

Trinity Update

December 2009



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'A Church for Everyone'

DECEMBER DIARY 2009

1	11am & 8pm	Fellowship Groups *	(Tuesdays)
2	11.15am	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits *	(Weds)
	8.00pm	Fellowship Groups *	(Weds)
3	8.30am	Prayer for Renewal	(Thursdays)
	10-11.30am	Contact - for parents & toddlers	(also 10 th & 17 th)
	2.30pm	Women's Hour *	(Thursdays)
4	7.45pm	Fellowship Groups *	(Thursdays)
	7.30pm	Alpha at 2 Cranmore Lane	(Thursdays)
5	6-7.30pm	Friendzy (ages 8 and up) *	(Fridays in term)
6	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Morning Praise with prayer for healing	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Kids' Praise	
	7-9pm	'the FUSE' youth event at Park Evangelical Church	
7	7.30pm	PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY in Crossover	
	7.30-9pm	J-Ladz & G4G, Combined Teen Fellowship Group, also 21st	
10	7.00pm	Putting up Christmas decorations in church – helpers needed	
11	7.30pm	J-Men Xmas Bash, Coffee Mi, Victoria Road	
12	10am	Praying Wives at HT	
	7.30pm	Alder Valley Brass Band concert at HT	
13	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
	1.15-2.45pm	Worship Team practice	
	4.00pm	Christingle Service	
	7-9pm	Inclusion (formerly @7) for 14 to 18s	
14	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER	
		at KC21, High St	
15	7.30pm	Being Moneywise course; 2 How to Budget, Crossover	
16	6.30pm	Talavera Junior School Carol Service	
17	10-11.30am	Contact Christmas Party	
	7.30pm	ATFC Carol Service	
20	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Morning Praise	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	Carols by Lantern Light	
21	6.15pm	Carol singing in the parish	
24	4.00pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	
		(mainly for families with young children)	
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion	
25	10.30am	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY - ALL AGE COMMUNION</u>	
27	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
31	11.30pm	New Year's Eve 'Watchnight service'	

WOMEN'S HOUR

On October 22nd Jonathan, our outreach worker, told us of all the work that he does in our church. He is involved in so many different Projects, it was quite an eye-opener. He works mostly with the younger members of the Church.

The following week Helen talked of the armour we should protect ourselves with and then referred to Ephesians. To demonstrate her subject Helen brought various items of armour (plastic). Helen is always a fun speaker.

On November 5th Flo (Jonathan's Mother-in-law) gave us an inspirational testimony of her life; we were all uplifted by her talk and the faith she has in God.

On the 12th of November we had a craft afternoon, where four demonstrators each led a table in making Christmas cards. Our thanks must go to the demonstrators: Jean, Jenny, Julie and Pam. On the same afternoon the seventeen shoeboxes that we had collected and that had been blessed by George, were received by the staff of Samaritan's Purse for onward transportation. A special thank you to all the members of Women's Hour for their generous support in this project.

The following week our speaker was Elizabeth, who spoke about communication and talked us through the Lord's Prayer.

We have started our Advent ceremony by lighting a candle and having readings at the beginning of our meetings; thanks to Dawn for organising this for us. We have sadly lost one of our members, Barbara; she will be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family in their sad loss.

Daphne and Jean



Thank you to all of you who came to our Creative Bazaar evening on November 21st. It was a splendid turnout especially as the date clashed with "Children in Need"

There was an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, at the same time as supporting the work of Tearfund and our Christian Bookshop here in Aldershot.

For me the highlight of the evening was seeing young and old, church members and visitors, working alongside each other at the various crafts on offer. There was a lot of laughter and I am sure that many of you discovered latent talent. Perhaps florist's wire, paintbrushes, willow and card making equipment will be on your Christmas present list.

We have two diary dates for you. The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast is to be held at the home of Christine on Saturday 16th January. Our next event at Holy Trinity is to be a film night on Friday 19th February. There will be more details in the New Year, so watch this space.

Meanwhile the Soul Sisters Committee would like to wish you, and those you love, much joy and peace this Christmas.

Marian

on behalf of Soul Sisters

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and a very happy Christmas to all our readers and contributors.

