEEDED

Would anyone like to be our TEAR Fund rep? This involves getting a display together once a year, around Harvest time, possibly with some TEAR Craft items for sale and liaising with TEAR Fund on any particular projects etc they want to promote through churches. (Alternatively, is anyone already our rep?!)

If interested, please talk to George

Ladies evening at The Kings Centre, Aldershot

Friday 15th May,

Guest speaker Coral Fellowes.

Entry £5, which includes cheese & wine.

Tickets can be purchased at The Kings or on 333767.

Coral will give her Testimony, which tells how her life has been completely turned around and she shares how "God has a plan for your life". This is an event that all women could easily come along to and identify with.

Forthcoming Events at Holy Trinity:

Sat 20 th June	Church Day Away, 10am-5pm, Aldro School
Fri 3 rd July	Soul Sisters Wine & Skittles, Wanborough
Sun 5 th July	John's ordination, 10am
Sat 11 th July	'Make A Difference Day' (Community Action)
27 th - 31 st July	Viney Hill
4 th - 7 th August	Mission Manchester
17 th - 21 st August	Soul Survivor

NEWS FROM NEPAL

Two reports (and prayer requests) from Ursula in Nepal illustrate the lack of opportunities for things which we take for granted and how difficult life can be for people there, especially for women. She writes:

Classes for mature students: Two years ago our Ganga, the 26 year old young lady who does our washing and cleaning, went round Pokhara until she found a school prepared to start a class for mature students who were unable to be educated as children. (Ganga's father died when she was 7, and at 13 she began work in order to put her two younger brothers through school. She has always wanted to be a nurse.) The last school she tried agreed to set up morning classes for the equivalent of our years 9, 10 and 11. The classes, held in the early mornings before work from 6 - 9.30 a.m. proved immediately popular, and 55 students sat the year 10 exams just before Easter. Ganga passed out 2nd.

But the school is saying it may not continue with its classes for mature students. The reason given is that so many do not pay their annual, monthly and exam fees. Of course the students are all very upset, as they were thinking they would now begin studying for equivalent of GCSEs next April. The school has already begun its new school year, but is so far not opening its early morning session.

Please pray that it will do so. Our Ganga has been transformed through going to school. It is not just the education that has made such a difference. It is the confident feeling that comes from knowing she is able, and can hold her head up in the world. It is mixing with other people who are learning, and having adult relationships with her teachers. One of the teachers is the sister of a very senior government person, who though not believing in private education, is prepared to teach these mature students because they did not get a chance earlier.

Early arranged marriage: *Ursula had been due to stay with a Nepali family in a village, but came back after only 24 hrs.* The family have a 17 year old daughter, half way through equivalent of A levels. I spent a certain amount of time with her that day, going with her to water her garden, etc. Late that evening she was told that the next day was to be her engagement and 2 days after that her wedding. She had seen the groom once (not met him). She was choked and crying.

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I felt completely out of place and left to give the family space in their last two days together. After I got back, I had to relate the story to people here, and then hear what they went through. It happened to my close Nepali friend at age 11.

Rain: Continue to pray for good rains in 2009 and for those affected by the long power cuts and by the food shortages caused by the failure of the spring crops.

Things children say:

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

Sign seen in a zoo:

"Alligator feeding every Sunday afternoon at 3pm. Bring the kids."

Sign seen outside a loan company:

"Ask about our plans for owning your home."

More things children say:

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups: 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'