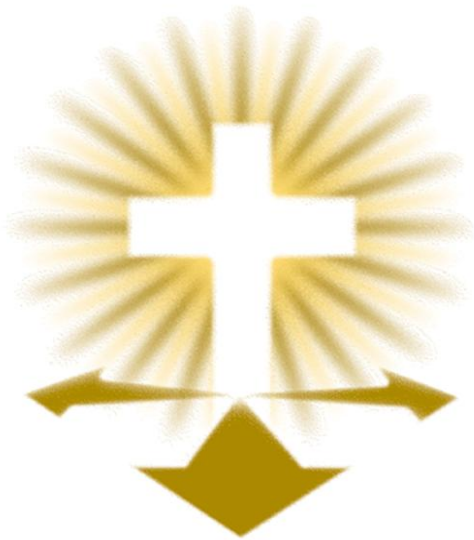


JANUARY DIARY 2010

Trinity Update

January 2010



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'A Church for Everyone'

3	SUNDAY	9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service with Kids' Praise;
4	7.30pm	PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY in Crossover
5	11am & 8pm	Fellowship Groups * (Tuesdays)
6	11.15am	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits (Weds)
	7.30 for 7.45pm	Training for POD leaders, 2 Cranmore Lane (also 13th & 20 th)
	8.00pm	Fellowship Groups * (Weds)
7	8.30am	Prayer for Renewal (Thursdays)
	10-11.30am	Contact - for parents & toddlers (Thursdays in term)
	2.30pm	Women's Hour (Thursdays)
	7.30pm	Alpha at 2 Cranmore Lane (last meeting)
	7.45pm	Fellowship Groups * (Thursdays)
8	6-7.30pm	Friendzy (ages 8 and up) (Fridays in term)
9	10am	Praying Wives at HT
10	SUNDAY	9.30am Holy Communion 11.15am Alternative Service
11	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER at KC21, High St 7.30pm
	7.30pm	Being Moneywise course; 3 How to deal with credit, Crossover
16	8.30am	Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 21 Church Hill
17	WELCOME AND RE-COMMITMENT SUNDAY	9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service with Holy Communion 1.15-2.45pm Worship Team practice
18	7.30pm	PCC Meeting, Crossover
23	6.00pm	HT New Year Ball (see pages 12, 14-15)
24	SUNDAY	9.30am Holy Communion with prayer for healing 11.15am Alternative Service
27	7.45pm	'Who's behind that homeless face?' (see page 3)
31	SUNDAY	9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service with prayer for healing

* Check with group leaders for dates of re-start after Christmas break

Dates still to be decided for Inclusion (formerly @7) for 14 to 18s and also for J-Ladz & G4G, Teen Fellowship Groups,

WOMEN'S HOUR

On November 26th we had Jan Wilder as our speaker, Jan told of how she became a Christian and of the time she was in a very lonely place, but thankfully she found Jesus and everything gradually changed for the better.

The following week Gina did a quiz for us all, which we enjoyed.

On the 10th December we had poems, readings and music. One of our members, Jenny, writes poems, so we hope to hear some more of her work in the near future. Peter had us laughing with some made up German road signs, we are going to miss Peter's input so much at Women's Hour.

The 17th of December brought us to our last meeting of the year, George conducted a Communion service for us, after which we went into party mode with a visit from Santa followed by Xmas cake and mince pies. Our thanks go to Sandra and David Gunn for all the support they give us through the year.

Thank you to all members of Women's Hour for their wonderful support over the past year and for making Thursday afternoons that little bit special.

We start back at Women's Hour on Jan 7th 2010, and wish a happy New Year to you all.

Daphne and Jean

NEWS FROM JOS AND URSULA

News Update 25 from Jos and Ursula is now in the rack. This is the last Update they will send from Nepal and they should arrive back in England on New Year's Day.

Please pray for them both – for health (Jos is recovering from a cycling accident), for safe travel and for the Lord's peace and guidance as they settle back to life in England. Pray also for Prem and James taking over Jos's work in Nepal, for the work and witness of INF and for peace and stability in the country.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and a very Happy New Year to all our readers and contributors.
The February 2010 issue will be in Church on Sunday 31st January.
The LAST date for February articles will be Sunday 24th January.

