

NOVEMBER DIARY 2009

Trinity Update

November 2009



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'A Church for Everyone'

1 SUNDAY

9.30am Morning Praise
11.15am Alternative Service with Kids' Praise;
7-9pm Inclusion (formerly @7) for 14 to 18s (also 15th, 29th)

2 7.30pm **PRaise, PRayer and PRophecy** in Crossover
3 11am & 8pm Fellowship Groups (Tuesdays)
7.45 to 9.30pm New Life Fitness for ages 20-40 (£3 per head) (Tuesdays)
4 11.15am Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits (Weds)
8.00pm Fellowship Groups (Weds)
5 8.30am Prayer for Renewal (Thursdays)
10-11.30am Contact - for parents & toddlers (Thursdays in term)
2.30pm Women's Hour (Thursdays)
7.45pm Fellowship Groups (Thursdays)
7.30pm Alpha at 2 Cranmore Lane (Thursdays)
6 6-7.30pm Friendlyzy (ages 8 and up) (Fridays in term)

8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion with prayer for healing
10.55 - 11.05 Act of Remembrance
11.15am Alternative Service
1.15-2.45pm Worship Team practice

9 7.30pm **ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER**
at KC21, High St
7.30-9pm J-Ladz & G4G, Combined Teen Fellowship Group, also 23rd
14 10am Praying Wives at HT
4.45pm Carol singing in town (see page2)

15 SUNDAY

9.30am Morning Praise
11.15am Alternative Service with Holy Communion
20 7.30pm Soul Sisters 'Creative Bazaar' (see page 3)
21 8.30am Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 30 Cranmore Lane
10.00-12.00 Coffee morning with bring & buy (see page 9)
Alpha Day Away

22 SUNDAY – SHEAF AND GRACE SUPPORT

9.30am Holy Communion
11.15am Alternative Service

27 8.00pm TCPT prayer meeting in Crossover
28 8.30am J-Men breakfast venue tba
10.30am Prayer Ministry Team meeting

29 ADVENT SUNDAY

9.30am Morning Praise
11.15am Alternative Service
1.15-2.45pm Worship Team practice

WOMEN'S HOUR

On September 24th a friend of ours from Guide Dogs for the Blind came to give us a talk on the work that they do. She brought the current dog, Goldie, that she is training at the present time. She has the dogs for one year, then they go for advanced training.

On October 1st Jean and Dawn did a demonstration of Harvest flowers to go into the Church. On the same day three American visitors wanted to see our Church and they stayed to our meeting and hope to visit us again next year. They said they really enjoyed the afternoon, as we all did. So we are now International!

The following week David Warren, a speaker from Basingstoke, talked of the "Invitations that Jesus offers us all" and he took various examples from the Bible to explain this.

On October 15th Alison talked of the work that goes on in our Town with the Aldershot Town Centre Pastoral Team. We did not realise how much work was involved and how big an impact it can make on some of the people they meet

Daphne and Jean

CAROL SINGING

Saturday November 14th sounds early for carol singing, but at the invitation of the events manager at Princes Hall, a group of people from TCPT will be on hand to sing carols when the Christmas lights are turned on in town on that day. If you can, do join them near Costa Coffee at about 4.45pm. You don't need to be an expert singer.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.
The December 2009 issue will be in Church on Sunday 29th November.
The LAST date for December articles will be Sunday 22nd November.



Hello, this article is for the attention of all ladies, young (over 14yrs) and more mature.

Soul Sisters is Holy Trinity's answer to good fun, fellowship and generally a great laugh for all "the ladies".

You don't have to be a regular at Trinity to come along, in fact you don't have to come to Church, full stop, to come.

Soul Sisters is about reaching out to our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues and bringing them one step closer to Jesus. Just your invitation to an event could be that step they need to overcome some of their fears, anxieties or concerns about Church, Christians and faith. So really do be praying about who you can ask, be bold & step out with us in faith to make this our most successful event yet!

Next Event: **Creative Bazaar**, based on a Turkish Bazaar theme, with Turkish treats such as Olives, Turkish Delight, sweets.

When: **Friday 20th November, 7.30pm.**

Where: **Holy Trinity**, Victoria Road, Aldershot

Cost: **£5**

What do you get for your £5? You get to be creative; make cards, make sculptures out of willow, paint ceramics (all with professional demonstrators to take you through each step of the way).

