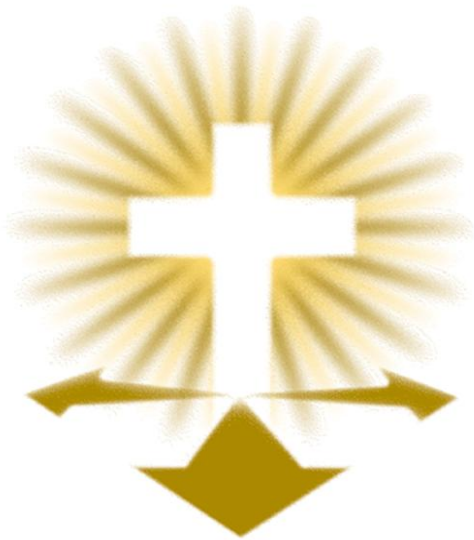


APRIL DIARY - 2010

Trinity Update

April 2010



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'Church for Everyone'

1	8.30am	Prayer for Renewal	(Thursdays)
	10-11.30am	Contact - for parents & toddlers	(Thursdays in term*)
	2.30pm	Women's Hour	(Thursdays)
	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion & Meditation	
2	10am	Good Friday ; Walk with the Cross	
	1-4pm	Meditations on the Cross	
3	8.00pm	Confirmation service at cathedral	
4	<u>EASTER SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY in Crossover	
6	11am & 8pm	Fellowship Groups †	(Tuesdays)
7	11.15am	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits	(Weds)
	7.30pm	POD Groups †	(Weds)
	8.00pm	Fellowship Groups †	(Weds)
8	7.30pm	POD Groups †	(Thursdays)
	7.45pm	Fellowship Groups †	(Thursdays)
10	10am	Praying Wives at HT	
11	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
	7pm to 9pm	Growing Leaders, Crossover	
12	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER at KC21, High St	
	7 - 9pm	Inclusion	
16-17		Band of Brothers weekend (see below)	
18	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Morning Praise	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Holy Communion	
19	7.30pm	POD leaders meeting, 2 Cranmore Lane	
21	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	
23	6-7.30pm	Friendzy (ages 8 and up)	(Fridays in term*)
24	9.00am-1.00pm	Seminar at HT, 'How to be a secure Woman', Speaker Lynn Penson of CWR (see below)	
25	<u>SUNDAY</u>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
	5.20-6.30pm	Caféchurch at Costa Coffee	
26	7 - 9pm	Inclusion	
30	7.45pm	TCPT Prayer meeting in Crossover	

* **Easter holiday for schools in Hampshire is Fri 2 April 2010 to Fri 16 April**
† **Please check dates of Easter break with group leaders**

WOMEN'S HOUR

On Thursday 25th February, Peter Smith a local historian showed images of Old Aldershot and the army camp. Many of our members could relate to these, as they have lived in Aldershot for most of their lives.

The following week we did two interviews, one with Louise Rigby and one with Rosemary Aggett. This helped us to find out a little more of their life, family and hobbies. We hope to do more of these in the future.

On 11th February Ted Parker from Parkside gave us an illustrated talk of the work that goes on at the centre. He was assisted by a young lady called Bonney, she told us of all the different groups that meet there and how they were funded. We had a collection and raised £34 towards the work that these dedicated people do. Parkside is situated near the Aldershot Bathing Pool and caters for the Mentally Handicapped.

The following week Kathy and Sheila from the Rowhill Centre in Cranmore Lane gave us a talk on the spin offs from working at the centre - a most interesting and amusing talk by two lovely ladies.

Daphne and Jean

GOOD NEWS FROM THE SOURCE

The Source young people's charity (which had a financial crisis earlier in the year) reports that money is coming in from successful funding applications. Please continue to pray for adequate funding and for all the many aspects of their work.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

The May 2010 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 25th April.
The LAST date for May articles will be Sunday 18th April.



Hello ladies !

Our next event, which I hope you have already got marked in your diaries, is on Saturday 24th April, 9am to 1pm here at Holy Trinity.

It promises to be an uplifting morning, when we host 'How to be a secure woman in God' presented by the CWR team from Waverley Abbey. The talk will look at how to find that inner strength to face the circumstances that life throws at us, with confidence rather than fear, and to realise that we can be women of influence as we find all our security in Him.