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It's 2010 and the start of Soul Sisters' fourth year! We are planning a great series of events, some designed to provide an opportunity to invite non-Christian friends and family, and some designed to encourage and build us up in our Christian lives.

Calling all lovers of films and music! Our next event will be on Friday 19th February; this will be a film night, when we plan to show 'Mamma Mia'. This is a great film, full of well-known Abba songs; if you enjoy singing, you can sing along with Meryl, Julie, Pierce, Colin etc, and, if you like dressing up, then you're welcome to do so, but you don't have to do either!. This should be a really fun evening, so do come and bring your friends.

A date for your diaries – on the morning of Saturday 24th April we are hosting a seminar led by an inspiring speaker, Lynn Penson, from CWR (Crusade for World Revival, the organisation set up by Selwyn Hughes at Waverley House in Farnham). The title of the seminar is 'How to be a secure Woman' and it unfolds the principles of becoming a secure woman in God – whatever your stage of life or circumstances. This is a great opportunity for us to look at ways in which we can become more effective for God. More details will be available at a later date.

We wish you all a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Trisha

On behalf of the Soul Sisters

Who's behind that homeless face?: What can we do to help?

7.45pm - Wed 27th January 2010

Holy Trinity Church, Victoria Road, Aldershot

Coffee followed by talk & questions

Dr Megan Ravenhill author of 'The Culture of Homelessness' will help us to understand some of the complex issues that contribute to a person being homeless or roofless. We will also look at some projects designed to help prevent rooflessness.

Of particular interest to the Town Centre Pastoral Team, but all welcome.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOUs

From Dawn:

Thank you to all who helped to put up the Christmas lights and decorate the church ready for Christmas. See you in December 2010 !

From Mike Pusey

(Forwarded by George)

What a night – weather-wise, but mainly for the 10th ATFC CCS. A number of people said ‘best ever’ and undoubtedly the sketch has resulted in many kind and funny comments. Some never thought a Vicar could behave like you did ‘in a church building’. I do believe some of the ‘myths’ are being overcome in people’s minds.I am sure the Holy Spirit will use it [George’s talk] in the hearts and minds of many of those present; may we see ‘fruit that remains’ from last night. ... I will let you know (and get something on the Club website) when we have counted the collection.

Please will you thank all those people of the HT family who worked so hard in preparation. as well as on the night. I really appreciate, not only what they do, but the way that they go about it. The ladies really went to town again in setting out and serving the refreshments. HT is certainly the ATFC Church and I pray that there will be many benefits from the Lord and people in the coming days.

May the New Year of 2010 see an answer to many of the prayers that have been prayed and also may there be a fulfilment of prophecies given over the course of time.

Every blessing,

Mike

COFFEE ROTA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people on the coffee rota for so faithfully providing refreshments after the morning services over the last year.

I know it is much appreciated, as it enables people to meet and chat and it creates a natural opportunity for people to invite newcomers to stay for a drink.

If anyone would like to join the rota, please let me know!



WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO HOLY TRINITY?

The 11.15 service has just finished a sermon series on the early chapters of the Book of Revelation, in which St John records his vision of Jesus’ message to each of the seven churches of Asia Minor. In almost every one Jesus commends the good points of the church and also admonishes them for their weaknesses. What would Jesus say to Holy Trinity today?

George asked the congregation to list the good and bad points of HT at a café style service and these are the responses:

Commendations

- Worship
- Welcome
- Teaching
- A heart for the community / outreach
- Not afraid to experiment / Not too set in our ways
- The development of the youth work
- The love demonstrated when someone is in a crisis
- A good balance between what goes on inside and outside the church.