You get to watch fudge being made, taste some & buy some if you wish.

You get to peruse around the Bazaar at the wondrous gifts on sale - jewellery, scarves, candles, cards, fruits, nuts.

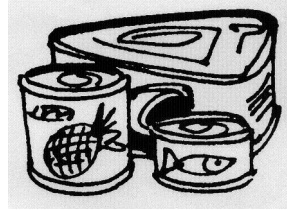
This has got to be one of our most exciting events to date, with something for everyone to dip into. Tickets on sale now from Kris, Susan, Marian, Trish & myself.

Heidi

on behalf of Soul Sisters

THE LARDER

We would like to thank all members and friends of Holy Trinity who gave so generously to The Larder at the Harvest Festival services. The Larder cupboard is now nice and full (as is George & Jane's garage), so it will keep us going for quite a few months, which is great. Also thank you to those who gave money donations.



For those who are unsure what the Larder is, it's a project where we give emergency food parcels (usually several bags of food - mainly tins) to anyone in need – for example, .their benefits have not come through because the benefit system has let them down; they have just moved to Aldershot; have just come out of prison; are living in the women's refuge; have been made redundant; are asylum seekers; have mental health/alcoholic problems and have difficulty managing their money, etc.

Most people are referred to us through the Citizens Advice Bureau; In Touch Support (part of Pavilion Housing); Social Services and specialist housing like Stoneham Housing and Mike Jackson House (a halfway house for those leaving the army). On average we deal with 2 or 3 calls a week.

Parcels are delivered to young, old and families alike. One couple with a baby whom we have supported unfortunately separated and we have had to support both as single people.

We can assure you that the food parcels we deliver are greatly appreciated. Most of these people are in a bad place at the time we deliver and are very pleased to receive a food gift. We try to share a quick chat and a prayer, if possible; unfortunately this is not always the case.

If anyone is interested in helping we would appreciate it if they were available during the day, have a car and are able to collect food parcels from the church hall and help deliver them (we usually go out in pairs). Please speak to Jane or Dawn.

Dawn, Jane and Team

RECESSION RESPONSE FROM HOLY TRINITY

As many of you who attend regularly will be aware, we have just run a three-session mini-series of teaching on Money, what the Bible teaches us about being money stewards, what the Bible says about debt, etc.

Talking money is never easy. It has also never been so important. The credit crunch and increases in basic household costs mean we must be more careful managers of money. But managing well does not come easily. Many of us lack the skills of budgeting, planning and managing, which older generations learned through necessity, and money anxiety is made worse by the turmoil in the banking world. Many people struggle to stay on top of the financial basics of managing money.

We would like to run a course which is modelled on the structure of the Alpha Course:

Being Moneywise

Aims of the Course

- To challenge thinking about money
- To encourage discussion about money
- To provide some practical ideas/resources
- To encourage action to improve finances
- To have some fun !!

The course is in three modules:

- Session 1: How to stay in Control.
- Session 2: How to Budget
- Session 3: How to deal with Credit.

Each session consists of an initial speaker-led presentation, practical hands-on exercises, small group discussions and looking at some fictional case studies - no one is expected to reveal or discuss their personal financial situation.

If you think you would be interested in hearing more about the course or signing up for it, please speak to one of the following – George or Jane, Susan, Heidi, Mary, Jan, Phil or Dave.

Heidi

NEWS FROM SARAH'S GAP YEAR

Hey everyone!

A lot has happened since my last email! [Not printed in Update] Thank you to all of you who replied to my last email or sent me a letter, I really appreciate it and enjoy to hear what's going on back in Aldershot.

Firstly, I have started working at Bermondsey Christian Centre, and have been there for 4 weeks now. Some of those weeks have been a bit up and down, but there have been plenty of highs, as well as the occasional lows. There have also been quite a few days of feeling really homesick, but I've got through those days, thanks to God, and the last week or two have been particularly good.

Mondays are my long days, working from 10 in the morning (though I do have to be up every day for breakfast at 7.45) until about 10.30 at night; however, they are also my most enjoyable days. Once a month on a Monday morning we go to a nearby care home for the elderly, where we sing some hymns, read a bit from the Bible, have a short talk and a prayer to finish with. I've only been the once so far, but I enjoyed it, meeting those who live there, and seeing how they interact and join in with what we do. There is then a lunch club at a school, where we play a game to start off with, then have a short talk, and then do a craft. There are times where it feels rushed, which is a shame, because I love doing it and really enjoy meeting the children, as they are so sweet, and very polite! We do the same talk at each lunch club, and at the younger children's clubs at the centre, so the talk is normally done 4 times within a week. Last week I did the talks, as well as the older children's talk on a Tuesday evening, which is different, so that was challenging, but I enjoyed doing all 5 of them.