**The January 2010 issue will be in Church on Sunday 3rd January.
The LAST date for January articles will be Sunday 27th December.**

NOTE THAT THESE DATES ARE LATER IN THE MONTH THAN USUAL

NEW LIFE FITNESS AND 20s & 30s

The New Life Fitness Group for 20s & 30s is not meeting at present, as they do not have an instructor. The group is aiming to go in a new direction for 2010 and to organise more social events/visits instead, but probably not until early next summer.

Watch this space for future news!

BEING MONEYWISE

Holy Trinity Church's Recession Response Team is offering the Stewardship Money workshops **Being Moneywise** from 30th November.

This is free, practical, interactive and aims to challenge thinking about money, encourage discussion about money, provide some practical ideas/resources and encourage action to improve finances.

It is not only for those who feel they are struggling financially. It is about being informed and equipped to better manage and cope, if or when the crisis comes along.

The Being Moneywise course is in three modules:

Session 1	Monday 30th November 2009,	How to Stay in Control
Session 2	Tuesday 15th December 2009,	How to Budget *
Session 3	Monday 11th January 2010,	How to Deal with Credit

* Note change from Monday

Each session is in Crossover at 19.30hrs for a 19.45 start and will last about 2 hours.

The course is open to anyone and is really about becoming money responsible, changing and challenging our thoughts and ideas about money issues, so feel free to bring along a friend, relative, neighbour, etc.

There is no need to book in advance and you can come to the 2nd or 3rd session even you missed the previous one(s).

Heidi

ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

Eden People, a Guildford based creative mission group, are looking for a part-time administrator to help support their work; some funding is available to support this position. For more details and a job overview, please contact:

Colin Brice (E.P. Leader) on edenpeople@matrixtrust.com or 07866247919.

SPONSORSHIP NEWS AND NEEDS

Good news from HT Fun Run:

The Holy Trinity Fun Run in July raised £876. The money will go towards the work with young people, specifically for equipment for Friendly and Inclusion.

Marie Curie Cancer Care

Alan writes:

My brothers, Barry and Jeremy, are trekking around the Jordan desert in April 2010, raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care Hospice, Hampstead. It will involve up to 8 hours of hiking a day for three days. In order to do this, they have set themselves a target of losing 6 stone between them, because they are currently in better shape to tackle a dessert than a desert. However, since August, progress on that front has been very good, with a combined weight loss of over 3 stone already!

Cancer affects a huge number of people in the UK and this year Jeremy's wife was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Thankfully, it was discovered early and after 2 operations and a course of radiotherapy she has almost made a full recovery. We as a Church were praying for her and the family from start to finish. It has, of course, had a long-term effect that cannot be changed, but from what could have been a very bad year, this is going to finish as a good year.

The majority of the sponsorship needs to be in place beforehand, rather than after the event. The whole family would appreciate it hugely if you could sponsor them, even if it is a matter of pence, not pounds, and thank you very kindly should you do so.

Donations can be made to the website <http://www.justgiving.com/jordan2010> or via a sponsorship form if you should prefer, or please speak to Alan.

School-building in Kenya

Isaac, who is a member of our 11.15 service writes:

Next summer I am hoping to go to Kenya to build schools. I signed up to this on my first day back at college. I feel drawn to do this, because I am keen to learn more about the Third World and to help those less fortunate than myself. I am looking for God's will for my future and I feel this would be a start.

Overall it will cost £959 and I have to raise most of the money myself. I am looking for sponsorship and am willing to do any odd jobs, eg raking leaves, cleaning cars inside and out, dog walking etc... If you can donate, employ, or sponsor me, please contact me: Tel: 322013 or Email: isaacsturt@hotmail.co.uk

THE FUNERAL OF BARBARA LITTLE – A TRIBUTE

I was honoured to be asked by the family to pay tribute to our friend, Barbara, at her funeral HT on Friday 11th November. Representing the women of the Church, I summed up their feeling for her in Daphne's words – “We all loved her” and “She was reliable” Others spoke of her as “quiet”, wanting no recognition or thanks. I said she was caring, consistent and courageous, especially towards the end, following her stroke, which disabled her, but never altered her easy laugh – her infectious chuckle, her sense of humour.