Admonition

- A small number of people doing too many things and some/many people not doing enough
- The danger of losing sight of our first love and ‘doing for the sake of doing’ / a tendency to get distracted and lose our focus on God
- More emphasis on those outside the church than on the nurture of new converts
- A lack of recognition of the deep personal problems within individuals (or, conversely, a failure of some people to share their problems)
- Not good enough at inviting non-Christians to social/outreach events
- Not good enough at sharing spiritual issues openly within the church
- Not enough pasturing/affirmation of people in the church
- Communication sometimes lacking
- Not waiting on the Spirit as much as we should (in the 11.15 service)
- More adverts of church events needed in town
- Only a small proportion of the church come to the monthly prayer meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON PETER

Peter has been married to Audrey since August 1953. They have a son, Simon, who is married to Margaret (Maggie), a daughter, Paula, married to Gundi, and two granddaughters, Robyn and Luca.

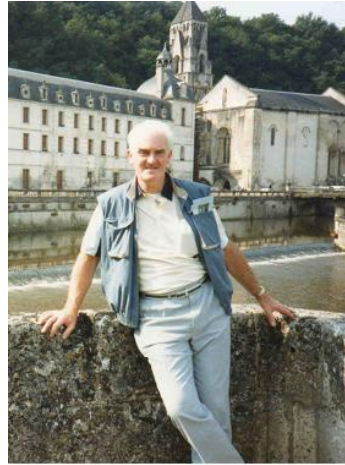
What are your role(s) at HT?

I was Vicar's Warden for 15 years until 1988. I am now Maintenance Officer, a PCC member since 1980, a sidesperson, on the rotas for chalice and reading the lesson and we host a Fellowship Group. We usually come to the 9.30 service

(Peter and Audrey have also organised the making of the Christingles each year for 21 years.)

What was your childhood like?

I was born in Northbrook Road, Aldershot. I was the only son of the family, but I had three sisters. I was educated for three years at the National School (Church of England) and then at the West End Boys School 1937-44.



What's the first news story you remember hearing?

The outbreak of war in 1939, on the radio and in the papers.

What was your career?

I left school in March 1944 and was employed by the War Department as a trainee draughtsman. I obtained the job on the strength of my geometry school books – despite the fact that my art teacher had said the only things I'd ever draw were my pay and my breath.

I worked as a draughtsman in Aldershot until 1966, studying civil engineering with a structural bias by day release at Guildford. I was in the Roads and Ranges division for 6 years, which included checking the firing ranges and the positioning of the danger notices for the ranges at Bisley, Ash and Chobham.

I transferred to Chessington MPBW (Ministry of Public Buildings and Works) and then moved to Cyprus as a structural engineer for the Air Force bases in Cyprus, the Middle East and the Maldives. We were in Cyprus at the time of the Turkish invasion in 1974. I was co-opted into the central group to repatriate people from the area being occupied by the Turkish army and allocate them to housing in

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the main base. At one point there were 17 people living in our house. I also organised the departure of the army wives from the Limassol base; Audrey cooked 200 breakfasts the morning they left.

On our return from Cyprus in 1974 I worked in London as a Planning Officer, covering Kew Gardens, the Royal Parks, the Tate Gallery, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and the Tower of London. I particularly enjoyed the Royal Parks and at Kew I was involved in rebuilding the glass houses and was Liaison Officer for the rebuild of the Palm House. At Hampton Court, where we re-lined the ¾ mile of canal, we had to make a last minute modification and install six ramps, so that the ducklings could get out of the water.

I moved to join a team of four responsible for identifying the maintenance needs of all Civil Service buildings in the Greater London area. We produced a report highlighting the works necessary to bring the Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ) up to date, a £7 million project. I was taken off the maintenance team to oversee all the major works at the RCJ, plus Somerset House and the Royal Academy. That included selecting and managing all the subcontractors. (Interjection from Audrey: he was very proud of the new boiler room, he insisted on showing it to me when I visited.) I retired from the Civil Service PSA (Property Services Agency) in 1989.

Highlights of my career were a Special Award for services in Cyprus during the Turkish invasion; setting up two exhibition rooms at the Tate for Constable and Blake exhibitions, a new restaurant and shop at the Tower of London and a new restaurant and kitchen at the RCJ.

So you've lived most of your life in Aldershot?

All except for the 6 years in Cyprus. Together with Val and Jim Knight we built our two houses in 1957.

Have you always been a Christian?

I was baptised into the Roman Catholic church in Aldershot as an infant and have always known that I believed. I learned quite a lot of Biblical History through my Early Architecture studies; the teacher had a great interest in parish churches.