Monday afternoon is the 7-11 year old club, which I enjoy, because we sing songs and dance along to them, play lots of fun games and have the talk. In the evening there is the older youth group, which is meant to be 15+ but it's mainly guys in their 20s, who just want to play football all the time, so not much change from what I'm used to in Aldershot! But it is fun, as we also play table tennis quite a lot, which has been the main way of me being able to get to know the guys better. There is also a focus time, where we watch a clip on 'The Y Course' and then chat about that, and it's great to see what the guys ask questions on, because they're all non-Christians and say they don't believe in God.

Tuesdays are also really enjoyable, not only because I don't start until 2pm. There have been times where we go and visit people in Bermondsey, particularly one guy called Joe, who is in his 70s (I think) and he lost his wife 2 years ago, and it's been interesting to hear how he copes with it, and about what he thinks about the Christian faith. We then have a 4-6 year old club at the centre, which is similar to the one on Monday, but shorter. In the evenings on Tuesday there is the 11-15 year old club, which I struggled with at first, because they're at that age where

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they're still quite immature and seem to hang around their friends and stay in groups. But as the weeks have been going on and they've started to feel more comfortable around me, I've managed to chat with them more, play table tennis and play on the Wii with some of them, which has been really good.

Wednesdays are lecture days, so all of us on the gap year go to LCM headquarters, or occasionally stay at base. So far the lectures have only been on things like food hygiene and safety and what we can do and say in a school, but from next week, we're having lectures on the gospel, which I hope to be more interesting and useful so I can grow in my Christian faith and knowledge of the Bible. We then normally have team night, where we play games together, or do something where we try and build our relationships together more.

Once a fortnight on **Thursdays** I have day duty, which is where I clean the kitchen, dining room etc etc and cook the evening meal. Thankfully I do it with Matt (also on the gap year) and we are a good team and get things done quite quickly. When I'm not doing that, I have to get up at 6 and be at a prayer meeting by 7, not fun, but after the meeting we go out and get a nice big cooked breakfast which makes up for the early morning! Then we may go visit someone or prepare for the clubs. There is then a lunch club in a nearby school. Around 4 we go out and visit the parents of the children and hand out colouring sheets, which the children can do and win a prize if they bring back 3 in a row. So that has been good to see more of the background of where the children come from, and it's always interesting to see how the parents react to us, whether they grab the sheet and then slam the door in our face or whether they stop and chat to us.

Fridays are our shorter days, as we start at 9 and finish at about 1. At about 9.30-10.30 we have a Bible study, often only consisting of 3 women, but it is an enjoyable time as we sing a song, then watch an episode from 'Lost and Found' by Jeff Lucas and chat about it. After which we clean the centre. We then often go out for a team lunch, trying out all the many different cafes in Bermondsey.

Saturday and **Sunday** I get off which is great, though every other Sunday night, from 7.30-9, I help out at the Salmon Christian youth centre, which is the biggest youth centre in the south of England. It's an amazing building where many children from the surrounding youth groups come along to do crafts, go on the computers, play football in the big sports hall or go on the huge climbing wall on the side of the building, and listen to a short talk about the Bible.

I'm getting much more used to sharing a room and I'm getting on well with Louisa, who is my roommate. I'm making some really good friendships and it just makes living altogether so much easier.

I hope you are all well, and it would be great to hear from you all. Take care and God bless,
Love Sarah

NEWS FROM TOM'S GAP YEAR

Tom is on a gap year with the Church Army

Hey everyone!

I just want to say thanks for all your prayers and all the money which you gave. It's all appreciated.

I am about half way through my time in Sheffield. I have loved it, the others are all great. I am so busy, with loads of things going on, running events and leading different activities, which is exciting. I've got a trip to Devon and Blackpool coming up, in which we are running different things there. Every training session is really good and full on, but we learn a lot from it, which is great. We have also had some social time going rock climbing, which is so amazing.

So just keep on praying for me and I will be back on the 20th December. I'm not sure for how long, though, and it looks like I'm off to Australia, which is so amazing and exciting.