She loved her friends and many of us got to know her through “Young Wives” when Mrs Galpin and Norah Mead ran it. After that, we formed the “Trinity Singers” with our conductor Win Winter and had fun practising and going out as a group to sing in homes for the elderly and other Church groups. The Singers included Sheila Manchester, Dorothy (Barbara's sister-in-law), June, Shirley, Pamela and myself, as well as others from the Baptist Church. Pamela remembers all three of Barbara's “boys” (David, Adrian and Barry) being in the choir here. Barbara was a disciplinarian and we know they feel a great debt to that good upbringing.

Barbara loved “Women's Hour”, and was also one of our fellowship group, proving she knew her Bible and eager to discuss it and to pray for us all.

The last picture we have of Barbara is of dogged determination and courage and I know that the Lord Jesus, whom she trusted as her Saviour, has her safe in His loving care.

Barbara was elegant right to the end, but it was her character that was true and noble, self-giving, regular with cards and presents, giving to all in need. I took her over to Farnborough to take presents to a bedridden friend last Christmas.

There is a passage in the Bible (Proverbs 31) that says of the wife of noble character:

“She is clothed with strength and dignity, She can laugh at the days to come ... (she) does not eat the bread of idleness ... Her children arise and call her blessed. Her husband also and he praises her ... Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

Let us all be comforted, especially Bill, and remember your Golden Wedding, remember her wisdom, how she laughed and cared and watched with appreciation and love all those around her. She'd like it best if we all turned to the Lord for strength and comfort, as she did, and she would say “God bless you all.”

Carol

BARBARA – A tribute from another church member

My abiding memory of Barbara Little was of the warm friendship she extended to me and others at Holy Trinity. The gift of friendship is not to be taken for granted, but is very precious and has love as its core, as set out in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

Barbara had a wonderful sense of humour and was always a ready listener to many humorous reminiscences told to her.

Underpinning her personality was a deep commitment to the Saviour she served for so long. She will be greatly missed at Holy Trinity.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

A reminder that 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, on which you can hang a memory tag

In the **Chancel** there will be an opportunity to place a Red Poinsettia.



Dawn – Flower Team

THANKS FROM CSW

Christian Solidarity Worldwide has sent an enthusiastic ‘thank you’, for the gift of over £1600 sent after our CSW Gift Day in June. The National Director, Stuart Windsor, added by hand, “Wow!! Thank you all so much. Please pass on our very grateful thanks. God bless you all.”

CSW campaigns on behalf of Christians persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promoted religious liberty for all.

WILL YOU TAKE UP THE TCPT CHALLENGE?

I felt compelled to write this after being part of the TCPT (Town Centre Pastoral Team) for a few months now and seeing the good that it does. I have also seen how much more work we could do if a few more people decided to join in.

This is my story... I became a born again Christian this year (2009) after my husband, Phil, had a routine 'major' operation in November 2008. It went wrong and he ended up back in hospital (ITU) for 10 days with peritonitis. So his near-death experience made him reconsider life and faith and he had a lot of questions. He spoke to the Chaplain, who suggested he do an Alpha course and put us in touch with George. We both decided to enrol on an Alpha course with George and I was going to go to give support to my husband. I also had a few queries about life after death, because I lost my mother quite unexpectedly in 2004.

We both attended and completed the Alpha course, and not long after that we did the Freedom in Christ course, where we became fairly regular church-goers. I had heard quite a few conversations about the Town Centre Pastoral Team and I wondered what it was, so asked a few questions. However, I have always been a shy person and completely insecure, with such a lack of personal confidence that I couldn't imagine standing on the street talking to complete strangers about God, so immediately decided that it wasn't for me. Although I had made the decision not to do it, I had a nagging thought in my head saying "Go on, give it a go, what can be the worst that could happen?" So during the newcomers BBQ I opened the door by asking George what it took to become a team member? It turns out that ANYONE can become a member and you don't need any qualifications or any special talents, except being able to talk to people and speak about God and your own personal beliefs/experiences. I don't know a lot about the Bible, as I haven't been a Christian for long and am only just starting out with it now.

My next step was attending a TCPT monthly meeting and I listened to the Guidelines talk that George gave, which gave me more of an insight as to what happened and when. By this time I had a semi-nervous feeling in my gut, because I felt that this was something that I wanted to do. After the meeting I "bit the bullet" and said that I would become part of the team, requested my uniform and signed up to do a Friday and a Saturday night coming up, to see how I got on. You don't need to do every night available, just as long as you can put in a couple of times a month - that would really help.