What brought you to Holy Trinity?

I came to Trinity because it was the youth church of Aldershot at the time and both Audrey and I were youth cadet officers of St John's Ambulance. We had a two-year partial break from church when building our house. We returned to HT after having children and then again on our return from Cyprus. I became a member of PCC at the time of the Crossover works.

I stopped being a church warden because of the nature of the work, which involved too many maintenance commitments and I felt I was losing touch with Jesus.

I believe in miracles and have experienced two, one of which was in Cyprus, when I was asked to go to Berengaria, in the area to be handed over to the Turkish army, to bring out the contents of the Scout Hut. In fact there was nothing left to move, but I met a vicar who asked if we could take all the stuff out of the church, as he feared it would be destroyed by the Turks. We loaded as much as we could into the Land Rover and trailer (altar cross, new organ, Bibles, kneelers), but there wasn't room for everything. Then a removal van appeared unexpectedly – in all my time in Cyprus I had never before seen one there – and I was able to commandeer it and take everything to safety.

Our proposed move to Germany will be a great test in finding another Christian Church family in the area we are moving to.

The following list of HT projects in which Peter has been involved (in designing, specifying and project managing) shows how much he has contributed to the life of the church over the years:

- 1 Revised road layout and car parking area. Tarmacadam to all potholed areas.
- 2 Liaison adviser to Crossover re-build and renovation of ceiling panels in North and South aisles
- 3 Update to SE vestry, with new ceiling and storage above
- 4 Steelwork to organ loft to support new organ blower
- 5 New kitchen and toilet uplift to Galpin Hall
- 6 Re-pointing to East, South and West elevations
- 7 North Porch floors and West entrance floor ramp
- 8 Bell housing and frame renewal
- 9 West porch stone clean
- 10 Church kitchen extension
- 11 Church toilets extension, with disabled facilities
- 12 Crossover large storage cupboards and access door to church
- 13 Adviser to church revamp, my proposals for moving the panelling to the two prayer corners
- 14 My proposals for baptism and font combination
- 15 Proposed entrance gates and fencing to Windsor Way
- 16 Proposed alternative platform design to retain pulpit.

MEN'S BREAKFAST AT FARNBOROUGH

Tim Cross on 'Ethical Leadership'

All men are welcome when Retired General Tim Cross CBE speaks on 'Ethical Leadership' at the next Men's Breakfast at St Peter's, Farnborough. His talk will centre around the 'the moral component of fighting power, or why there is more to life and leadership than politics and economics'.

General Cross was commissioned in 1971 and commanded at every level from a Bomb Disposal Team in Northern Ireland to commanding a division of 30,000. He served in Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Washington.

Men's Group @ St Peter's Farnborough

08.00 (until about 10.00) on Saturday 30th January 2010.

Cost: Full English £6; Continental Breakfast £5

For more information or for tickets call Chris Parrott (tel 01252 544735) or email: chris@theparrotts.co.uk. There is a flyer in Crossover.

LADIES DAY AT KC21

Rachel Hickson, 'To Boldly Go'

All ladies are welcome. Guest Speaker, Rachel Hickson, is an internationally respected prayer leader and Bible teacher with a widely recognised prophetic gift. Rachel ministers with a passion for Jesus and a desire to see His purposes fulfilled in our day.

Saturday 30th January 2010, 10.00am - 3.30pm

The Kings Centre, High Street, Aldershot, GU11 1DJ.

Admission is free, but an offering for Rachel will be taken during the day. To book a place, call The King's Centre on 01252 333767 or send an email to brenda@kc21.net

Please bring a packed lunch. We regret that there will be no crèche facility

There is a flyer in Crossover.

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

First, a very happy new year to you all, and may it be a positive and blessed year for you all.