Thanks again, I'm missing everyone and will see you all shortly.

Tom

SHEAF AND GRACE SUNDAY

November 22nd is our support Sunday for Sheaf and Grace Ministries, based in Rajamundry in India and ministering to the poor and disadvantaged across the surrounding area. There is a network of small churches in the surrounding villages, each headed by a pastor who has to earn his own living, as well as ministering to the needy.

The whole area has recently been devastated by severe flooding. Many families have lost everything, as houses have been damaged and possessions swept away. Please pray especially for the church leader, K C Deva Raju, who has recently had heart surgery.

COFFEE MORNING - 21 NOVEMBER 2007

In aid of Christmas Decorations there will be a coffee morning in Crossover on Saturday 21st November, 10am - 12 noon, with a cake stall, a bring and buy table and sale of fruit and nuts.

All money collected will be used to decorate the Church at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and any other special occasions.

Thank you to all those who have supported us throughout this year in either buying or donating items to sell.

Dawn

DRIED FRUIT AND NUT SALE

As in previous years, we will be doing a sale of dried fruit and nuts in November, buying in bulk and with profits going partly to the Flower Fund and mainly to TEAR Fund. Order forms will be available soon – please order in advance to avoid disappointment and so that we know how much to buy. Some items will also be on sale at the Soul Sisters event on 20th November and the Coffee Morning on 21st November.

Arthur & Christine

320210 or Christine.m.ward@bopenworld.com

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

The Christmas decorations in church will include two opportunities to remember loved ones who are no longer with us:

In **Prayer Corner** there will be a **Christmas tree** decorated with white lights. I would like to invite you to hang a memory tag on the tree in memory of a loved one who is no longer with us. In the **Chancel** there will be an opportunity to place a Red Poinsettia, also in memory of a loved one.

Dawn & the Flower Team

SPOTLIGHT ON DAWN

Dawn has been a member of Holy Trinity for almost 50 years. She is single, with no brothers or sisters, but her father, Bert, is also a member of HT, as are her Auntie Winn and her cousin Michelle.

What are your role(s) at HT?

I'm a PA (Pastoral Assistant) and a member of the prayer ministry team and I organise the Larder. I'm on the PCC, organise the flower arrangements and I lead a fellowship group. In the past I've done other jobs; I was the first female Church Warden at HT.

I'm now trying to say 'no' to things, so that I don't get overloaded.



Which Sunday service do you go to?

I like to go to the 9.30 service with my Dad, but I also enjoy the 11.15, so I usually do two early services in a month and two lates – occasionally I stay to both.

Have you always lived in Aldershot?

Yes, I was born in York Road and went to school at Park Infants and Junior Schools and then to Manor Park secondary school [now replaced by Campbell Fields], but the first year of secondary school was in a different building, in Stanhope Lines – close to where I later worked. It's funny how I've kept coming back to areas where I've lived or worked before.

What's the first news story you remember?

The coronation. We had a telly, so lots of people who didn't have TV came in to watch with us and there were plates of sandwiches and children all on the floor – all looking at a very small screen.

What jobs have you done?

Straight after school I went to work as a typist for the Army at HQ SE District and later became typing manager. I moved around quite a lot, all for the Army but for different Regiments and departments – they all have their own requirements and procedures. I was made redundant from the Army at the age of 51 - my last Army job was where I started, at HQ SE District – and then I went to work for Social Services in Aldershot until I retired.

Have you always been a Christian?

No. I was baptised and confirmed at St Michael's as a child and went to Sunday School occasionally, but I didn't know Jesus as a person with whom I could have a relationship. My confirmation was a disappointment to me, because I didn't feel any different.

So how did you become a Christian?

After I'd been working for the Army a little while, Anne (Shelah' daughter, known to her friends as Tuckie) came to work in the same place. She invited me to a party and then to church at Holy Trinity and I met her friends. After about two months I realised that these people were different and I understood that Jesus was alive and that He welcomed me.

After I became a Christian, I joined the 'Outcasts' group, which was a group of people in their late teens and early 20s who'd become too old for KO, the King's Own youth group. We used to meet in Greyholme House (where the vets now are), either in the cellar or in the attic. I was asked to help with the leadership of KO and I've had some sort of serving role ever since. For a long time I've wanted to be a PA, but it wasn't really possible until after I retired.

Were there any obstacles to your conversion?