I was put on the email list for the team and received an email from the brilliant Gwen Wills saying that they needed some people to cover a Thursday afternoon (2 - 4) on the table in the Wellington Centre. I thought it might be easier if I did it sooner rather than later - so this was an ideal opportunity and I put my name down. I was joined by the lovely Rosalie and we sat at the table and had a few contacts during our time, that were very easy to deal with, and this eased me
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in nicely to what it was like. After the two hours had sped by, I was feeling elated and couldn't wait for the next time I could hit the streets of Aldershot. However, the daytime and the night-time shifts are completely different, so the apprehension was different when I was preparing for my first nightly session.

I got to the church with a feeling of trepidation, not knowing what was going to happen that evening, like if I would enjoy it or hate it. There was a great team already assembled for prayers before heading out, so I donned my team T-Shirt, and gilet and hit the street with them. Considering my shy nature, I was completely amazed at how well I seemed to fit in out there. I was so filled with the Holy Spirit (which I didn't realise at the time) that I wanted to talk to EVERYONE that passed by. I started off asking if people wanted to partake of the lollies, water or Mars bars that adorned the table along with the literature, Bibles and bits of paper. They asked why we were there and some people just said thanks and walked off with their spoils, and others were amazed that we took our own time out to do this and that everything on the table was free.

I eventually started asking if there was anything people needed a prayer for and if everything was okay and I was thrilled that people were responding positively towards me. I was also expecting a certain amount of animosity from non-believers, but I found it was replaced by respect. It is so nice to know that we have the backing of the Police and seeing them out on the streets too, you feel safe and protected - that along with the added respect that we get - it only heightened my need to be out there. The evenings pass so quickly (except when it starts raining, but that goes without saying). It's great to meet people from other churches too and pass on experiences and have a general chat.

I have been doing this, as I said, for a few months now and I've been trying to get out every Friday and Saturday night. I'm trying to do as many Thursday mornings with the wonderful and learned Joyce as I can, and would really like to make a start on the Late Night Team with Wayne and Joseph. There are a few family issues at the moment that are stopping me from doing the lates, but I'm hoping to overcome those soon as we need more people. I have noticed that we get great teams together, but we can only monitor one section. If we had more people, then we could spread out more and deal with more opportunities. I believe that there are too many opportunities that are missed due to lack of coverage, lack of people, and lack of time. If I could have my way and there were unlimited funds, I'd be out there every evening doing what I could!!!

If you've been thinking about helping on the team, give it some serious thought and bite that bullet, like I did. You'll probably find it as wonderful as I do now - I love it and I am excited every time I go out. God bless you all for reading this and I pray constantly for more people to join the team.

Jax

A LETTER FROM DOT

Dear HT friends,

I have officially been in the country 6 years 2 months & 5 days (2,255 days)
I have worked for ESF at SEEDA for 6 years 1 month & 11 days
(5 days as a temp)
I have had 131 days of annual leave
I have had 82 days of sick leave (brilliant record until my back conked in)
I have been on the 'Prayer tree' network for 3½ years
I have had 9 days of study leave
I have driven, walked and played in snow
I have seen 10 shows
I have celebrated 5 Christmases in Aldershot
I have become a better disciple for Jesus
I have been to 1 live recording of 'Songs of Praise'
I have lived at my current address for 6 years and 5 days
I have gained 6lbs
I have completed a BSc (Hons) in Psychology
I have attended the Alpha course for the 2nd time
I have attended 6 AFC carol services
I have been in the same fellowship group for 6 years
I have met in excess of 400 people and have formed 11 close friendships
I have met all my neighbours
I have seen my youngest grow to a strapping 21 year old
I have seen my elder son survive the Iraq war twice
I've had 4 interviews
I've had 6 birthdays
I have coordinated HT catering for 2 years
I have completed 24 Assessments, negotiated 5 contracts and closed 9 projects
I have gained 5 ESF colleagues
I have lost 1 manager and 2 colleagues
I have said goodbye to 62 SEEDA colleagues
I have waved off my father, my step Dad, my father-in-law and four friends on
their eternal journey
I have visited Europe 11 times
I have also visited the most beautiful and extraordinary places in this country
I have stressed, I have cried, I've messed up, I've totally humiliated myself, but
most of all I've LAUGHED and enjoyed every moment.

