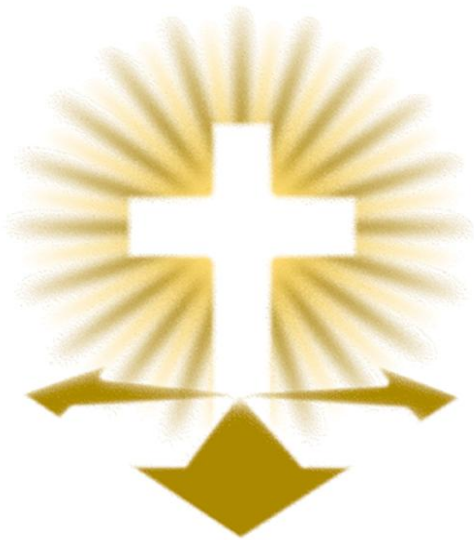


Trinity Update

September 2010



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
‘Church for Everyone’

SEPTEMBER DIARY – 2010

1	11.15am 7.30pm 2.30 & 8.00pm	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits POD Groups Fellowship Groups	(Weds) (Weds*) (Weds*)
2	8.30am 2.30pm 7.30pm 7.45pm	Prayer for Renewal Women’s Hour POD Groups Fellowship Groups	(Thursdays) (Thursdays) (Thursdays*) (Thursdays*)
3	10.30am 7.45pm	Fellowship Group TCPT Prayer meeting in Crossover	(alternate Fridays*)
4	10am-5pm	Victoria Day in Aldershot	
5	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Alternative Service with Kids Praise	
6	5.30-7.00pm 7.30pm	Presentation by Daughters of the King at HT PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY	
7	11am, 7.30pm & 8pm	Fellowship Groups	(Tuesdays*)
9-12 ACT Big Tent Event			
9	10-11.30am	Contact - for parents & toddlers	(Thursdays in term)
10	6-7.30pm	Friendly (ages 8 and up)	(Fridays in term)
11	10am	Praying Wives at HT *	
12	SUNDAY 11.00am-12.30 7.00-9.00 pm	BIG TENT EVENT Celebration of life and faith service for civilian & military Healing Service with Tim Grant. No services at HT on Sunday 12th	
13	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER at St Michael’s Church	
	7.00-8.00pm	Inclusion (provisional *)	
17-19		Soul Sisters weekend away at Axminster	(see page 3)
18	10am-12.00	Coffee Morning for Flower Fund	(see page 2)
19	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Morning Praise Alternative Service with Holy Communion Youth POD (details to be confirmed *)	
20	7.30pm	PCC meeting, Crossover	
23	7.15pm	Alpha Supper (venue to be confirmed)	
25	9.30-4.00	Diocesan Day of Prayer (see page 7) (No Ladies Prayer breakfast in September)	
26	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Alternative Service	
27	7.00-8.00pm 7.30 pm	Inclusion (provisional *) POD leaders meeting at 2 Cranmore Lane	
28	6.30-7.45pm	Caféchurch at Costa Coffee; God at Work	
30	7.30pm	Alpha course, provisionally * (Thursdays)	

WOMEN'S HOUR

Women's Hour starts back on Thursday September 2nd with a communion service in Crossover at 2.30pm

Last Christmas we made up Shoe Boxes for Samaritans' Purse, a charity which sends filled shoe boxes to countries where children have very little. This year we would like to send some more and to make up as many Shoe Boxes as possible. So we at Women's Hour are asking if anybody from our church family would like to donate items to fill these boxes, for example pencils, note books, rubbers, toiletries, gloves, scarves, socks, tennis balls, felt-tip pens, puzzle books, pencil cases, hairbrushes, hair clips, bangles, and necklaces; trucks and cars for boys and soft toys for girls. These are a few of the items we would love to receive.

Women's Hour will gladly cover the boxes and fill them and hand them over to the representative, who will collect them.

Each box costs £ 2.50 towards the cost of transport so perhaps you could help in this way. On Sunday Sept 5th we will have some boxes made up, so that you can see the amount of goodies we need.

Daphne and Jean

FLOWER LADIES' COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Coffee Morning with cake stall and raffle on:

Saturday 18 September

10am to 12 noon.

to raise money for flowers and for the purchase of more pedestals.