No. My Mum and Dad were not Christians and sometimes criticised me for the amount of time I spent at HT, but they didn't really oppose my decision. Later, after Crossover was built, they joined the church and did an Alpha Course and after that they told me that they wanted to become Christians. It wasn't anything I had done – they had been to church and seen the fellowship and the difference between people there and other people they knew. It's a very big thing for me to know that they are both saved.

Has your life as a Christian been all plain sailing?

There've been the usual pitfalls and I've lapsed a few times, but that has always led to bad times. I know now that I'm happiest when I'm walking with the Lord.

It was difficult in Charles's time, when a lot of people of my age moved to St Peter's Farnborough, but I felt the Lord was calling me to stay at HT. I was blessed by some Roman Catholic renewal events at Alton.

Would you recommend Christianity to others?

I've never regretted giving my life to Christ and would recommend it and encourage those who don't know God to seek and find his love, forgiveness, trust and peace. I thank God for all my Christian friends over the years and I know they are with me even now to support and encourage me in my walk with God. Thank you and God Bless you all.

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

In this traditionally busy autumn we have had a lot of really positive times, with a busy and encouraging Alpha Course, the great F1 men's night and some fun over Harvest. Let's keep our focus on the Lord and what He is doing and let's pray for further fruit for His kingdom.

I'm still trying to say to people, 'Don't mention Christmas!' But it is coming up quickly and one area we need to recruit for is a drama sketch at the key services. We plan for it to be based on Fawley Towers (in fact the same one we did about six Christmases ago) and we are aiming to do the same one in our Christingle (4pm Sunday 13th December), the ATFC service (Thursday 17th, 7.30pm) and our Carols by Lantern Light (6pm Sunday 20th). If you are interested, please see me sooner rather than later.

I hope you found the input in our short sermon series 'Money Matters' helpful. This is just to remind everyone that we do have a trained team ready to do one-to-one coaching with budgets and to run a three week course 'Being Moneywise' helping to keep/get in control of one's finances, to budget well, etc. They also know other organisations to refer people to. Then, thanks to the generosity of several folk recently, there are still funds in our Macedonian Fund, if you know anyone struggling to pay a bill etc. Please also be praying about the possibility of starting a form of Café Church at Costa Coffee where we can open this to the general public of our town and parish.

Sunday 8th November is **Remembrance Sunday** and, although we will be having both our 9.30 and 11.15 services, with the 9.30 service having some flavour of a Remembrance Service through its hymns and liturgy, we will also be having a joint combined Act of Remembrance at 11am between the services for about five minutes; please be in place for a 10.55 start. I hope all those from the earlier congregation will be able to stay on for that and those from the later one will come early to join in.

The **Alpha** Course will be having its **Day Away** on Saturday 21st. If you have done Alpha but missed this day in the past or want a 'top-up', you would be welcome to join us, but please book in through me or Colin. The group are very much enjoying the meals provided, so thanks to all who have so far cooked for us. There are quite a few gaps for the last part of the course, so please sign up at the back of church if you, or a small group of you, can help.

See elsewhere in this edition of Update for the next **Soul Sisters** event on 20th – the 'Creative Bazaar' - which should be another great occasion, as well as a good opportunity to invite families, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

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If you are reading this before 31st October (Halloween) and you are not involved in our annual alternative 'Monster Party', make sure you have got some of the tracts we have (some are suitable for children and some for young teenagers).

How to give away a Halloween tract at the door:

1. Stock up on sweets, chocolates and tracts.
2. Make sure you're at home on the 31st October
3. When children come trick or treating, simply hand them some sweets or chocolates, along with a tract which 'explains a bit more about Halloween'.
4. Pray!

We are hoping that as we start this month of November we will be able to lift the restriction with Communion, so we can all partake of the wine as well as bread.

May the Lord's blessing rest on you and may you know His face smiling down on you each day as you look up to Him.

George

Verses and Visions from October's PPP

Is 60:1 'Arise, shine, your light has come, the glory of the Lord rises upon you.'

A picture of fireworks in a row, spluttering and not really going, then a great display full of colour and light. One firework had lit the rest.

A picture of a man carrying a heavy burden up some steps and then a picture of a basket of colourful tinned fruit. Possibly this means that hard labour now will bring about a fruitful time ahead.

