

MAY DIARY - 2010

Trinity Update

May 2010



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'Church for Everyone'

2	CPAS SUNDAY 9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service with Kids Praise 6.00pm PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY in the Chancel 7pm to 9pm Growing Leaders, Crossover	
4	11am & 8pm Fellowship Groups	(Tuesdays)
5	11.15am Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits 7.30pm POD Groups	(Weds) (Weds)
6	8.00pm Fellowship Groups 8.30am Prayer for Renewal 10-11.30am Contact - for parents & toddlers 2.30pm Women's Hour 7.30pm Alpha Course, 2 Cranmore Lane 7.30pm POD Groups 7.45pm Fellowship Groups	(Thursdays) (Thursdays in term) (Thursdays) (Thursdays) (Thursdays) (Thursdays)
7	6-7.30pm Friendly (ages 8 and up)	(Fridays in term)
8	10am Praying Wives at HT	
9	SUNDAY 9.30am Holy Communion with prayer for healing 11.15am Alternative Service	
10	7.30pm ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER at KC21, High St	
	7 - 9pm Inclusion	
13	7.30pm Ascension Day service at Church of Ascension– see page 9	
15	8.30am Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 10 Wentworth Crescent, Ash Vale	
16	SUNDAY 9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service with Holy Communion	
17	7.30pm PCC meeting, Crossover	
19	(also 24 th) Training on Prophetic Evangelism. See notices for times & venues; see also page 10	
20	7.30 for 8pm Supporting the Army community, Farnborough – see page 5	
23	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9.30am Holy Communion 11.15am Alternative Service with prayer for healing 9am - 5pm Growing Leaders Day Away, Stockton House, Fleet	
24	7.30pm Fellowship Group Leaders, 2 Cranmore Lane	
28	7.30-10.00pm J-Men 'Men and Motors' (open to whole family) – see p14-15 7.45pm TCPT Prayer meeting in Crossover	
30	TRINITY SUNDAY 9.30am Morning Praise 11.15am Alternative Service 5.20-6.30pm Caféchurch at Costa Coffee – Jazz – see pages 10 & 14 7 - 9pm Inclusion (Night Out)	

WOMEN'S HOUR

On March 25th Alison (Val's daughter) talked of the difficult time the family went through when her son went to Afghanistan and the faith they all needed to cope. Thankfully he came home safely. Our thanks to Alison for sharing these thoughts with us.

The same afternoon we presented Audrey and Peter with a photo album of all of our members, present and past. Jenny wrote a lovely story about their life and after I had read it, we toasted their time with us at Women's Hour. We felt it was a good time to celebrate this, so when they do go to Germany, it won't be so hard for us all to say our goodbyes. We ended the afternoon with tea and cakes.

On April 1st, which was Maundy Thursday, George took a lovely Communion service for us, which we all appreciated, as we know this is a very busy time for our Vicar. We were all given a favour of sweets as a token Easter gift.

April the 8th was an open meeting, when we had some lovely music and readings. These afternoons encourage members to take part by reading in front of others.

On the 15th April Jenny, a Christian lady, gave us a talk on a visit she made to Nigeria to the slum areas and how she now helps sixteen of the ladies who live there. They have been taught to make cards and Jenny goes round various groups and sells them to support the women and their families.

Daphne and Jean

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

The diocese will be running a training course from September 2010. If interested, you should talk to George and will need to be approved by PCC.

Applicants for September 2010 need to register with Sue Lawrence of the diocese (Sue.lawrence@cofeguildford.org.uk) as soon as possible (before 31 May).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

**The June 2010 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 30th May.
The LAST date for June articles will be Sunday 23rd May.**

WHO ARE CPAS?

On Sunday 2nd May we have a visiting speaker from CPAS (the Church Pastoral Aide Society). But who are CPAS and what do they do?

CPAS supports evangelical churches and their leaders, mainly through training courses and resources. This includes:

- training courses and events for existing church leaders and exploratory weekends for those considering full time Christian service, whether lay or ordained
- course materials and other resources to help develop Christian leaders – the 'Growing Leaders' course for HT's young people is based on CPAS material
- regional advisers who can support and help church leaders.

CPAS also runs Venture Camps, Christian activity holidays for young people (8-18). These include the subsidised Falcon Camps for young people who face disadvantage in their everyday lives and would not otherwise have a summer holiday.

Last but not least, CPAS act as the 'patrons' for about 500 Church of England parishes, including HT, which means that when there is a vacancy for a vicar, they work with the church representatives to advertise the post and make the appointment. So that is how we got George!