This event is not only for us here at Holy Trinity, but is being advertised within the churches in Aldershot and beyond. Please encourage any women you know - friends, family and colleagues - to come along.

You can pick up a booking form at HT or go to the church website, follow the link for Soul Sisters and find the booking form there as well. The cost is £5.00; this will include drinks and cakes, as well as the talk. Please do book your places as soon as you can; for the first three Sundays in April Trisha Haley and I will be available after the services to take your booking along with payment.

We will also be going to Axminster for our weekend away from 17th-19th September and if you wish to join the 'savings club' for this, it is starting this month. If this is something that you would find useful, then please speak to any one of the team.

Kris

on behalf of Soul Sisters

Church Day Away

Sunday 20th June

@ Aldro School

Please put this in your diary now!

SHAKEN IN SANTIAGO

The Quake

Christine & I landed at Santiago airport on the afternoon of 26th February this year. About 3.30am that night, I thought Christine was shaking and asked if she was all right. She said yes, then she said the bed was shaking (it was on the 6th floor of a 14 storey hotel). Next we both twigged that the whole hotel was shaking and creaking. The flat-screen TV fell off a chest of drawers, pulling the socket off the wall. The lights flickered and went off, as did the water. The bedroom furniture shifted a little and some items encountered the walls. We each prayed a bit about the situation and about the people and buildings around us. I earned a black mark, not for stroking Christine's hand, but for being first to go back to sleep.

Until workmen forced our door open at about 5.30am, we did not know that we had been prisoners. Most of the door frames in the hotel had reshaped during what I reckoned was eight minutes of quake. Almost all the bedroom doors remained unlocked for days. Around breakfast time after the quake, the hotel lobby was full of people in 'bathrobes', some of them injured, possibly by falls on the unlit concrete back stairs while the lifts were out of service.

Apparently, the epicentre was about 40km under the Pacific and about 430km south of Santiago. The quake strength in the small town nearest to the epicentre (confusingly named Los Angeles) was given as 8.8 on the Richter scale. I found four different estimates in the local papers of what the reading might have been **in Santiago**. They also reported more than 200 aftershocks of more than R5 in Santiago in the next 4 days. We had noticed some dozens of them.

What caused it? A part of the Pacific sea floor, called the Nazca plate, has long been pushing its way eastwards under South America and pushing up almost 7000 kilometres of Andes, which include some 150 live volcanoes in Chile alone. That 'plate' apparently moved about 8m east which gave us the quake and set off a tsunami that wrecked Concepcion and some other coastal towns and fishing villages. We saw some pictures of cars and buildings piled up, and a few of boats that the wave abandoned in fields away from the coast. The death toll was first put at about 800 (later revised downwards), of which 90% were in the region of Concepcion and the two adjoining regions.

Thanks to the distance from the epicentre and the strict building regulations, all except one of Santiago's skyscrapers remained standing. (I counted 61 floors in one building; another of 42 floors had just one balcony at a jaunty angle but still attached). Not all of the city's plate glass had been adequately cushioned. A few decorative bits and some rendering and some windows came off several buildings. Older buildings including some churches had damage. One cupola that fell onto a church roof had clearly been not masonry but timber and plaster. (During the first morning this was the picture shown repeatedly by CNN).

www.htca.org.uk

Considering the violence and duration of the quake, the capital got off nearly scot-free. It has 5 million of the 16,000,000 population of Chile.

Spanish New Testaments

As a Gideon, I had taken some Spanish language New Testaments with me and prayed about to whom to offer them. We soon wished we had taken a suitcase of them, though it could be tricky deciding who to offer them to. We emerged from our first metro journey up to street level and encountered a young man who wished to practise his English and be helpful by directing us to various places of interest. When offered an NT, he glanced at it and silently thrust it in his back pocket, next to his wallet. A lot of the people seemed devout. They had been trained to work for their Salvation and to pray through intermediaries for it. More than half instantly grasped they were onto something super. We gave one to a young woman in a tourist office. I could see that she knew, when I put my hand into my inside pocket, that she was going to be given something. She was struggling to restrain tears as she said "My friend has one of these. I have longed for one for years." Perhaps the friend is one of God's special gifts to her neighbourhood.