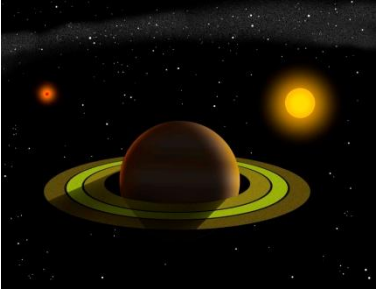
'Just as I am.'

George

Newspaper headlines which should have been edited before publication:

- **Kids Make Nutritious Snacks**
- **Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge**
- **If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile**

CHIEF'S CONCERNS



I and some friends recently took a trip to the London Planetarium now located at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. The last time I went to a show was some years ago, when the Planetarium was based at Madame Tussauds, so as you can imagine it's all really hi tech now – well worth a visit!

After negotiating a number of stewards and steps, we eventually arrived at this amazing underground dome and as the lights go down and you sit back, recline in the comfortable seats, you are automatically facing upwards, waiting, looking with anticipation for the stars to appear. Our 30 minute viewing was the 'Sky at Night' - you know, the stars and planets that we can identify, visible to the naked eye all the time, every evening.

Not being much of a star gazer, I found this fascinating, but the thing that blew my mind was all the information regarding the Milky Way, the Galaxy that we can see, and then you are zoomed in to the other galaxies that lie beyond – what is out there is quite incredible, at which point I think my mind stopped functioning.

One very powerful thought stayed with me, we human beings are so small, so insignificant in comparison to all that God, the Creator, has made; we human beings think we are important and big, but really we are not. We are very small, God is big!

Mind the Gap

Some of you will know Robert Kirkup, Joyce and Paul's middle son. Hopefully you will have seen Rob around HT; if not, do look out for Rob and make a point of encouraging him and saying hello. Rob will be around at the 9.30 service once a month.

Rob has just begun doing a Gap Programme with us here at Holy Trinity and is already quite active, helping George run the current Alpha Course and helping me plan this year's Monster Party (Halloween Alternative).

Other things that Rob will be doing include making use of his natural creative talents, being involved with the TCPT, assisting with school assemblies and being part of the ACT Assembly Team, study days and relevant training occasions.

If you would like to know more detail concerning the HTCA Gap Programme then speak to Rob or myself.

'New Life' Coaching!

I recently attended some training at CWR covering the subject of Christian Coaching, it was excellent and informative.

For those who are not sure 'Christian Coaching is the art and practice of guiding a person or group from where they are towards the greater competence and fulfilment that God desires'.

The Coach helps the Coachee to move forward in a God-honouring direction, find solutions and will include making specific progress in areas of the Christian life that need attention. God changes lives, not 'coaching', but coaching conversations can provide significant help to people.

For me to be able to practise what I have learnt I require a volunteer; if you think this sounds like what you need and that you might benefit from some coaching sessions, then please get in contact with me for full details on 01252 314418.



Jonathan

THE VINE

Originally founded as a soup kitchen by Bridget Crowther of the Roman Catholic church, the Vine is now a day centre for homeless and vulnerable adults (over 25 years old) in the Rushmoor area. Many of the Vine's trustees and volunteers have come via their local churches within and outside Aldershot, and the Bishop of Guildford keeps a keen interest in its mission. Susie Porter, the Centre Manager, explains how the Centre works.



What do we do? The Vine offers a multitude of support for people with mental health issues, learning difficulties, homelessness, social isolation and substance misuse. We have outside agencies who come into the centre to offer support, such as needle exchange; In Touch, who offer floating tenancy support; Community Access Project, who offer floating support to those who have no other support in place; independent service user group, which offers addiction counselling; numeracy and literacy help; Rushmoor Borough Council housing and counselling. Staff and volunteers offer support with filling in forms; claiming benefits; finding housing; accessing outside agencies; registering on the housing list; basic IT skills; emotional support; budgeting and help to obtain any household objects, eg bed, bedding, drawers, sofa, TV, to set up in any new housing.

We offer a hot midday meal and ask for a small donation (which helps empower our clients to make priorities with their spending). Our food mainly comes from kind donations from Marks & Spencers. Unfortunately these are getting less, so we have to buy more food in. We are lucky that some churches and schools have asked if we would like Harvest Festival donations, so this will help us over this difficult period.