Without God and all of you, this may not have happened, so here's a toast to you
for being such a big part of my life!

Dot

AN ADVENT RING

We've probably all seen an Advent ring – you may even have one at home, but do
you know the tradition behind it? It is not just a pretty decoration counting down
the four weeks before Christmas.

Firstly, it is a ring – it has no beginning and no end – just like the love Jesus has for
us. It is usually decorated with holly and ivy – two plants which do not lose their
leaves, they are evergreen – just like the love Jesus has for us.

Then there are the candles – traditionally three deep purple, one pink and a white
one. Purple is, of course, the colour of royalty. The first purple candle is lit four
weeks before Christmas and is called the candle of HOPE. When we light this, we
think of Abraham. Although both Abraham and his wife Sarah were of advanced
years, God promised them that they would have as many descendants as there
are stars in the sky.

The following week we light this candle again and also another purple one. This is
called the candle of PEACE and on lighting this, we think of the Prophets. There
are many Prophets in the Old Testament, including Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel,
Jonah, Samuel, Micah and Habakkuk. God spoke to them and they all passed on
the truth about the love of God.

The third week we light the three purple candles, the last one being called the
candle of LOVE and this one makes us think of John the Baptist. John was also
born to ageing parents and spread the Good News of God and of His Son, Jesus.

The next week, in addition to these candles we also light the pink one. This is
called the candle of JOY and reminds us of the joy of Mary, who was the mother of
Jesus. Although like any mother, she must have gone through times of sorrow,
she loved and obeyed the Lord.

The centre candle is the white one and is only lit on Christmas morning. This is
called the WHITE CHRIST CANDLE and is lit to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Pat

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

First, some great news (that reflects you all), our Gift Day total has come to over £19,000 (up over £5k from last year, and in a recession! And £735 was raised through the auction at Harvest for the world's poor.) This is wonderful and will help to release great blessings all round and at every level. Praise God and a huge thank you to you all.

On the subject of money, last year's Gift Day was, in part, set to go towards the new doors that are proposed in Crossover, which we are actioning. However, after that, we received a very generous legacy in memory of dear Ivor Lunn for the doors, which is enough probably to cover all the expenses towards that project. Would there be any objections from anyone if we were to use the surplus from that restricted fund and use it towards two other projects that relate to other gift days, namely towards the significantly increased costs of the baptistery (which should be being build within the next few months!) and towards the extra railings to replace the hedge along the south side of the church, and, if there was any left over, to put that towards dwindling general funds? This has come from the PCC, but if you do have queries or objections, please do chat to me and mention it by January 15th.

Financially there is also some less good news: in spite of the Gift Day and Tax reclaim, we are probably going to make a loss of between £15-20,000 in the year which leaves us with just about no reserves. Please pray!

Love it or hate it, Christmas is fast approaching (although I'm sure you don't need the reminder!) For us it is important to keep our focus on its real meaning and keep Jesus at the centre of all we do and how we celebrate. Obviously we want to make all our services centred on Him and that gives us a chance to worship and adore Him. But it is also a time when we get a lot of folk through our doors, often for the first time or the only time in a year, so there are great opportunities. Because of the numbers, we need to work hard on our welcome and hospitality and we are seeking lots of willing helpers with putting up decorations and lanterns, in serving drinks and mince pies at the bigger services, as well as looking out for and chatting to new folk.

In our current Alpha course we actually have three lovely folk who joined the church having come to one of last year's carol services for the first time and who are now going on and deeper with the Lord. To me that is a great inspiration for our preparations for this round of seasonal events.

There are other opportunities as well. Please pray for the **assembly team** in the first half of this month. We must reach about three thousand people (young and older) with a simple gospel message which sows seeds for the future.

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The **J-Men** have their annual **Christmas bash**, this year in the parish at Coffee Mi, with a nice meal and an after dinner speech to introduce something of the good news. Men, do invite friends to that. We also need to invite the parish with our **Christmas Newsletters**; quite a few do come each year as a result of these, so please make the time to deliver a bundle to a street and pray as you go. We also plan to go **carol singing** on Monday 21st December, certainly to a couple of old folks homes and Kingsley Court and, if there are enough people (it has not been greatly supported in recent years) we might then go to one or two other places in the parish if the weather permits. All this takes something of the love and message of Jesus out.