Church Day Away

SUNDAY 20th June

Aldro School

Please put this in your diary now!

RUTH HALEY WITH MAF IN SUDAN

Ruth, elder daughter of Dave and Trisha and a former member of HT's youth group, has begun a six month temporary contract in Sudan with MAF, the Mission Aviation Fellowship. (She was due to fly out to Sudan on April 21st, but at the time of writing this is in some doubt, because of the current disruption to air travel.)

MAF helps the work of Christian missionaries and local evangelists, as well as medical workers and humanitarian relief personnel, by providing transport for staff in remote areas and by transporting food, seed, livestock and medical supplies, fuel, Bibles and other books.

Ruth will be based in Juba in Southern Sudan and will be employed in an administrative and financial role.

Please pray for health and safety for Ruth as she adapts to life in a difficult region.

MAF – Overcoming barriers, Transforming lives, Building God's Kingdom

HOW CAN HOLY TRINITY SUPPORT ALDERSHOT'S ARMY COMMUNITY?

Do you pray for the Armed Forces or soldiers at Aldershot, Minley, Deepcut, Sandhurst or Pirbright? Do you wonder how you could be better informed about what to pray for, or whether there's anything more that you could do? If so, you're not alone. So, why not join others asking the same question?

at St Peter's Church Farnborough

on 20 May 10 at 7.30 pm (starting 8.00 pm, through to 9.30 pm)

There will be information about the Army community, information on how to pray, the chance to meet serving personnel and discussion of what physical or pastoral needs Army families are faced with....and **we will pray**

There will also be information on the **Big Tent Event, 9-12 Sep 2010.**

Do pass this on to anyone you know who wants to do more in giving Christian care to Army personnel and their families.

CONCERT AT ST MICHAEL'S RAISED £550 FOR TCTP

The concert at St Michael's on Palm Sunday, organised by Alison, raised £550 for the work of the Town Centre Pastoral Team. The team extend a big thank you to Alison and to her team of talented performers and helpers.

Those who attended enjoyed a very entertaining afternoon and the opportunity to chat to people from other local churches.

AN ATHEIST IN THE WOODS

An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! "What beautiful animals!", he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look and saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer.

He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up, but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him...

At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky: "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident ... 'Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well", said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke:

"For what I am about to receive, may the Lord make me truly thankful, Amen."

SPOTLIGHT ON CAROL

Carol has been a member of HT for about three years. She is a sidesperson, part of the after-church coffee team and a member of two fellowship groups and a POD group. She works part time as a gardener, including for HT, and does voluntary work at the Salvation Army shop.

What was your family background?

I was born in Wimbledon, but we moved to Frimley and I went to primary schools in Frimley and then to France Hill Comprehensive Secondary School in Camberley.

I have four brothers, all married, and a younger sister. There was another sister, but she died aged only 5 weeks. I don't see a lot of my brothers, but I'm very close to my sister and my two nieces.



My parents both died before I was 30. I don't think I grieved properly at the time, because of needing to support my sister.

What's the first news story you remember hearing?

I think it would have been the first moon landing. I remember staying up to watch it on television.

What jobs have you done?

I left school at 17 and worked first at Johnson's Wax in Frimley Green. I gained a Pitman Typing Certificate through further education, but I didn't really like office work. Then I got a job as a lifeguard at Farnborough Recreation Centre and trained as a swimming teacher and a badminton coach. I was at Farnborough for eight years before moving to Aldershot as a swimming teacher and co-ordinator of swimming lessons, liaising with all the schools.

I was made redundant from that job when I was 40, because of organisational changes. I went to the Army Camp in Aldershot as a cleaner and then became supervisor of a team of six. I had already had health problems while I was at Aldershot Pool and then I had a nervous breakdown and was in hospital and I eventually gave up work because of high blood pressure.

How did you become a Christian?

Things went downhill after I stopped work. I spent too much time alone, I was anxious and depressed and I was drinking too much and drink-driving. Eventually, in 2006, I was sent to prison for 8 weeks.

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In prison I asked to go to church, partly just to get out of the cell for a while. I was invited to join an Alpha Course and at first I just went for the food. The Alpha Course leader had been at KC21 in Aldershot and encouraged me to go there when I got out. Then, when I came back to Aldershot, I started doing voluntary work in a charity shop to rebuild my confidence and a friend I worked with encouraged me to come to Holy Trinity.