Thanks to all those who attended or helped at the Coffee Morning on 24 July. It raised £113.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including to Rob for the illustrations.

**The October issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 26th September.
The LAST date for October articles will be Sunday 19th September.**



SOUL SISTERS

Soul Sisters is Holy Trinity's answer to good fun, fellowship & generally a great laugh for all "the ladies" - young (over 14yrs) & more mature.

On Friday 6th August 45 ladies met at the Jolly Miller pub in Odiham for an evening of skittles; the food was plentiful and enjoyed by everyone. Everyone had a really good fun time. Thank you to those who supported the event, and to Marian and Trisha who did all the organising. No doubt we will re-visit this event at some time in the future, as it's so popular.

AXMINSTER – WEYCROFT HALL WEEKEND AWAY

When: Friday 17th to Sunday 19th September
Where: Weycroft Hall, Axminster
Cost: about £70, including most meals.
All monies to be paid by 11th September.

By popular demand we are organising another weekend away – time for connecting with the Lord and with each other, to build us up and encourage one another. It will be run in much the same way as last year's event, but with a different emphasis and focus. This year's theme is “**Listening, Hearing, Waiting**”

We plan to have three guest speakers, some creative takes on our theme, game time, beach time, quiet time in the grounds and some really good fellowship and worship. Don't miss out – come and join us.

PRE AXMINSTER MEETING

When: Saturday 11th September
Where: Holy Trinity Church
Time: 9.30am prompt for 1 hour

You will need to attend this meeting, if you are coming on the weekend; it's an important information meeting where we need to collect information from you, ie contact/medical details, and we need to give you information, ie what clothes to take, who will travel with whom and that kind of thing. If you are unable to attend please contact one of the team a.s.a.p.

ALL MONEY MUST BE PAID BY SATURDAY 11TH - DON'T FORGET.

Kris

On behalf of Soul Sisters

SOCIAL GROUP FOR NEPALI LADIES

Starting Sept 13th, fortnightly on Mondays, 1-3pm at KC21

Louise and Jill from KC21, Yogita, Mary and myself (all HT) are starting this group. Prompting came from a similar group in Fleet, who have members living in Aldershot. At the first meeting we plan to take ideas from the ladies as to what they'd like to do. Ideas so far include cooking English puds, knitting, sewing, learning English. We hope it will be chilled space for ladies to relax, meet new friends and generally feel more at home in this country.

Do contact me on 702591 if you'd like to be involved in any way.

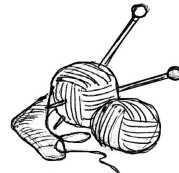
Ursula

JUMPERS FOR NEPAL

People in HT and elsewhere are continuing to knit jumpers for children in Nepal, as there is still a need, especially for children living at high altitude. Help is now needed with transportation. If anyone has any good ideas for an inexpensive means of transportation (or would like to join the army of knitters), please speak to **Jean or Ursula**.

AN APPEAL FOR WOOL

Have you any wool at home that you don't need? I knit about 100 scarves a year to go into shoe boxes for the Third World and would be grateful for any spare wool.



Deirdre

THANK YOU FROM URSULA

Dear All

It is nearly a year now since I was told I had cancer. Looking back now, I see that I have much to thank God for, I have been blessed in many ways and I would like to say thank you:

- For the prayers and support of Pete, Carl, Nic and Tanya and the cuddles of little Isabella
- For my sister Helena's many texts and emails of support, love and prayers from South Africa
- For prayers, messages of love and support from Derek and Annelise in Australia
- For prayer, flowers, cards and messages of support from the church family at Holy Trinity Aldershot
- For prayers, flowers, cards and messages of support from our Bible Study group
- For kindness and thoroughly professional care of the doctors and nurses at Frimley Park Hospital and St Luke's Cancer Centre
- For the support and understanding of my manager, Kate, and the management at Tindle Newspapers Limited

For the results of all that prayer:

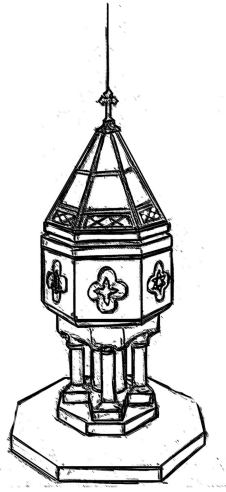
- a letter from the oncologist to my doctor which starts "Mrs Genari has made a remarkable recovery....." 😊
- that I was able to work full time for two weeks out of every three weeks of treatment and am now back at work full time.
- that I only experienced weakness, tiredness and nausea, whilst many others on the same treatment had some quite awful side effects
- And always there was the peace of spirit that the Lord promised

Thank you all again and hoping to see more of everyone in time

Ursula

SHOULD WE KEEP THE OLD FONT?

As most church members know, we have been trying for some time to install a baptistery in church, so that those who wish to do so can be baptised – or, in some cases, renew their baptismal vows - by full immersion. Money for this purpose was given in the Gift Day in 2006, plans were drawn up, discussed with the DAC (the Diocesan Advisory Committee, whose approval is required), modified, re-submitted, further discussed – and so on.



One of the issues was that the Chancellor of the diocese was not keen on the idea of two places of baptism in the church building; this could make it seem as if there are two quite different baptisms. Most churches that go for a baptistery seem to remove their old font. We preferred to keep ours and a compromise of moving the font to be adjacent to the baptistery was eventually agreed. In the meantime, however, the price for moving the font (which requires specialist builders) had gone up by about another £3,000 and the cost of the baptistery installation itself had risen by £1,000 because of the time delay. This is currently beyond our possible budget.

The new baptistery is now being installed, but we still need to resolve the fate of the font. Should we keep the old font? Do we still need it?

One possibility discussed at PCC would be to de-consecrate it and use part of it as a feature in the building.

Arguments for keeping the old font are that:

- the font will be more suitable for infant baptisms and may be preferred by some adults
- it is part of the historic fabric of the church and harmonises with the pulpit
- there would most probably be strong opposition from organisations like the Victorian Society if we wanted to scrap it
- it will cost us money to remove it (although less than if we relocate it).

The PCC has not reached any conclusion on this, but will discuss it again in their September meeting. We should like to have the views of the rest of the congregation. If you particularly want to see the font kept, please consider how we might raise the extra money.

Please let us know what you think, either by writing/emailing (to George or to Joan Davies who is the PCC secretary) or by buttonholing a PCC member and making sure your views are noted. **Please do this before the next PCC meeting on 20th September.**

PCC members are: Alan, Martyn, Joan, Pat, Carol, Jean, Dave, Kris, Dawn, Jos, Joyce, John, Andrew, Heidi, , Christine, plus John, Moira, Jonathan.

EXPLORING THE FULLNESS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

TO FIND BETTER WAYS OF LIVING TODAY

Wednesday 13th October 2010, 8pm

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

A SAINTLY GUIDE FOR PRAYER TODAY

presented by Father Keith Hodges, Vicar of St Augustine's, Aldershot

with Father Andrew & Deacon Barnaby

To receive information about future *School of Prayer* events please leave your name, address and telephone number on 01483 564526 or email parishoffice@stnicolas-guildford.fsnet.co.uk



MY GAP YEAR...

Tom reports on his Christian Gap Year

Dear friends and family

As you are aware, in September last year I went on my gap year (called Xplore) with Church Army in Sheffield. I want to thank everyone who supported me financially and with prayers throughout the year. It was much appreciated.

I'm sure that you are thinking 'What did he learn, and what are his plans now?'

I went there in September thinking, I was in for a tough ride, as I haven't really been challenged in my life or in my faith and I guess not really knowing how to cope or react with the different life style didn't help. I was home for Christmas last year. I could so easily have given up and not gone back in January. It was a brave but a very rewarding move to go back.

At the time it was very hard to learn that I would not be going to Australia, which was very heart breaking and disappointing. But I carried on and I did a placement in Sheffield from the end of January to the beginning of June. It was an amazing placement. I met and worked with some amazing people. My life completely changed for the better, as I worked with the older generation and helped out with younger people. My week looked something like this; every other Monday I helped with the Wadsley lunch club, in which I was helping prepare dinner and serving older folks;

Tuesday was when I helped out at Polly's People, which was an older generation group. I was usually just helping serve them and socialising. I also attended a Bible study cell group for teenagers in the evening - that was great.