Please be inviting as many as possible to our special Carol Services:

- the **Christingle** on 13th at 4pm
- the **ATFC service** on 17th at 7.30
- the **Carols by Lantern-light** on 20th at 6pm... and, for the first time here at Trinity (at least in many years)
- a **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve at 4pm (a short service around the crib aimed especially at families with younger children).



Our midnight Communion starts at 11.15pm and on Christmas day we have an all age Communion at 10.30. However before we have the services, we need to get the decorations up, so all volunteers will be welcomed at 7pm on 10th to help.

We also have the opportunity to give gifts anonymously to those young people, who would otherwise be homeless, and who live at Step-by-Step around the corner from us at church. Please place any such gifts under the tree in church by Sunday 20th, wrapped and marked for boy or girl (or either). Please bear in mind that usually at least two thirds of residents are male.

There is going to be a concert on at Trinity; we are pleased to welcome back the **Alder Valley Brass Band** who will be performing at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th December, and this will obviously have a bit of a Christmas theme. And please pray for the next **Fuse** youth event on the evening of Sunday 6th.

This year **New Year's Eve** is going to be slightly different. Instead of a party then we are planning a **special Church Ball** on January 23rd. (This will be organised

by the youth but will be for the whole church). However, I will still lead a short watch-night service in church to see in the New Year with prayer and vision, this will start at 11.30pm and finish with a bit of champagne.

We have some other exciting plans for the New Year, especially relating to our small groups, and the next Update will announce what is going to be happening with them.

On a different note, we hope that swine flu has passed and will not recur, but there are still cases about. We have decided to go back to offering the wine along with the bread at Communion, but please let me know if you would rather not receive the cup, or simply leave the front when you have received the bread. Alternatively, you could save the bread and dip it into the wine, when the cup gets to you.

If you are interested in being a school governor, there is a request from Talevera School who we are currently forging links with, and who are holding their annual carol service at, Trinity for the first time. For more information go to www.sgoss.org.uk or phone 020 7288 9537.

I am delighted that our **Recession Response Team** are offering the three session **Being Moneywise** course, with two sessions this year and the last in the new year. See Heidi's article and the notices for details.

Anyway, keep your focus on Him, walk in His peace and let His light shine through you at this time, making the most of every opportunity. Be blessed and be a blessing.

George

NEWS FROM JOS AND URSULA

News Update 24 from Jos and Ursula is now in the rack. It has an account (and some spectacular photos) of Jos' week long trek up to Annapurna Base Camp. There is also a contribution from Ursula, now back with Jos in Nepal.

Please pray for both of them, as they prepare to leave Nepal early in the New Year – for Jos as he finishes his work and hands it over to his successors and for Ursula as she deals with domestic issues. Pray especially for her health in the dusty atmosphere.

HELP NEEDED FOR ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN

A Christian charity working with orphans in Ethiopia is looking for people to help in its **Twenty5 Ethiopia** campaign, which aims to equip local communities to care for the poorest. The help could be by training as a speaker to tell people about their work or by raising money - either through taking part in a sponsored sporting event or by forming a supporter group and organising a fund-raising event (coffee morning, barn dance, quiz ...).

Pete Jones, Director of the St Matthew's Children's Fund, writes:

Twenty five years ago the world was shocked by pictures of famine in Ethiopia. Band Aid was launched by Bob Geldof, many groups of people around the world responded.

Among these was a group of Anglicans, along with friends from Ethiopia, who decided to make their contribution by caring for 1,000 children orphaned by the war and famine. They founded the St Matthews Children's Fund Ethiopia – since tradition recounts that St Matthew was the apostle who travelled to Ethiopia – which set up four orphanages in Ethiopia and a fundraising network in the UK to pay for it.

As the 1,000 children grew up and were settled in their communities we decided on a new approach. We realised that the best way of dealing with the huge problem of child poverty is for local people to do it themselves, and so we developed strong partnerships with local communities across the country, and worked together with them to find new and innovative ways of caring for the poorest, by empowering and building up the capacity of communities.

We have achieved this with 17 of the poorest urban slum communities. Twenty five years after the famine we need the church community to support us to reach out to more orphans and help communities to work together and never fear famine again.