On day five, the hotel's Security Officer had worked her way down to our floor and to our room, listing the quake damage. She mentioned her parents in Concepcion, both elderly and ill. Her son had gone to look after them. Her in-laws also lived in Concepcion and had 'lost all'. When we showed her a New Testament in Spanish and asked if she had one, she accepted it, weeping.

A girl of about 12 or 14 glanced at me several times on the metro. She seemed to be with a family. I offered an NT to the man next to her, whom I imagined to be her grandfather. He accepted gladly and started to read it. 'Grandfather' proved to be nothing to do with that family and alighted at a different stop. The family alighted at the same stop as we did. I offered the 'Mother' an NT and the family was delighted and profuse in their thanks. While making our way towards a museum we saw 'Grandpa' walking in the opposite direction. He grinned and waved his NT.

A number of people asked if we were Protestants and reacted disappointedly "Oh! Not Christians then!" A number then asked if the book would lead them to Salvation or if it could help them to meet Jesus. A number wept or were on the verge of tears. One or two would probably prop it up and put flowers round it or candles either side of it. We tried to say something about reading the words of Jesus and thinking about them. After I had given the last two to staff at a hotel desk, they showed them to the taxi driver who was about to take us to the airport. He was quick to ask about the books and ask for one. (I will post one)

Isn't it a privilege to be blessed by God?

Isn't it a privilege to get involved in the process of God blessing others?

After the Quake

During the first morning telephone and internet connections were intermittent, so it was difficult to get a message through to say we were OK. After that we could relax and take all the inconveniences in our stride; we were safe, well and in the place where we had intended to be. Other people were less fortunate; the airport was out of action and there were people in the hotel who were due to leave, but couldn't and others who should have arrived, but didn't.

The 1.5 day seminar for which I (Christine) had gone to Santiago was reduced to a single morning, because the civil servants with whom we were supposed to be meeting had other things on their minds. The two Washington-based colleagues were already in Santiago, but of my two UK colleagues, who had set out the day after us, one never got there at all (the first leg of his Air Canada flight was delayed by snow in Toronto and then the onward flight to Santiago was cancelled). The other was diverted to Buenos Aires and arrived 24 hours later, after the airline had arranged a flight to Mendoza (western Argentina) and then a bus journey across the Andes.

We had arrived without having made bookings for the holiday part of our trip, which was probably just as well. We did some sightseeing in Santiago and its immediate neighbourhood, but found that a number of museums were closed, some presumably because the exhibits had been shaken off the shelves, others for unrelated reasons. We had thought of going south to the Chilean lake district, but that was not possible, because of damage to roads. Instead we headed north to the Atacama desert and enjoyed spectacular (if barren) scenery, including views of the Andes, volcanoes, salt lakes, geysers and sightings of llamas (domesticated), vicuñas, a rhea, giant coots and three species of flamingo.

Christine L Arthur

*God is our strength and refuge, Our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear, though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble, though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!*

PODCAST - What have the PODs been doing?

The new POD groups are coming to the end of their first six-week cycle and a number of them have now done their 'app' (application) session, where they put into practice what they have learned in the previous four weeks. Below are some examples of what groups have done for their 'app' (leaders' names in brackets):

- We did a prayer walk round the parish boundary (Kris Hicks and Steve Taverner)
- We joined the Prayer Ministry Team (PMT) to pray with people after the Sunday services (Phil Wilder and Tayo Akeju)
- Through the Town Centre Pastoral Team we made contact with the Police and asked which areas they would particularly like us to pray for. The Police happily obliged, so we split into two groups, one took Station Road and Victoria Road, the other Aldershot Football Ground, Princes Hall and down through the Centre. (Lindzi & Dave O'Connor and Tat Taterek)
- Members took part in the 11.15 service on 21st March, with two reading the lesson and everyone introducing themselves and saying something about their experience of the recent Alpha Course and the POD (George Newton and Ian & Kit Vessey).

SPOTLIGHT ON... PAUL

Paul is a member of the Worship Team. He has been married to Joyce since 1983 (they met at a tenpin bowling alley in Tolworth, near Kingston). They have three sons, Derek 24, Robert 18 and Ian 16.



What was your childhood like?

I was born in Blackley, Manchester in 1952. My mother was a Roman Catholic and my father a Protestant. When I was 5 I went to a Catholic primary school to start 10 years of following the Roman Catholic faith. This meant Mass on Sundays, benediction during the week, confession on Saturdays, and almost daily reading of the Catechism and Bible. I spent much of my childhood and early teens walking in processions around Blackley.