Wednesday was my favourite day because it was Polly's Parlour and I was a waiter and we turned a church into a café and I was taking orders and serving the people that came in;

On Thursdays and Fridays I worked on a farm, in which we were helping build a house, which was fun; on Thursday evening it was soup run and Friday evening was kids youth group, which I enjoyed.

After placement and another week back home I went back for a debrief. I was a bit nervous about meeting up with team again, but from June until July this was the best month of my life, with great team atmosphere and leaning about God.

My future plans are still unclear. I want to do something like reaching people of the world with drug problems and other things, but I also want to join the Fire and Rescue service.

So I'm not sure which path I am going to choose. I made great friends in Sheffield, in particular a family called the Chapmans. They still really want me to stay up there. After speaking with Jonathan, I was given an opportunity to help him for a year. So actually I have a lot to think about and I am now asking questions about my faith, which I wasn't before. One thing I do know is that I need a job to earn money to pass my driving test and to do other things like go out to Kenya next summer to visit friends that I made in Sheffield, who live out there.

Over all, I feel a lot stronger in my faith and I want to help reach the people out there who don't know Christ. We live in a nation where 7 out of 10 people don't have church contacts. I feel we need to take church to them and make it relevant to them in a way in which they feel comfortable. People need to know about God's love.

Looking back on the year, I think I would not have changed anything.

Thank again and yours in Christ

Tom

HELP NEEDED WITH FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE VINE



More helpers are needed for the 'food run' for The Vine Day Centre, which is a Christian charity in Aldershot providing help to the homeless and those with substance abuse problems, mental health issues etc. Marks & Spencer kindly donate food to the Centre and the need is for extra volunteers to collect the food from M&S just after 6.00pm and take it to The Vine, which is currently operating from the Baptist Church. Volunteers usually work in pairs and do one evening per week

If you can help, please contact Susie on 400196

GOBEZI!

Julie reports on her trip to Ethiopia

On arrival at Camp Langano in Ethiopia I soon realised that two very small words of Amharic would prove to be incredibly useful. Forty eight boys and their leaders had travelled from various parts of the west and south of Ethiopia for a week of non-stop fun and when the football started, the team of nine from the UK and Thailand soon realised that “Gobez!” (good job!) and “Izo!” (be strong, don’t give up!) were very powerful words of encouragement.

My journey to Ethiopia started back in January, when a friend who works for ‘Sports Friends’ in Thailand invited me to consider a trip to Africa later in the year. Sports Friends is a ministry of SIM (Serving in Mission) and they use Camp Langano to stimulate the growth of the sports ministries of local churches, provide training for leaders and introduce unbelievers to Jesus. So it was now August and I found myself in the most beautiful setting, encouraging a group of football mad youngsters whose names at first completely baffled me, but by the end of the week were as familiar as ever.

It would be impossible to capture even part of an incredibly challenging, emotional and fun week at the camp. I certainly won’t forget the swimming sessions in the murky brown waters of Lake Langano, with all the boys clad out in life jackets. None of them could swim and some had never even been in a lake before. The joy on their faces was priceless as they splashed about. I will never forget arriving at the football pitch to set up the cones, to find the area occupied by numerous baboons. I will never forget the hustle and bustle of the capital city, Addis Ababa.

I will also never forget the testimonies of Ethiopian Christian leaders, many of whom have been persecuted for their beliefs. I will never forget the fact that forty eight young people heard the gospel at Camp Langano, with many making decisions to follow Jesus and who would be returning home with their sports ministers into very challenging environments.

Oh yes - I also learnt one other Amharic phrase! “Amesegenallo” which means “Thank you” and this is especially relevant to all at Holy Trinity who have

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encouraged me along the way and have provided the most valuable prayer support for everyone involved. I can’t even begin to thank you enough.

I had the privilege of being involved for just one week of the camp, which runs for eight weeks each summer, with the work of Sports Friends continuing all year round. I would be more than happy to share my photos with anyone who would like to hear more about Ethiopia, Camp Langano or Sports Friends or who would even like to consider doing something similar in the future.