For more information on how to help, visit www.twenty5ethiopia.org and look at the 'How you can help' page. Or contact Pete Jones on 020 7022 1861

CHIEF'S CONCERNS

Growing Leaders Youth Edition, starting Feb 2010

Imagine. Young people equipped to be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus in their churches, at school and college – and at home.

Leadership is a proven factor in growing, healthy churches and research shows that the teenage years are the key time to invest in people as leaders. These beliefs are at the heart of Growing Leaders Youth Edition.

Key to the thinking of Growing Leaders Youth Edition, “all leadership involves influence. But will this influence be for good or bad? Will it grow Christ-likeness in others or destroy people’s ability to trust? Character will determine the difference. It can be problematic when someone is ‘successful’ before they are ready for success. Any model of leadership development that ignores character will risk people growing in skills without the necessary character to support such skills.”

Growing Leaders is more than just another course; its comprehensive approach focuses on:

- Leadership rooted in Christ
- Key skills for leadership. In its many forms
- Long-term commitment to leadership

Through interactive teaching, mentoring and practical projects, Growing Leaders helps churches find and develop young leaders passionate for God and His work.

For more details speak to myself or Belinda.

New Year Ball

Some of you will have heard Belinda recently refer to the ‘New Year Ball’ which will be held on Saturday January 23rd.

The idea behind this is simple; it follows on from the ‘cream tea’ event that the young people laid on early this year. 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!



Lastly, I would like to thank everyone at Holy Trinity who has supported me, prayed for me, encouraged me and stood by me during this year.

Oh God help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men, and may Christmas morning make us happy to be your children.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

Happy Christmas

Jonathan

RETURNING TO ZIMBABWE, SUMMER 2009

By Judith and James, Carol's daughter and son-in-law

After nearly twelve years we weren't sure what to expect on our return to Zimbabwe in July 2009. We had followed the news, of course, and kept in touch with our former students and friends, many of whom have been working in the UK or South Africa. But it was still difficult to imagine what it had been like to live through the alarming economic decline, political violence, and lack of healthcare and public services of recent years. We knew that the adopting of the US dollar in place of the Zimbabwe dollar meant that food and petrol were available in the towns; we wondered what difference, if any, the power-sharing government had made to ordinary people's lives.

We had not been back since November 1997, after two periods of teaching in Zimbabwe, the first at a rural school in Matabeleland (SW Zimbabwe), where we were married, and the second of nearly five years at the Anglican Theological College in Harare. One of our ex-students, now working in the UK, arranged for us to stay with a former parishioner of his in Harare; all we had was a name and address, and a hurried e-mail saying she would meet us at the airport.

We had several reasons for returning. It was our 25th wedding anniversary and we wanted to visit the rural chapel at Cyrene Mission, where we were married, with its extraordinary African Christian well-paintings. Our friend and colleague from the Anglican Theological College, Chad Gandiya, had been appointed Bishop of Harare and had asked us to the consecration. We also wanted to visit the Theological College.

We landed in the dazzling Zimbabwe winter sun, and there was Cynthia. She is an interior designer with a business in Harare and apparently limitless energy. During our 12-day stay she managed to combine work with hospitality by getting up at 4 am and constant use of her mobile phone, using contacts and friends to enable us to visit the people and places we had come to see. Born in Bulawayo and with family all over Zimbabwe, she seemed to know everyone: the policeman who stopped her for speeding and asked for a bribe (she told him he should be ashamed of himself); the businessman who hosted the party after the consecration of the Bishop; the family of our friend and ex-cleaner Ellah. We realised we had forgotten some of the central realities we used to know: the hospitality and interconnectedness of Zimbabwean life, especially church life; the enormous capacity for hard work of Zimbabwean women; the elasticity and flexibility of time.

The central event of our visit was the consecration of Chad as Bishop, at the National Sports Stadium, in front of a crowd of 15,000, and his enthronement in

the Cathedral afterwards. This took place on Sunday 26th July, starting at 7.30am, when we set off for the service, and ending at 11 pm, when we returned from the post-enthronement party. To an almost constant background of joyful hymn-singing, led by several different choirs and accompanied by drums, shakers and a kudu-horn, Chad was led through the moving ceremonies committing him to leading the Anglicans of Harare diocese. In spite of fabricated legal interruptions, and the chaining up of the doors of the cathedral, ex-Bishop Kunonga and his supporters failed to prevent the events taking place. James read the Gospel; Father Fundira, the current Head of the Theological College, supplied bolt-cutters for the chains (needed regularly in the recent past during the period when Kononga refused to relinquish church assets) and the children from the Shirley Cripps Anglican Orphanage provided marimba music over lunch. It was a cold, sunny, joyful occasion, and we caught up with news from many former students, several of whom are now bishops, in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.