Our verse for this year, taken from Ephesians 4:12-13, is, ‘... **prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith ... and become mature..**’

The context here is the gift, from God to His church, of ministers (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) whose function is not so much to do all the work we are commissioned to do, but to equip the whole church to do it more effectively. That’s where these ‘works of service’ come in. We then see three positive results of the church being both equipped and active:

- i) We are ‘built up’, that is strengthened and edified, which we all need individually and especially need corporately. A hurting and broken world needs a strong church.
- ii) We reach ‘unity in the faith’. It is several verses earlier (vs. 3) in the same chapter that Paul writes about the unity of the Spirit that we are to make every effort to keep through the bond of peace. That is the unity that we (all Christians) should have because we have the same God, the same hope, the same faith etc etc. However, in this verse, there seems to be a deeper unity, that comes from actually putting our faith into practice in acts of service together. In other words, a unity that comes through teamwork. My experience in life is that I feel closer to those I work or play in a team with (whether that is a cricket team or something through church, like the TCPT), rather than those I simply talk with. So here, as we actually work together to build God’s kingdom, using our gifts and talents, there will be a greater bond of closeness/unity.
- iii) We become more mature together. This word from the Bible is sometimes translated ‘perfect’ but has more the meaning of being complete. We will actually find ourselves more complete as we do this together in relationship with others. In simple terms, when we actually do what our Maker has made us to do, we are most fully ourselves and fulfilled. (The world promises fulfilment in all sorts of areas that don’t actually complete us.) As a pastor, one of the things that sometimes grieves me most is when Christians don’t mature and thus are inclined to cause themselves and others around them pain and problems rather than blessings.

This verse fits in very nicely with something really important that we are launching here at Trinity in about a month (early February), and that is an added structure to

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our small groups. We are going to be creating some new groups, which will not be known as Fellowship Groups, but ‘**POD Groups**’. Many of our current Fellowship Groups may well continue as they are, but some may cease and members become part of the new groups. In many ways these PODs will be similar to what has gone before: they will be in people’s homes, most evenings will involve some Bible study, fellowship, worship, prayer etc and there will be the occasional social. However, the main difference will be that on one of about every six weeks they will not meet on their normal evening, but go out as a team, to do something in terms of applying what they have been studying and praying about. Such applications may be a form of outreach, such as trying going out with the TCPT; it could be a prayer walk, an act of service to an individual, a group or the church or anything else.

There is a clear rationale behind this. First, it can be all too easy to study the Word of God, but do very little with it, so these groups will get us into the habit of looking to apply what we read and study. Secondly, they will get us stepping out beyond comfort zones, where we then take on new challenges. Hopefully this will be quite fun and a bit of an adventure, but it will also at times be a little scary. This will help build character in us as well as help us experience new things in terms of ministry (these ‘works of service’) and build a deeper sense of teamwork/unity in the groups. Thirdly, through doing this we trust that lots of new talents and gifts will be discovered; sometimes we simply don’t know that we are gifted or called in a certain area until we try it. If you read Jax’s article in last month’s Update, you will remember she tried TCPT once, assuming it was not for her, and was soon hooked! (I have to add that she is also now very clearly gifted in that area.) The idea is that the progression in our verse for 2010 will actually work through in these new groups.

So why the name ‘POD’? Several reasons. First, it is an acronym: P stands for ‘People of God learning and working together’, the O for ‘outward looking’ (small groups can have the tendency to become a bit too inward focussed) and the D for ‘discipleship and development of character and gifting’. Then, what is a pod in life? We might think of a seed pod, where something like peas grow together; we too want to see these groups as groups that help us to grow in our faith. It is also the collective term for a small group of certain animals such as seals, whales, birds etc. Then with so many i-pods and the like around, it is a term that seems to resonate with the early part of the twenty first century!

Please ask me if you want to find out more. There will be sign up lists at the back of church for those wanting to join, where you can indicate if there are any evenings you cannot make, if you need transport and if there are any people you would especially like to be in the same group as. There will also be four sessions of training for those who will be leading or helping to lead these groups. I personally believe that this could be of real significance to many individuals and especially will be a great tool to see the church genuinely built up in so many

Christmas '09

areas. Preparation for this will be the key focus of this month, but there is one more thing of significance for the church in January, the **Church Ball** on Saturday 23rd, which should be a great opportunity for us all to come together and have an enjoyable and social evening of fun and dancing.