Who comes to the Vine? There are 298 clients on our database; of those 133 are active at present – i.e. coming in over the last three months. We are the only provision of this kind in the Rushmoor area, so it is an invaluable service for homeless and vulnerable adults. The importance of this service is reflected in the numbers of clients the project sees. We encourage everyone who needs support to come to the Vine, and believe there are still individuals who do not know about us, or are apprehensive about attending the Vine. We hope that all agencies will help promote the work that we do and reassure people about attending.

How can you help us? One of our biggest problems and hardest hurdles to overcome is funding. We do not receive any statutory funding, so we rely on applying to trust funds, which we are not guaranteed to get, and on donations.

This is something that we hope will improve as we develop, so we can secure the future of this much-needed project.

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Donations of any kind are always very gratefully received, not just monetary donations, but also food, clothing, bedding and volunteer time, especially at this time of year when the weather is colder and our funding is very tight. If anyone can help in any way, or people would like more information, they can visit our website www.thevinealdershot.org.uk. Alternatively they are welcome to visit the Vine at 83 Victoria Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 1SH or telephone 01252 400196.

NB we are in urgent need of new trustees! We are looking for a secretary, someone with a financial background, and anyone else who has experience of the kind of work we do.

Please remember to pray for the Vine and its work, for Susie and the other staff and volunteers and for their clients.

EVERYONE SINGING TOGETHER IN FLEET

An afternoon of singing worship songs, led by Alison Adam, formerly of the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community. Ends with a service of Evensong, using the songs learnt.

Date: Sunday 29th November, 2.30-6.00pm
Venue: SS Philip & James Church, Kings Rd, Fleet

For more detail contact Charlotte at Fleet Parish Office 01252 812114 or office@parishoffleet.org.uk

More newspaper headlines which should have been edited before publication:

- ***Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half***
- ***Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures***
- ***Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead***

THE SOURCE URGENTLY NEEDS MORE FUNDS

The Source Christian charity in Aldershot has issued an urgent appeal for donations to continue its work. If it cannot raise an additional £20,000 by Christmas, it will need to close.

What does The Source do?

The work began with a Youth Café (now in the High Street), which provides a drug and alcohol-free place where young people can meet, build relationships and receive help to improve their lifestyle. It serves over 600 young people. The Source now also offers mentoring for young people, specific help and mentoring for teenage parents, anger management, a football team and R.E.A.L. – ‘A chance for young people to explore spirituality in a safe, family environment’.

There have been impressive results in young people's lives - reductions in crime, truancy & drug taking, growth in confidence and self-esteem, and young people turning to Christ.

Why does it need money?

The Source receives public funding for specific projects, but relies on donations for the ‘core funding’ which includes utility bills, insurance, and wages. Some major donors have dropped out, as a result of the current financial crisis. As Richard Cooper, the Director, explains in his appeal, *a group of teenage mums will be coming to The Source to start a course to gain an NVQ Level 2 in computing skills... All the girls are on our Teen Parent Mentoring Programme and are aiming to turn their lives around I can afford to mentor the girls, pay for the training, pay the trainer, hire the equipment, buy the lunch as it is all part of the "project" costs... but I can't afford to turn the lights on, turn the radiators up or plug the computers in.*

At the end of last year Richard launched the "1,000 x 100" campaign (1,000 people donating £100 each), raising £26,000. This has kept the work going, but is now depleted.

How can I help?

Firstly – pray! Secondly – pray!
Thirdly – if possible, give. See www.therealsource.co.uk or the poster in Crossover for more about the work of the Source and how to give.

And finally

Richard writes: *I know someone that owns the cattle on a thousand hills and only gives good gifts and whose answers are, steadfastly, Yes and Amen! Personally, I feel peaceful and upbeat about meeting this target.*

'IN THE BEGINNING' CREATION CONFERENCE, GUILDFORD

An opportunity to understand and engage with the three most widely-held Christian views on creation.

Date & time: Saturday 7th November 2009, 10am – 5.30pm
Venue: The Millmead Centre,
Prices: £30 standard rate; £20 concession rate

Price includes refreshments, lunch and a conference pack including a CD with copies of all presentations. Visit www.guildfordcreationconference.com for more information and to book online.

(There was a longer item on this in the October Update)

BEYOND BELIEF? HAS SCIENCE BURIED GOD?

Speaker John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, with an interest in the interface of science, philosophy and theology and an international reputation. A good evening to which to bring non-Christian friends.