At the age of 11 I moved to a secondary school to experience long morning assemblies and daily religious instruction lessons. It was well after 10am before proper lessons started. One vivid memory I still have is of a breathless deputy headmaster (he was always late) giving my class a “shouting” religious lesson.

There was Mass on Friday mornings with over 400 pupils attending. We were doing “walking crocodiles” over 40 years ago, as the church and school were not far apart. As the front end entered the school doors, the back end was still coming out of the church!!

By the time I got to my mid teens I had had enough of “forced” religious instruction and walked away from Jesus Christ for the next 30 years.

What jobs have you done?

With such strong emphasis on religious instruction my academic education suffered. I spent four years at further education colleges in Manchester and gained a brace of O and A levels. In 1975 I applied to join the Civil Service and became a Customs Officer at Heathrow Airport.

I was at Heathrow for 3 years, gaining an unwanted reputation for finding smuggled pornography. Once I spent all day at a magistrates court, waiting to give evidence against a student I had arrested for smuggling two grams of cannabis. Wearing a smart navy blue uniform attracted attention and odd whistles, but proved a hit at parties. I have many memories of Heathrow, such as being locked on board Concorde when on the ground, boarding a private jet fitted out like a luxury hotel and falling off a passenger jetty access ladder from 60 feet. I landed feet first on the tarmac uninjured.

In 1978, I moved to Customs Headquarters in London working in good and bad buildings. The best was a converted hotel on the South Bank; the worst a wartime bomb-damaged one on Southwark Bridge. The damage had never been repaired. One day I tried opening a window which fell out.

I had to deal with compensation claims for goods damaged during Customs examinations. The worst involved a carved wooden elephant chopped up with a chain saw!! The pieces were then repacked and sent on to the importer. I won't repeat what a senior customs manager said about the staff. From 1997 to 2002 I worked on a national computer project, travelling around the country. I must hold the record for the biggest travel claim ever made in the Civil Service.

In 2002, I moved to the Lord Chancellor's Department in London, now the Ministry of Justice (*or Injustice if you work there*). I have responsibility for managing the production of Consultation Papers and Annual Reports, managing conferences and exhibitions. More recently I have supervised radio and TV interviews and press briefings for bad tempered Government Ministers.

How did you come back to Christ?

I came to HT over 3 years ago, after Joyce began attending. She told me about a trendy vicar who played bass guitar, told dreadful jokes and gave interesting sermons. Intrigued, I came along one Sunday to see this and saw everyone wearing casual clothes. This was such a contrast to the Roman Catholic form of service. I began coming to HT more often and noticed the Worship Team. I asked if they wanted another guitar player and was welcomed with open arms. Despite doing impromptu “gigs” in hotels on business, I had never played in public before. I am a now regular performer, despite sometimes playing the wrong guitar chord. Oddly I can sing loud pop songs well, but do not have a very good Worship song voice. I think this is because JC really likes Rock and Roll.

Would you recommend Christianity to others?

Since those early days I have been on an Alpha course and heard someone (George) speak with authority about the Bible and its meaning, become involved with the J Men, made many new friends, joined a MAGNET group and spoken to other Men's groups about my journey back to Christ. I have realised that, whilst I deserted Him, He never deserted me and has gradually guided me back again to worship. If this is through music, then I welcome it. It is down to yourself how far you go and I would recommend becoming a Christian (or in my case renewing membership).

I am now learning to play the trumpet and hope to play this one day at HT. It's funny though, how when I practise all the doors in my house slam shut and the cats dash out. I have no idea why....

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

Easter, with its important build up, is always important to me. I never fail to be touched and moved by exploring the message of the cross afresh and then rejoicing at the Risen power and presence of the Lord Jesus. We are not planning anything particularly ambitious this year, with POD groups having just got going, but I still want to encourage you all to make the most of this season and draw close to the cross and the Lord.

On **Maundy Thursday**, 1st April, as well as Communion at Women's Hour, to which all are welcome, I will do a short service of Meditation and Communion in church at 7pm (before PODs). On **Good Friday** (2nd), first we will do a walk through the town centre with the large cross, leaving church at 10am, then we will have a series of half hour meditations on the cross in church from 1-4pm (coinciding with the timing of the hours of darkness from the crucifixion). These will hopefully be led by different members of staff; if you want to come for part of that, please come and go only during the hymns on the hour and half hour.