We are also glad to announce that we have appointed a part-time Site Manager at Trinity. Jax Bishop is in the process of taking up the responsibilities of this post, which is great news for the smooth running of the Church and Hall.

So may the Lord bless you at the beginning of this year, so that over the months ahead, you may grow in Him, mature in Him and know a greater unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ here.

George

Reflections from December's PPP

We had a positive time in the PPP, sharing vision and recognising the battle we are in and looking at the open doors the Lord has provided.

As we prayed, a couple of people had the word, 'explosion' relating to what God might be about to do.

There was also a picture of a bulwark, standing firm against the enemy, and this was us corporately as we choose to take our stand together.

There was also the sense that our strength of fellowship will communicate the love of Jesus to others as they come in.

However, there was also a picture of a wall with cracks and the thought that, just as ten of the twelve spies sent to explore the promised land came back with negative reports and the people believed them, so as people speak negatives (whether about church, the town...) that creates cracks in the walls of our fellowship.

As always, Christmas was a busy time at Trinity. Many put in lots of extra work to make sure microphones behaved, to serve a thousand mince pies, to put up the lights and trees and decorations, to make mulled wine, to collect real ale, to lead worship, to turn up to drama practices, to make Christingles (thanks to Peter and Audrey for doing that for 21 years!) to vacuum up trodden in mince pies and so on. So, to all those who went the extra mile (and beyond) at HT – THANKS!

The round of assemblies saw us bring something of the true meaning of Christmas to between two and three thousand children and teachers in eight schools. A highlight for many of the main carol services was the Fawley Towers drama. Our tenth annual ATFC carol service (with about 300 folk) was described as 'the best yet' by many with input from Mike and George as well as from Mervyn Thomas who heads up CSW, and music from the Alder Valley Brass Band (the perfect accompaniment for carols) and a Gospel choir from Guildford. The Christingle (150) and Carols by lantern light services (140), as well as the midnight Communion (65) and Christmas day Communion (80) saw folk come in, some for the first time, some as a result of receiving newsletters. As usual we hosted the Deux Chats nativity service (80). New this time were both the crib service on Christmas Eve (35) and the Talevera Junior School carol service (250). Having a smattering of snow around for much of this time added something of the feel of a traditional Christmas, but was probably also one of the causes of our numbers all the way through being significantly down on the last few years.

However, all in all probably about 1,000 different folk came through the doors of the church and, I trust, were welcomed hospitably and heard something of the great Gospel message. Please keep praying for each one who came, that they would continue to hear the call of the Lord Jesus, to come and follow Him.



George

CHIEF'S CONCERNS

Cafechurch Network:

As everything is nearly in place and the green light appears to be on, I can now tell you all about the unique opportunity of Cafechurch starting up at Costa Coffee, Aldershot. This is a venture between us, Holy Trinity, and the Baptist church, with the hope that as time goes on Christians from the other churches will join and support. What is cafechurch? It's church, but not as you know it...

cafechurch is the fresh expression of community on the high street. It brings people into the relaxed café atmosphere of Costa Coffee to deal with issues from a Christian perspective - issues such as fair trade, the environment, stress, adoption, parenting, debt and divorce, together with quizzes, interviews, round table discussions, live music, with great coffee and great chat!

We are aiming to start in January; currently we have negotiated Cafechurch to run Sunday evenings 5 to 7pm and Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 8pm. What **you** can be doing is spreading the word; let people know that Cafechurch at Costa is coming to Aldershot! To get on board with this unique venture please come and speak to me.

New Year Ball:

The aim is to bless and bring the whole church together for a great evening out of music and dance from all genres down the ages, such as Big Band & Swing, Rock 'n' Roll, Ballroom, Jazz, Latin, Line Dancing, Classic Motown, Disco, Rhythm & Blues and more – not just for the 'professional' dancer, but for all to dip into as much or as little as you like, enjoying the music and dance style of your generation!

Saturday January 23rd in Holy Trinity Church, for all ages, starting at 6pm, which allows those who normally miss out to be part of the fun and social occasion, as the evening will be in two parts. We will finish at 10pm - worry not, you can stay for as long or as little as you like.