I suppose it was after coming to HT for about a year that I committed myself to Christ – I saw that following Christ is far better.

Would you recommend Christianity to others?

Certainly, it's life changing. People would be amazed at how much you can change if you let the Lord into your life. I'm much happier and more secure now. I have a new purpose in life and safety in Christ. I now have friends, faith and support from the church. Other people can see the change in me.

Finding Christ has been a life saver and I've had great support from people in church. Aehee has been a great mentor.

The POD group is good because it gets me out of my comfort zone and encourages me to do new things; I did a presentation last night, which I'd never have done before. And it makes me really **study** my Bible.

We hear about people being made worse by a time in prison – that obviously wasn't your experience?

Prison did me a lot of good. I believe I was sent there for a reason. It gave me time to think. I joined AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) there and there were courses in things like wellbeing and anger management and the chance to get certificates in Maths and English.

I also had the chance to work in the prison garden, which I enjoyed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

LISA'S TRIP TO THE GAMBIA

Dear Church,

I would first like to say a huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated items for the schools and families I met on my trip - they were truly thankful for everything received! *(The boy in the photo below is wearing one of the jumpers sent by the HT knitters.)*

Gambia is an amazing place, full of beautiful scenery, fascinating wildlife and happy, friendly, extremely hard working people. I spent two weeks there altogether, in the first week I was based near the main city, Banjul, in a large town called Bakau, where I and a group of 14 other teachers, head teachers and lecturers visited schools and colleges in Serrekunda. The schools were fascinating and the class sizes were around 60, as I had expected. However I did not realise that many schools there have so many pupils that they need to run 2 'shifts' a day - tiring work for the teachers who chose to teach both shifts!



There were a lot of quite modern buildings there and many people lived in flats or cement housing blocks (called Compounds) with their extended family; these often had 2 rooms for sleeping, with a little furniture. Unemployment is extremely high and the few people working in a compound tended to try to earn enough money to survive - there was little focus on accumulation of wealth in many places.



During the second week I travelled with a friend on a trip up the river to Janjanbureh - we spent 5 hours sailing on The Gambian river - it was just beautiful! We saw many different birds, monkeys and even a hippo!

We saw a lot of small communities inland, consisting of smaller huts, often surrounding a grand white mosque - most of the country are now Muslim, with Catholicism also having strong

influences. Then we travelled to a small village in the south called Kartong where we set up links with the school and community.

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The people there spoke a huge variety of languages - namely English and French (as it is close to the Senegal border) as well as the 4 main Gambian tribal languages - Mandinka, Jullas, Wollofs and Fullas, as well as some other local languages. They were very clever people! It was in this community that I gave and used most of the donations given by church, and the head teacher shared the items throughout the school and families most in need and they were very, very grateful.

What most struck me about the trip was just how happy and friendly everyone was, despite often living in such difficult conditions. The children were active, emotionally balanced and motivated to learn and succeed (as well as being huge football fans!) The adults were hard-working and happy, working together and helping each other in every aspect of life, they called it 'social living', with unity and peace is encouraged everywhere I went. There was little fear of crime or violence, especially as I moved away from the tourist areas. There was such a strong sense of community cohesion and family values there - so much that many people in the UK could learn a lot from. There were some stereotypes shown by many people towards our group - children often assumed that we had lots of money and would give them money or buy things for them - an attitude that has been reinforced by many tourists before us and some young men have adapted 'charmer' style conversation techniques to try to encourage us to do the same. I did spend a lot of time talking to people about how the UK might have wealth in some ways but, The Gambia is really blessed with a sense of community that we do not always have in the UK - something they should be proud of and we could learn from here.

My trip was as part of an MA in education and I am currently writing an assignment investigating and comparing community cohesion in The Gambia and the UK, studying its impact on the child in both countries. The trip really helped to make me aware of how lucky we are here, but also how important it is to live out our Christian values in the UK today. Values such as helping each other and working together are such a natural part of Gambian life, and values that many people seem to have lost in today's individualised, materialistic, technological age and our happiness in many cases has not increased as a result. Walking against the 'world view' can be really tricky at times, however, seeing Gambia has really opened my eyes that social cohesion and a happy, respectful society is possible for us all. It would be good to pray that more Gambian people come to know the Lord Jesus and also that people in the UK can learn more of our Christian values and build stronger, trusting, respectful communities for all of our futures.