One or two of us will be at the **Confirmation** Service at the cathedral at 8pm on Easter Eve, as Tony and Mohammad from church get confirmed then. All welcome.

Then **Easter Day** gives us a chance, all together, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at our normal times, the 11.15 being an all age service. Do be inviting friends in, and please help to deliver all the newsletters, so the whole parish can be both invited and welcomed in. Our PPP would normally fall on the Monday after Easter but, as that is a Bank Holiday, we have changed that to 6-7pm on Easter evening (4th); we will keep it a bit shorter than usual, but it would be great if you could come, as these times of united, agreed prayer are so important.

Traditionally clergy and members of staff take the inside of the week after Easter off; this will be no exception, so we would be most grateful if you can hold off phone calls and e-mails during that particular week (as they probably won't get answered unless urgent).

The **Band of Brothers** men's weekend in Axminster, 16th-18th April, has been changed to a shorter time down there, especially for men to come and seek the Lord and pray. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we didn't get the required number of folk to make the full weekend possible. Instead, we are going to go down there on the Friday afternoon/evening and come back on Saturday evening. We will have some fun activities, but the main focus now is on praying and listening to God for the way forward. If you want to join us, please do and let myself, Christ or Jonathan know.

From what I can see so far, the POD groups are doing well and some exciting things are lined up for the 'app's'. The first gathering of POD leaders is on 19th and we would value any feedback from the groups for that meeting. We hope also to be starting another **Alpha Course** this month, so come along if you have

never done one or to bring someone interested with you. As always, any help with catering would be greatly appreciated.

The other main and important thing this month is our **AGM**. This will be at 7.30pm on the evening of 21st April. In it we will look back over the last year and give thanks to God for new things. We will need to work through the brief agenda items, which include voting on new members of the PCC and churchwardens (nomination forms are at the back of church). We will then project forward and pray behind the vision of the church for the coming year or so, which feels quite exciting. Each section usually lasts about half an hour and we try to make sure that it isn't a dull and dry meeting. As it is important, we encourage Fellowship and POD groups to take one week off and come to this.

We are looking for at least a couple of members for PCC. The meetings are on Monday evenings six times a year. We look for people who are committed to serving the Lord at His church here and who are people of prayer and who may have some practical skills or insights to offer. We also need one Warden as Paul, to whom we are very grateful for his year's noble service (having also previously served five years) is stepping down. There are clearly elements of responsibility and commitment being a Warden, although life is now eased a bit having a site manager. If you are interested in standing, do talk to Martyn or Paul (or Pat who retired last year) and if you think of someone who would make a good candidate, do approach them!

It has been good to have a number of times when we have linked up with the Nepalese community over the last month or so and it is great to have Jos and Ursula back with us. If anyone feels drawn to working in some way with this people group, among whom God is doing great things, please let me or Jos and Ursula know. I sense great things could happen through this.

As you are all probably aware, Keith is retiring from the **New Life Bookshop** at the end of April (currently all stock is at 50%) and the shop will be closing then, which is very sad. Keith has served the town and the churches of the town in this way for (I think) over thirty years and recently there has been no profit in this work. We would love to give him and his family a significant love gift, showing our huge appreciation for his practical and pastoral ministry to us. If you would like to contribute, please give any donations, either to me or Joyce or Jan, before the middle of this month.

Overall, as I try to look at the big picture, I sense the Lord is saying that we need to be ready for a harvest, beyond what we have known so far. This is an exciting prospect, but it can't be a matter of simply sitting back and watching; we all need to be involved.

So, with this in mind, may the risen Lord strengthen and energize you in His calling on your life.

George

Verses and Visions from March's PPP

A picture of Jesus preparing breakfast for people on the sea shore - cf John 21

My grace is sufficient for you - 2 Cor 12 v9

A challenge from the Lord - having me is enough

A picture of an open fire - with a round top?