Harare was busy, slightly alarming, with deeply potholed roads, unregulated traffic where lights had been left un-mended, hawkers on every corner selling mobile phone credit, and half-finished buildings altering the skyline. In contrast, Bulawayo was recognisably the same place as it was twelve years ago, though quieter, shabbier, and now with almost no white faces to be seen on the streets. We stayed with Bishop Cleopas, another ex-student, who returned to Zimbabwe in April. Cyrene Mission School is half an hour's drive outside Bulawayo. James and I had lived and worked there in the mid-1980s and we were amazed and delighted to find some staff we remembered still there; they were equally astonished to see us. The school has suffered recently: there are no vehicles, apart from one or two private cars owned by teachers; disputes over the land have put a strain on the school's resources, and they have had great difficulty feeding the boarders. There is no longer a Priest-Headmaster and the buildings are badly in need of repair. But the Chapel was still standing, the paintings in need of restoration, but recognisable, and we stood in the place where we had been married with a sense of homecoming.

The needs we met on our visit were enormous, and we felt very inadequate to help. The donations of goods and money we took were hugely appreciated, and we were struck by the honesty, shrewdness and independence of many people who are doing so much with so little. We have a clearer sense of the needs of the people we visited: the Shirley Cripps Orphanage, which only has a truck to transport HIV positive children to hospital for antiretroviral drug treatment; Cyrene Mission, badly in need of both transport and a house for a permanent Chaplain; Hurungwe Primary School, a rural project of Cynthia's, which has no proper classrooms; the Anglican Theological College, struggling to equip students for ministry; and Bishops Chad and Cleopas, courageously giving direction and leadership to Christians traumatised by recent events. Please pray for them.

Judith, October 2009

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE APOCALYPSE

A summary of the key points of the letters to the seven churches, which are the subject of our sermon series at 11.15 during November and December. Thanks to Jonathan for providing this.

Revelation	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Rejects evil, perseveres, has patience	Love for Christ no longer fervent	Do the works you did at first	The Tree of Life
Smyrna (2:8 -11)	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life
Pergamum (2:12 – 17)	Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerates cult of idolatry, and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a stone with a new name
Thyatira (2:18 – 29)	Love, service, faith, patience is greater than at first	Tolerates cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive morning star
Sardis (3:1 – 6)	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains	Faithful honoured and clothed in white
Philadelphia (3:7 – 13)	Perseveres in the faith	None	Keep the faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, and the new Jerusalem
Laodicea (3:14 – 22)	None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

Researched by Peter from the Holy Trinity 1928 Jubilee Handbook.

In the life of a church, a period of 50 years is, as years are counted, a small part of its history. But the first 50 years of that history are the great exception. Into those years are crowded a wealth of anticipation and interest, of enthusiasm and love which shine out for all time. The past years of Holy Trinity Church have known some rich blessings from God in this respect. The love and service of many have been given to it and it has created the spirit of affection in the hearts of numbers who have gone from this life or removed from its midst, many to far distant parts of the world.

From the past we turn to the future. In some respects, Holy Trinity Church must face difficulties not known at the beginning of its history. The changing of neighbourhood, and the fresh circumstances of newer times cause the new page of its history to open with a different heading from the first. Yet, looking back over the past, it has confidence to face the future with courage and hope. Believing that the blessing of God will be given if the one desire is to glorify His Name before men, and to make known among them the saving power of the Gospel of Christ, it will go forward with faith and zeal to the new tasks which await it. It will surely be the earnest prayer of all who in the past have loved their Church and those who today love and work for it in varied ways, that it may thus be used still more for the extension of His Kingdom in the years to come.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 11 January Being Moneywise course; 3 How to deal with credit
- 16 January Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 21 Church Hill
- 23 January HT New Year Ball
- 19 February Soul Sisters Film Night
- 5 March Women's World Day of Prayer