Thank you,
Lisa

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM THE SOURCE

After the funding crisis at the end of last year, there is now better news on the financing of The Source young people's charity. They say:

Praise God that we are edging towards a more stable financial condition and that He continues to provide and enable us to do His work. Pray for all our fundraising and applications to grants, as this year we are looking to replace some significant funds that are coming to an end

There is good news also from the Teenage Parent Mentoring project:

Praise God that out of the 20 mums who are part of our project, 10 are looking or are interested in God and His love and are coming to church or the Thursday night suppers. Thank God for them all and pray that they will come to know the love of God in a real, life-changing way.

More funding is needed to assure the future of the mentoring project and also for the new proposal for a house for teenage mums.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE LARDER

When you shop, don't forget to pick up a few extra things to help stock "The Larder", which provides food parcels to people in need. The following non-perishable items are useful and can be left in the box at the back of church:

Tea/Coffee	Small or large tinned baked beans (with sausages popular)
Cereals	Small and large tinned spaghetti
Sugar (small pack)	Soup – tomato, mushroom, chicken, vegetable
Tinned fruit	Tinned tuna, corn beef, pork or ham
Rice/Pasta	Tinned meat/stews (not pies, tinned or otherwise)
Biscuits (sweet)	Tinned vegetables – peas, carrots, green beans, sweetcorn, potatoes
Loo paper	Cooking sauces
Kitchen paper	Jam, paste - meat or fish
Washing-up liquid	Soap, toothpaste, shampoo
	Dog/Cat food – we are often asked to feed pets

Please DO NOT donate Bread, Butter/Spread or Eggs; these are bought when needed. Donations in cash can be used to top up supplies.

For more information talk to Dawn or Jane

www.htca.org.uk

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday May 13th is Ascension Day. This will, as usual, be celebrated in an evening service at 7.30pm at the Church of the Ascension in Ayling Hill. Members of other Aldershot churches are warmly invited. Watch the notices for any further information.

10 YEARS IN ALDERSHOT AND NO ENGLISH FRIENDS ...

We recently met a Nepalese lady who has lived here for 10 years without getting to know any English people personally. Most Nepalis arriving in this country don't know how to relate to us. They often feel inferior and they wonder if we even want to relate to them.

Here at Trinity we are keen to bridge the gap and have got together with other local churches to look at ways of integrating. So far we have had 3 meetings, the last one at HTCA when the Bishop of Guildford was here in March. 19 members of the local English churches spent time with 14 local Nepalese Christians considering practical ways of working together.

It feels wrong for us to be worshipping separately from our local Nepalese Christian brothers and sisters – this is not at all how the Bible pictures it when one group moves into another group. We are looking at ways of integrating while recognising the real problems of language.

Another idea going forward from the meeting is the production of a DVD explaining Nepalese culture. We hope to arrange seminars for teachers to help them understand the background, customs and taboos of their Nepalese pupils.

Nepalese people feel very lonely in the UK when they first arrive. Both new arrivals and those who have been here a while would love to meet you. The UK is a baffling place to them and they'd appreciate some local knowledge, where to go for what, etc. If you'd like to host a Nepali, a couple or family for a cuppa or a meal, talk to Urs or Jos. We are also planning with Louise from KC21 to provide a social club primarily for Nepalis to get together, but also to be a contact point.

This is a key moment in the history of the Nepalese people in Aldershot. With so many new ones arriving now is the time to build bridges, or the two communities may forever remain apart.

Let us together seize the moment!

Jos and Ursula

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

Easter seems a long time ago now, but we had some very positive times of both outreach and worship at that time, with special blessing as we gathered on Easter Day. May we continue to know the presence of the risen Lord amongst us to energise and empower us as we follow Him.

This month's PPP, as in April, will be on the first Sunday, as the first Monday is a Bank Holiday, so please join us at 6pm on 2nd May for a slightly briefer-than-normal time of prayer which will be in the chancel.

Following the AGM we are pleased to welcome some new (or returning) additions to the team of wardens (see facing page).

The Town Centre Pastoral Team have organised some training on 'prophetic evangelism' on both the evening of Weds 19th and the morning of Saturday 22nd (both will cover the same stuff). The emphasis is particularly on how to listen to God and hear Him before stepping out. Even if you are not on the team, you are welcome to either of these sessions which will be led by Tim Grant of Spearhead.

The J-Men Men and Motors event should be a big and excellent occasion; it is on Friday 29th May at Mill Lane Renault and open to all (not just men). We hope for big crowds to come, and there will be an F1 car and many other attractions. Make sure you are inviting everyone you know!