Being in a sailing boat - two strands:

- 1) Jesus filling the sails
- 2) the disciples being becalmed and their fishing being unproductive

Elijah - 1 Kings 19 v18 - encouragement - God is in control
(I had read from v11-13, where Elijah complains about being the only one left)

A picture of a figure on the ground in utter wretchedness, but surrounded by God's love

A picture of Jesus on the cross, carrying a red rose, at the front of a boat going through a storm, carrying an ornate mirror

John

IMAGING THE INVISIBLE – ART AT THE CATHEDRAL

It is worth a visit to Guildford Cathedral to gaze at the pictures on display by an artist named Iain McKillop. It is called "Using Art to explore Belief". Each set of pictures repays a long look, even though you may be startled by the intensity of the images, especially by the hands, but generally by the bodies and the expressions on the faces.

The "Crucifixion" was almost too much for me; it is actually called "The young shepherd" and shows a man trapped or caught in a tree of thorns, with the sheep all huddled and crouched beneath him. The detail of Mary's pain, with Jesus lifted down from the Cross, together with John, is likewise unbearable.

Go and see these paintings if at all possible, and before April 11th.

Carol

OBITUARY – THE DEATH OF COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant.

Common Sense lost the will to live, as criminals received better treatment than their victims, when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing

(Thanks to Aehee for this, which we have abbreviated slightly)

CHIEF'S CONCERNS

A Serious Challenge to all of us...

Children are 'over-exposed to sexual imagery'. A Home Office report released last month suggested that today's children and young people are becoming 'sexualised' at an early age through an over-exposure to sexual imagery. The study picked out fashion industry advertising, lads' mags and sexually-charged music videos as some of the key factors.

The report (conducted by psychologist Dr Linda Papadopoulos, as part of the government's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls) said this 'drip – drip' exposure was distorting young people's perceptions of themselves, encouraging boys to become fixated on being macho and dominant, while girls in turn presented themselves as sexually available and permissive

During the last decade, as broadband Internet became commonplace, and then latterly mobile-devices became equipped to handle high-speed Internet access, the porn business went supernova. With total accessibility and almost no regulation, the whole world had access to hardcore images and film at the click of a button.

So, a reality check – most young people have accessed hardcore pornography. Twenty years ago that sentence might have been unthinkable: now, it might even be considered conservative.

What does that mean in practice? It means young people whose expectations on a first date may involve sexual behaviours that many people wouldn't feel comfortable with in the context of a married relationship.

It means teenage sexual relationships, which – if and when they mirror what goes on in Internet videos – are geared towards constantly pushing boundaries, personal gratification, and the objectification and degradation of women.

Youth culture has been 'pornified'. We get young people for a few hours a week: the Internet has them for 100.

Simply telling them not to look isn't an option; we need to equip them with an ethical framework with which to understand the truth about sex and pornography. That means talking about what healthy sexual relationships do and don't look like, and talking about it a lot. This 'pornification' is the cancer at the heart of youth culture. To continue to ignore it is to be complicit in our society's descent.

(Extract taken from April edition of Youthwork)

For more information follow link
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/sexualisation-young-people.html>

If after reading this article you feel concerned in any way, please speak to me.

Viney Hill Adventure Holiday 2010

Monday 9th to Friday 13th August, for ages 8+.

The full cost is still undecided but probably in the region of £160 per child. There may be some discount, **but only** if we are able to secure a grant again from Rushmoor Borough Council.

The Viney Hill centre is on the edges of the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire and is well situated for outdoor activities. Some of the highlights are Raft Building, Abseiling, Climbing, Mountain Bike Trek, and Quarry Scramble.

If your children are interested, see me for booking forms and further details

Caféchurch at Costa, Sunday 25th April, 5.30 – 6.30pm

Money, money, money, it's a rich man's world...

We will be looking at Debt, how this affects people? What can be done to help people?

If you know of anyone, friend, family, neighbour, for whom this subject is relevant, why not invite them to this church with a difference, enjoy a coffee/tea and cake and join in with the discussion in a non-threatening environment.

Jonathan

ROWAN WILLIAMS AT GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, was at Guildford Cathedral on March 2nd. Carol summarises his Afternoon lecture to clergy and their guests.

The congregation was eager and awed by the clarity of thought and grace of manner shown by the Archbishop who is both poet and priest. Here is a man who pushes himself to the limit and who looked it.

Rowan tackled a difficult and much needed subject in this “Multi-Cultural and Multi Faith age”: the uniqueness and finality of Christ. He quoted two texts:

- the words of Jesus in John 14 v.5, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one comes to the Father except through me”
- the words of Peter in Acts 4 v 8–12, “Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved...”