Amesegenallo Holy Trinity!

Julie

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN OF HOLY TRINITY

Come join us on September 6 at 5:30 to learn more about the Order of the Daughters of the King. We will share a light dinner and fellowship as we introduce you to this Order for women of all ages. Please come and learn more. We would love to meet you!

What is the Order of the Daughters of the King?

We are an Order for women in the Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches. The purpose of the Order is to bring women into a deeper relationship with our Lord and each other through prayer and service, in order to extend Christ’s Kingdom.

Vision of the Order

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.

DATE: Monday, September 6, 2010
TIME: 5:30-7:00 PM
PLACE: Holy Trinity
LEADERS: National Officers of the Daughters of the King

DINNER PROVIDED—RSVP to George

GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

Are you a radiator or a drain? A strange question that I saw in a book this morning. Some people are 'radiators', naturally giving off warmth and energy, making others feel more alive. Others are more like drains; they suck up what is around them and give nothing back, leaving others exhausted. Obviously there are times when we do need to draw from others, and that is fine, but we need to be aiming more to be the radiators, bringing the life of Christ to others. Of course, God is the best Radiator, but it is interesting to hear what so many seem to say out in the world about Him, suggesting that He is more of a Drain ("never satisfied with us, always wanting more, finding fault", etc.)

Something that came up back on our Church Day Away in June was that we need to be more confident in our faith and ready to argue the case for God, as so many have a wrong view of Him (as a Drain). We hope to do a sermon series on and off through the Autumn in the 11.15 service, looking at some of the areas that we and others may struggle with in our faith – the big questions (such as suffering, other religions, science etc) as well as the areas that give real substance and basis for our belief. If you have any topics that you would value us looking at, please let me know.

It is good to see the work completed on the new railings down the Windsor Way side of church which now looks better, opening up the building to be seen better, is easier to manage and provides a bit of extra parking space. This was paid in part with money from our Gift Day, so thanks to all who gave.

Things are now also moving with the baptistery (at long last) and we hope to be able to offer baptism by full immersion very soon, but the issue of what to do with the old font still needs consideration (see separate article on page 6). If you have strong feelings on this either way, please let either me or a PCC member know. If you particularly want to see the font kept, please consider how we might raise the extra money for this.



One of the main things this month is the **Big Tent Event** with lots of services and activities over the four days of 9th – 12th September. Much of this is really a mission and the different style meetings are, by and large, aimed at those who don't yet follow Christ or who need to come back to Him. So please be thinking who you can invite and to which of the events (information is available at the back of church, on posters and invitations, as well as on line). We are delighted that Major General Tim Cross, who has had a distinguished military career and who is

a Christian leader and speaker, will be preaching at the main United Service on the Sunday at 11am. As you should be aware, there will be no Sunday services at Holy Trinity that morning. For the United Service, we will ensure that the music is not too loud in certain parts of the tent, that some traditional hymns are sung, that we stick to the timings and that there is some provision for children for most of the service, so we do hope that everyone will be able to come, in unity with our brothers and sisters from other churches.

Following a week or so after this we will be the launch of our Alpha Course with an **Alpha Supper** which gives people an opportunity to come along to get a taster of what the course is all about and thus make a decision as to whether they will join the rest of the course. We are aiming that this is going to be on 23rd September and, depending on numbers interested and whether any other churches are considering running a course, will either be at the Vicarage or a local restaurant. Again, please be thinking who you might be able to invite and make sure you offer to come to the supper with them.

We also hope to be running a daytime **Alpha**, probably the shortened edition, with **The Vine** at the Baptist church. This may well also start in September and may be Friday lunchtimes; let me know if you are interested either in helping or attending.

We may also be running a **Freedom in Christ** course this Autumn. Let me know if you are interested in being part of that or even helping with it. Also, if you happen to have one of the two sets of DVDs of the course, both are missing and we need them back!!

On the second Monday of each month, Aldershot Churches Together are re-starting their prayer times; for this year the meetings will be in the parish room at St Michael's church. Hopefully there will be some meetings that the Nepalese community will help lead, as we work towards greater integration. We also hope to have another time of prayer at the top of Victoria House, praying about a hundred feet over the town!