This month's Café Church in Costa Coffee (5.20 for 5.30 on Trinity Sunday, 30th) will have a Jazz feel to it. If you know people who are interested in things spiritual but are not keen on church, do invite them to these gatherings. I like to give these 'services' the strapline – 'church for those who don't go to church'!

That Sunday, being Trinity Sunday, is the nearest we get to a 'patronal festival' as we are Holy *Trinity*, and I hope our services that day will include something of celebration, as well as prayer for unity (as the Trinity is in perfect unity) and teaching about the important topic of the Trinity.

Our first cricket fixture of the season is on the evening of 3rd June against St. Peter's and I do hope we will be able to get a team together!

Keep praying for the PODs as they are midway through their second cycle and planning their next App., that they may see genuine growth in many different ways. It has been interesting to see the Lord burdening different people in different PODs with different things that can be worked towards, to bring to birth something new.

Alpha has started again with a slightly smaller group which is gelling nicely. Do be praying for those on the course and helping, and we could still do with a number more to sign up for catering. It is generally on Thursday evenings, but a few have to be on Wednesdays.

Something we prayed about at the last PPP was whether the church should be open for prayer for a regular hour each day, or whether we should do another half night of prayer or 24 hours of prayer or even read through the whole Bible continuously over a day or two. As you pray, if you sense any direction in these areas, please let me know.

George

Verses and Visions from April's PPP (Easter Day)

A number of pictures/references to cleaning/housekeeping etc, perhaps indicating the need to review situations and as issues arise, to clear the rubbish out of our lives.

The sound of a rushing wind.

'Listen to me; be slow to speak and quick to listen.'

'I have made you a house of prayer for the nations.' Possibly indicating that we need to put on a special prayer time for those from other nations here in Aldershot, as well as to pray more for the world.

NEW WARDENS AND DEPUTY WARDENS

At the Annual Parish Meeting, Martyn and Pat were elected as our Church Wardens. We are very grateful to Martyn for continuing in this position and to Pat, returning to the role after a year's gap; also to Paul, stepping down after a number of years' service. We are required by the Church of England to have two Churchwardens, who have legal responsibilities for the running of the church.

We are also grateful for the people who agreed to serve (or to continue to serve) on the rota of Deputy Wardens, taking responsibility for the smooth running of the services. This will take some of the pressure off Martyn and Pat. The Deputy Wardens are Marion, David, Phil, Ian and Garry.

CHIEF'S CONCERNS

- **Men & Motors, Friday 28th May, 7.30 to 10pm**
Mill Lane Renault, Aldershot

Building on the success of last year's event, this time we are staging Men & Motors in the local Renault showroom. On display will be a selection of Classic and Performance cars plus, for the first time, a Formula 1 Racing car. As well as exciting sideshows, competitions and prizes, Renault will provide in-house expertise for the serious enthusiast.

Men & Motors is open to all the family, (yes, women and children!) £5 on the door + there will be concessions and family tickets available on line at www.htca.org.uk or at 01252 404065. To get on board or find out more speak to me or Pete.

- **cafechurch 'JAZZ' at Costa Coffee, Sunday 30th May, 5.20 – 6.30pm**

This is going to be a bit different from our previous events; it is still taking shape, so watch out for more details. What I can tell you is that Dave will be playing live Jazz for us in Costa Coffee and that it will be a chilled, social time for all, in a non-threatening environment.

- **5-A-Side-Footy**

I'm thinking of booking Connaught School sports hall for a couple of hours after church on some Sundays for 5-a-side footy. If we can get enough people, it will only be a few ££'s each. This is open to the ladies and to young people age 13 upwards, as well as men. If you are interested give me a shout, email, phone etc

- **Resources for the Journey**

Have you in the past or recently stopped to ask a person for directions? He or she tells you to go about half-a-mile north, left at the traffic lights, stay to the right, and go past two more roads to the next junction – and you're more confused than ever. You wish that person would say, 'follow me, I'm heading in that direction.'

Jesus said virtually the same thing in John 14:5-6. Did Jesus say He was only one way among many ways? Or is He the only way? Thank your Lord, right now, that He does not hand you an impossible creed as a road map for life. He offers you himself! (Joni Eareckson Tada)

Jonathan

www.htca.org.uk

RENAULT  Team

Men and Motors

Friday 28th May

7.30 to 10pm

Venue - Mill Lane Renault,
Ash Road, Aldershot,
GU12 4HD

Parking available



F1 Racing car

Classic cars

Performance cars

Competition & prizes

organised by:

J-men