Date: 13th November, 19.30 – 21.30 Lecture, coffee, questions
Venue: The Maltings, Farnham
Tickets £5.00; Book via farnhammaltings.com or on 01252 745444

FAIRTRADE ACROSS SURREY

A meeting for Fairtrade Town campaigners, activists and others interested
To encourage each other and consider steps for moving forward.

Date: Saturday 7th November, 1-5pm
Venue: Trinity Centre, Guildford

To register contact Becca 01483 472304 Becca@rrowland.net
or Sheila 01372 372165 sheilahill@hotmail.com

See poster in Crossover

NEPALESE FAMILIES IN ALDERSHOT

Ursula has passed on to us a copy of *They come for the children*, a paper which she wrote for the deanery on the background of the Nepalese ex-Ghurkhas in the UK and the implications for the church's relations with them. This is an important topic, because there are more than 5000 Nepalese in Aldershot and Farnborough.

The paper is too long to reproduce in full in Update, but we can pass on copies by email (see below) and there is a copy in the rack in church.

The key points are:

- Nepalese families come here for the sake of their children whom they hope will get a good education and a good job. In Nepal 64% of the population have no paid work and survive on subsistence farming
- they are coming into an unfamiliar and often unwelcoming environment, exchanging blue skies for grey and mountains for paving slabs
- Ghurkhas come from the villages where there is less educational opportunity. Their wives over the age of 40 will have had no education. They are expected to keep house and nothing more. They are hardly literate in Nepali
- Ghurkhas retire at 30. If they return here after that they take a drop in status and work as security guards, bus drivers.
- whilst the children are becoming fluent in English, the parents (especially women) may have great difficulties with the language
- Nepalese thinking, even amongst Christians, is very much influenced by the caste system, in which some people are born to higher status and occupations and women are inferior; they may feel uncomfortable mixing with white people
- Nepalese Christians in the UK are often reluctant to join with English churches, because of language, feelings of inferiority and the different style of service (a typical service in Nepal lasts two hours)
- most Nepalese in the U.K. are Buddhists. Nepalese Christians try and reach non-Christians for the Lord mainly by 'Friendship Evangelism' and giving practical help. Direct preaching is not found to work.
- Nepal was first evangelised only 50 years ago through the vision of three British lady doctors; in a sense, Nepalese Christians are our children.

NEWS FROM JOS AND URSULA

News Update 23 from Jos in Nepal is now in the rack. It includes:

- news (and photos) of the effects of very heavy rain
- an encouraging account of the improvements made by self-help groups amongst displaced persons near Nepalgunj, initially part funded by INF
- the good news that two people have been found to take over Jos' work when he leaves Nepal in January.

Ursula will be going out to join Jos in early November.

THE LOCKED CAR DOOR

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car.

She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the baby sitter what had happened. The baby sitter told her that the fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this."

So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful. The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure". He walked over to the car, and immediately the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank You So Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank you God! You even sent me a professional!"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS at HT

Friday 11th December, 7.30pm	J-Men Xmas Bash
Sunday 13 th December, 4.00pm,	Christingle
Thursday 17 th December, 7.30pm	The ATFC Carol Service
Sunday 20 th December, 6.00pm,	Carols by Lantern Light

FORTHCOMING EVENTS at GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

Sunday 29 th November at 6.30pm,	Advent Sunday Procession
Saturday 12 th December, 7.30pm,	Traditional Christmas Concert

Pre-advent Quiet Day, East Horsley, November 14th

There is to be a Pre-advent Quiet Day, “The drama of Advent in Scripture, Picture & Music”, led by the Right Revd. Christopher Hill, Bishop of Guildford, on 14th November, 10am to 4pm.

Venue: St. Martin's Church & Parish Rooms, Ockham Road South, East Horsley, KT24 6RL. Cost: £9.50. Tea/coffee provided - please bring your own lunch. Disabled access to church & ground floor of Parish Rooms.

ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Send a stamped addressed envelope & cheque payable to *Affirming Catholicism Diocese of Guildford* to Sally Lowe, 50 Strathcona Ave, Bookham, KT23 4HP - 01372 454934 - lowest50@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.
The December 2009 issue will be in Church on Sunday 29th November.
The LAST date for December articles will be Sunday 22nd November.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Mark's Church, Reading Road, Farnborough

Saturday November 28th, 11.00am – 5.00pm

and
Sunday November 29th 1.00pm – 5.00pm
(On Sunday, ending with Evensong at 6pm)

ADMISSION: £1 per person

See poster in Crossover