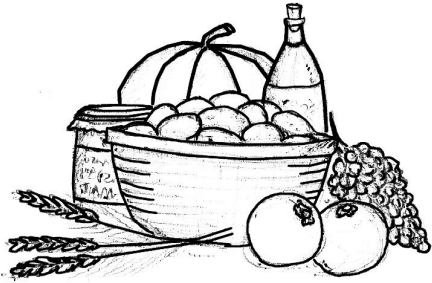
As the various groups get going again, this might be the right chance for you to join a **POD group** if you are not currently in one; there are still two with free places, so let me or Jonathan know. There have been some great and fruitful 'App.s' in the first six months of the groups, and we look forward to hearing about more soon!

If ever you want to use the church building for an event (Crossover or church) the general procedure is to ask me (sometimes this will need to go through the PCC). If the event is agreed, you will also need to book it in the **Crossover Booking book** which is kept in the office.

PICTURES FROM GOD

We wish the Soul Sisters a very pleasant and fun time for their weekend in Axminster from 17th to 19th and we all pray that the Lord blesses each who goes and deepens their fellowship.

Following on from that, our 11.15 service on Sunday 26th will split after a bit into two parallel services, one for men and one for women. The girls can follow up what the Lord has been doing amongst them from the previous weekend and share that with others. The men will have a chance to develop vision so that the men's work at Trinity can be re-launched, perhaps with a new name and slightly different style.



Harvest is not far off, being the first weekend of October. On the evening of 2nd we will have a special entertainments and worship evening after our meal together. Terry Gardiner is organising this, so if you have any items for the evening programme, let him know. Then, on the Sunday, be ready to bring items either for auction or for the Larder

(which has been very busy over the last few months); see the list at the back of church for relevant items

Do be praying for two of our younger folk as they take important steps in the kingdom this month: Gaz starts his Christian gap year in London with Oasis and Sarah starts at Moorlands Bible College in Christchurch near Bournemouth. Please pray for both of them; that these times will be formative and equipping. Pray also for others starting college and university, as well as all moving up in one way or another in this new academic year.

George

Verses and Visions from July's PPP

'A lot of people on a beach, waves going away from the beach, people walking out and throwing themselves into the waves with joy, exciting, waves taking them out - others watching'

'Pointed Golden arch, bright and shining'

'Group with heavy shoulders, walking with head down, Lord encourage, little faith you have, I can work wonders' - (to do with the burdens of others)

'To love one another as I have loved you'

Eph 4:29-32; avoiding unwholesome talk etc

'Off load baggage to draw close to God'

'Be still'

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In July, I shared with the 11.15 congregation some pictures I had been given from God and the reasons for Him giving them to me, which He wants all of Holy Trinity to know about, so this article will hopefully reach everyone.

It all started a couple of months ago with the song *Amazing Grace*. After a few weeks I asked God 'Why do you want us to keep singing this', I listened and He guided me to the line 'Your chains are gone, You have been set free'. I didn't know if this was for me personally or the church, so I asked Him in prayer about that and waited. Then during the worship about a month ago, a picture was given to me of a large thick rope with knots in it. Not knowing what this meant, I spent some time during the following week praying about the rope and knots and the words from *Amazing Grace*.

During the next Sunday's worship He gave me a more detailed picture of the thick rope with intermittent knots; this was then in a circle with the congregation inside it. He showed me that many people are still in chains and not free, as they should be; the verse from Galatians 5 v 1 went with it. *Amazing Grace* was sung again at 11.15 that week. I had also had two conversations with two different people who had both used the word knot/s for people in our church congregation. By this time, I was prompted to tell someone about this so I did, and then I shared it at the 11.15 service.

He wants us as a church to take notice of this picture and message big time. God wants us to be rid of any chains, He wants us to be free. To do this we first must forgive and get rid of any baggage we may as individuals be carrying. If we don't, then we are stuck, we cannot move forward on our journey with Him, we stop growing.

The Holy Spirit has really been working at HT in many ways during the last couple of months; we must continue to embrace Him with our love and let Him set us free.