This uniqueness of the faith throws up questions which we meet all the time, questions about other faiths and about what we communicate. There are three groups of difficulties, Moral, Political and Philosophical.

The first is a moral difficulty, can we believe in a just God? What about all the people born before Jesus came, and all the people in lands never visited by the Gospel and all those who “know” everything good about God (except his Son). Can they not be “saved” if they have not heard of Jesus?

The second is “political”: if we claim that Christ is the final truth, isn’t that a justification for the Crusades, for Colonisation and so on?

The third is “philosophical”: where every truth is expressed in its own time and for its own culture; how is it translated in today’s culture?

People with belief in absolute truth or “the uniqueness of Christ” sit uneasily in a society with not only plurality of religions, but also plurality of “options” (we have “choice”, not truth or finality.) These are powerful objections [and we meet them as Street Pastors]. We have to be sure how to meet them, we cannot give up on the uniqueness of Christ.

What the New Testament does **not** say in so many words is that without a vital relationship with Christ, a person will not become what he or she was created to be, but intrinsically it is the conclusion we come to.

“No one comes to the Father but through **me**” means meeting with Jesus and walking in His way - that is following him. Both statements (of Jesus and of Peter) say that without Him we are deprived of the knowledge to find Life. We need to be freed to be what we were created to be, that is, Sons and Daughters of the Heavenly Father. To be intimately related as a child to a Father – designed for that relationship – becoming free to be ourselves.

It all depends on believing that God (in Trinity) is love itself. Step into the stream of Life – it is a gift.

To the moral difficulty, the response is that the unfairness would be in **not** trying to share this truth with all. The “unfairness” is saying we don’t all have access. The response to the “political” difficulty is that faith cannot be enforced by human power. God is able to act without us. Political force cannot guarantee it. To the “philosophical” difficulty Rowan said “A certain form of words is not all there is. Also, complete relativism is not all there is”.

We know ultimately that we become “sons and daughters” of God, and that other cultures and people are also made in the divine image. Uniqueness or humanity? Uniqueness – Yes! In Jesus Christ we have a new “phase” in humanity, it is God’s will for complete reconciliation of man. Uniqueness lies in the one historical moment.

Jesus’ presence changes things and changes lives. Consider the 10 lepers He healed – only one returned to express thanks. Were not the other 9 blessed and healed? They were, but they never expressed it. [To my mind that emphasises how the world is blessed by true Christians who **can** express their faith.]

We are suspicious (rightly) of “hard sell” proselytising, but we believe He matters. All the work that we do as Christians means that “what He is, does and suffers, is liberatingly present to ALL human beings”. We should have the generous desire to SHARE, and the humbleness to listen.

In all, a fine lecture and very relevant to how we work as Street Pastors in Aldershot.

Footnote: In the morning of Rowan Williams’ visit to our diocese, George was one of only five clergy chosen to speak, giving a presentation of the work done in Aldershot by the churches and the outreach done by Holy Trinity in particular.

We were all praying for George in this and know that the work will be blessed and increased because of it.

Carol

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

15 May	Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 10 Wentworth Crescent, Ash Vale
20 June	HT Day Away at Aldro School
26 June	Aldershot Churches Together Fun Day in Manor Park
8-12 Sept	ACT Big Tent Event
17-19 Sept	Soul Sisters weekend away at Axminster

REMINDER - CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

If you think of Holy Trinity as 'your' church, please consider signing up to the Electoral Roll, the church's official membership list. To be entitled to vote at this year's Annual Parish Meeting (21 April) you need to do this by 5 April.

Under Church of England rules you need to be aged at least 16, be baptised (not necessarily in the Church of England) and **either** live within the Holy Trinity parish **or** have worshipped here for at least 6 months.

Please see me for a form (or if you already have a form, remember to fill it in and give it to me).

Christine

Called by Mind & Spirit

Crossing the Borderlands of Childhood By Gavin Knight and Joanna Knight

A unique exploration of the identity, formation and vocation of children and adolescents via the joint perspectives of a priest and a psychologist

Gavin (the son of Val and Jim Knight) and Jo are also co-authors of *Disturbed by Mind and Spirit: Mental Health and Healing in Parish Ministry*.