Dress code – we suggest you dress according to your favourite type of music style or just come as you like – the 'New Year Ball' is going to be a fun, relaxed evening. Bring your own drink, food will be provided, also prizes and more, so do come along to watch, to dance, to laugh! Or just tap your toes!!



Resolutions!!

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past and, more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes.

A New Year's resolution is a **commitment** that an individual makes to a project or the reforming of a **habit**, often a **lifestyle** change that is generally interpreted as advantageous. The name comes from the fact that these commitments are normally put into effect on **New Year's Day** and remain until fulfilled or abandoned.

Some quotes...

"Never tell your resolution beforehand, or it's twice as onerous a duty." ~ John Selden

"Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to." ~ Bill Vaughan

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." ~ Bill Vaughan

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. "

"Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past." ~ Henry Ward Beecher

Many abandon their New Year resolution within a few weeks of starting. What of the Christian disciple - is there any value, any worth in making such attempts? I say, keep it simple and adapt the idea...

- 1) Using the lens of His grace and mercy
- 2) Take stock of the year that lies behind and make necessary adjustments
- 3) Set goals (realistic or dreams) for the year that lies ahead,
- 4) Ask for His wisdom and His power to make it happen
- 5) Just do it!

Happy New Year!

Jonathan & Susan

MEN AT TRINITY

Someone did a bit of research recently that suggested that there are 82 men who come to Trinity on some sort of regular basis. This short article is to let you know what we have structured in specifically for men.

First **Fellowship and Fun**. Each year we will be planning a number of purely social occasions, such as a curry night out or bowling. The aim is not simply to have fun but that, in doing so, we might get to know each other better, encourage one another and start to work more together.

Then there is **Discipleship**. There are a number of strands to this, including Men's Breakfasts every couple of months, where there will be a bit of input and a challenge in thought and/or prayer. MAGNET Groups (standing for Men's Accountability Group Network) are small groups of about four that meet about once a month for about an hour. These groups are safe and confidential times where we can be open about the pressures and temptations we may face and ask for prayer and accountability. We also have a weekend away called 'Band of Brothers', which is great fun with quad bikes, archery, swimming and lots of games, as well as some input, prayer and ministry. There are then opportunities to serve as part of a team resourcing the third and most important part of the men's work.

Both of these then lead towards the key aim of the whole work, **J-Men**, which is specifically about winning men for Christ. We recognise that this is a long-term process and it is reckoned that men today need to hear something of the gospel about thirty times over about six years before they are ready to respond! Each year J-Men put on about six high quality, unique events to which we can feel proud to invite our non-Christian friends, neighbours and family members. Examples of this have been the F1 nights, TANX events and the Men and Motors evening. Often during the event there will be a short input or testimony which will be 'non-cringleworthy' and point people in a manly way towards Jesus.

If you are a man at Trinity, we welcome you to come and be part of this important work at whatever levels you want to be involved.

George

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 19 February, **Soul Sisters Film Night**
- 22 February, **Fellowship Group Leaders**
- 5 March, **Women's World Day of Prayer**
- 24 April, Seminar: '**How to be a secure Woman**', speaker Lynn Penson, CWR

PILGRIMAGE TO SYRIA

Led by the Revd. Peter Farrell, 16th-25th September 2010

This pilgrimage (with McCabe Travel) includes visits to sites associated with St. Paul and the earliest Christian communities and the famous pillar ascetic, St. Simeon the Stylite; also the greatest of all the Crusader castles, the Crac des Chevaliers, and the fabulous Roman cities of Palmyra, Apamaea and Bosra. The weather should be warm but not too hot, with good long days for exploring.

The price is yet to be confirmed but is likely to be somewhere between £1500 and £1600 all-in except for gratuities and pocket money. Flight would be via British Midland from Heathrow to Damascus.

If you're interested and would like further information, including a detailed itinerary, please contact the Revd. Peter Farrell at pgpfarrell@googlemail.com

(Information forwarded by Sally Lowe of Affirming Catholicism in the Diocese of Guildford)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and a very Happy New Year to all our readers and contributors.

**The February 2010 issue will be in Church on Sunday 31st January.
The LAST date for February articles will be Sunday 24th January.**