Kris

SPOTLIGHT ON CHRIS

Chris is married to Julia (Jules) and has two children, Alfie and Daisy. He has been a member of HT for about 6 years, usually attending the 11.15 service. He is a member of a POD group and a MAGNET Group and helps occasionally with kids' activities such as the Sunday crèche and driving the minibus to Viney Hill.

What was your childhood like?

I was born and brought up in Aldershot – in St Michael's Road. I went to East End Infants and Junior Schools, Heron Wood Comprehensive Boys' School and then Farnborough Sixth Form College.



What's the first news story you remember hearing?

The first landing of men on the moon in 1969, when I was 6. At school we all crowded round the TV to watch it, as I remember it. Before that I can remember that my sister cried when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in 1968.

It's a great regret that I was only 3 when England won the World Cup in 1966, so I don't remember that!

What jobs have you done?

I had a couple of temporary jobs after I left College and then got a permanent job at Nat West Bank, where I stayed for 7½ years, working mainly in the Fleet, Farnham and Alton branches.

1989 was the year when my life completely changed, as I became a vegetarian, met Julia, moved out of home and went to work for Rushmoor Borough Council, all in that year. At Rushmoor, I started in Poll Tax/Council Tax. Now I'm in 'Democratic Services', which includes dealing with Councillors, various Council meetings and elections.

And you're also a firefighter?

Yes, I've been a 'retained firefighter' since 2001. I provide day cover and if my bleeper goes off I have 4 minutes to get to the fire station from the Council Offices! The Council are very understanding about releasing me, but I do need to make the time up.

On average, I get called out about once or twice a week, but it can be much more in summer, mainly because of grass and heath fires. It is noticeable that the number of house fires has reduced over the years, due mainly to safer electrical equipment and greater awareness from the public.

Have you always been a Christian?

No. There was no church input in my childhood....I think I went to Sunday School once! The annual Heron Wood School carol services were held at Holy Trinity and I sang in the choir and played saxophone in the band - I still remember them with great affection.

Was there anything in your background which paved the way for you to come to Christ?

When I was an 'angry young man' I was anti-religion; I fell for the line that it was all 'hypocrisy' and 'the cause of all wars'. Even at this time, though, I (secretly) admired people who did have faith, as they always seemed so sure and at peace. I never felt it could be for me, though.

In the '80s, I first saw the film *Chariots of Fire* about the athlete Eric Liddell, who gave up his chance to win an Olympic medal by refusing to run on a Sunday. I still find that demonstration of absolute faith, so inspiring and moving. It was one of the triggers for me, without a doubt.

Coming to the annual ATFC Carol Service at HT was also important. I saw George up the front and thought 'he seems like a normal bloke.....I can understand him!'

How did you become a Christian?

We saw a poster for the Alpha course and Jules, who'd had similar feelings to me, said 'what about it?' Jules did one first and we started coming to church on a Sunday and then I did the next one. This helped to put all the bits into place and I realised I could have for myself what I had envied in others.

Has your life as a Christian been all plain sailing?

No, I still think of myself as a 'novice' and I look up to and try to learn from others in the church. I've had times of questioning; 'Am I a fraud? Do I really believe it?' But when you step back and take a breath, you realise there is only one truth.

It's challenging to be a Christian in the fire service; it makes me different from most of the other fire fighters.....but that's good.

Would you recommend being a Christian to others?

There is no other way!

HERE TO HELP

Have you ever wished you knew of a good plumber or carpenter..... needed a set of long ladders for a one off job, wondered who had a lawnmower you could borrow when yours inconveniently ceased to work. Or perhaps needed help getting some shopping or a hand unravelling that complicated knitting pattern..... How many times have you heard it said "Oh, if only I had known, you could have borrowed mine" or "You should have asked, I would have helped you out".

The thing is, we don't always know who to ask for help, whether it is to borrow camping equipment, lend a sewing machine or pick up a prescription.

Here To Help, we hope, will be the answer to some of those problems and prove to be a real blessing to many people in our Church Family.

So what is **Here To Help**??

It is a register that breaks down into 5 categories

- **Skills/Services for which payment is required** This includes anyone who works for themselves, for example a plumber, carpenter, mechanic, electrician. Or someone who offers a service such as babysitting. Times are hard for small businesses and we can support those within our Church Family if we are looking for a professional.

- **Skills/Services free of charge** This covers a wide range of topics from giving lifts, helping with shopping, gardening, cooking, tutoring, babysitting, knitting or sewing. Anyone who has some time to spare or an ability to offer, that may be of help to another, can contribute.

- **Items to lend** Things/Objects people have that they are happy to lend out, eg hedge trimmer, paint stripper, diy equipment, long ladders, garden furniture, sewing machine, bread maker, knitting needles & patterns, camping equipment..... The list is endless, and includes anything that could help someone else out.

- **Voucher Exchange** Vouchers/Coupons are a-plenty in magazines, publications, supermarkets & stores etc, but how many of them do you put in the bin, because it's not something that you will use? Could that voucher help the person sitting 2 rows away from you on a Sunday? They could be for products, days out, you name it....

- **Recycling Opportunities** Do you collect printer cartridges, bottle tops or anything else for a good cause? Then let everyone know about it here....

The aim of this venture is that, if someone needs some garden equipment, half a dozen patio chairs for a party, diy equipment, help getting shopping one week, a lift
www.htca.org.uk

to hospital, help with a knitting pattern or how to make curtains, etc etc, there is somewhere that they can look to see who may be able to help. It is based on the simple desire to be neighbourly, to be able to make life easier for someone else in some small way.

If you would like to be a part of this or want to find out more, then please let one of the Here To Help team know, and please tell others in the congregation about it, so that we can start to build it up. If everyone has one item or skill/ability they can put forward, what a wealth of resources there will be available for all to draw on.

Mary, Kit, Debbie & Trisha

GOD AT WORK - MISSION IN THE REAL WORLD.

An invitation from Park Church

Many of you will remember the Bible School we ran last summer, and as we felt it was of benefit to the people who came, we thought we'd organise a similar event this year. So we're inviting members of all the Aldershot churches to join us for a series of three evening seminars that we're arranging at the end of October. Each evening we'll be looking at how we can live out our faith, and draw people into God's kingdom, in the places where we spend our time. The overall title is "**GOD AT WORK ...**", as we consider *mission in the real world*.

Each evening will run from 7.30 until 9.30, with a break in the middle for refreshments. We've invited various experienced Church leaders to lead the sessions, introducing the topic and taking us into discussion and a feedback time.

The three evenings and their topics are:

Tues 26th October **at work** introduced by Derek Brown (KC21)
Wed 27th October **in the community** introduced by Revd Haydon Wilcox
Thurs 28th October...**as a church** introduced by Peter & Pam Edwards
from Rising Brook Baptist Church in Stafford

Come to as many as you can.

For more details please look out for publicity in late September

THE SOURCE: “BE, BELONG, BECOME”

Yvonne, Teen Parent Mentoring Coordinator at The Source writes:

The issues that face the young people of Aldershot need no introduction, but The Source Young People’s Charity is stepping out to overcome them. Using Christian values to work with over 650 young people throughout the last year through its café, teen parent & mentoring programmes, anger management, REAL evenings, after school opening and football team, we are committed to seeing young people transformed.

.....And we need your support to make it happen! We’d be delighted to have a chat about our projects and what we do and how we do it, and right now we have some very exciting volunteering opportunities!

Please ring 01252 333330 to get involved in transforming young lives and impacting the future of our town!

Teen Parent Mentoring (mums to mums): Yvonne on 07590 389693

The Café (drop-in evening sessions): Andy on 07881 781152

After School Club (& young people volunteering): Nat on 01252 333330

Mentoring & Development and Open Door community work(1-on-1): Chris on
01252 333330

Anger Management (including art sessions and emotional intelligence): Sue on
01252 333330

REAL spiritual development, Richard on 01252 333330

Monday afternoon football Richard on 01252 333330

From:

YVONNE, TEEN PARENT MENTORING COORDINATOR

The Source Young Peoples Charity, 237 High St, Aldershot GU11 1TJ

Email; yvonne@thesourceforyou.co.uk Tel; 07590389693

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including to Rob for the illustrations.

**The October issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 26th September.
The LAST date for October articles will be Sunday 19th September.**