

MAY DIARY – 2010

Trinity Update

MAY 2011



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
‘Church for Everyone’

1	SUNDAY		
	9.30am	Memorial Service	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Kids Praise	
	6.00-7.00pm	PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY	
3	11am, 7.30pm & 8pm	Fellowship Groups	(Tuesdays)
4	11.15am	Holy Communion, followed by tea & biscuits	(Weds)
	7.30 pm	Prayer Ministry Training at the Vicarage – open to all	
	7.30pm	POD Groups	(Weds)
	2.30 & 8.00pm	Fellowship Groups	(Weds)
5	8.30am	Prayer for Renewal	(Thursdays)
	10-11.30am	Contact - for parents & toddlers	(Thursdays in term*)
	2.30pm	Women’s Hour	(Thursdays)
	7.30pm	Alpha at the Vicarage	(Thursdays)
	7.30pm	POD Groups	(Thursdays)
	7.45pm	Fellowship Groups	(Thursdays)
6	10.30am	Fellowship Group	(alternate Fridays)
	6-7.30pm	Friendzy (ages 8 and up)	(Fridays in term *)
	7.30 for 8.00pm	Marriage course (Building Strong Foundations) in Crossover	
7	10.30am	Prayer Ministry Team Meeting in Crossover	
8	SUNDAY - CPAS Support Sunday		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
	7 – 9.15pm	YPOD for 13s to 20s	(Sundays)
9	7.30pm	ALDERSHOT CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER	
		at St Michael’s Church	
	7.00-8.00pm	Inclusion	(also 23 rd & 30th)
14	8.30am	Men’s breakfast and launch of CodeLife	
	10 am	Praying Wives at HT	
15	SUNDAY		
	9.30am	Morning Praise	
	11.15am	Alternative Service with Holy Communion	
16	7.30pm	PCC meeting in Crossover	
20	7.30 for 8.00pm	Marriage course (The Art of Communication) in Crossover	
21	8.30am	Ladies Prayer Breakfast, Crossover (see page 3)	
22	SUNDAY		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
25	7.45pm	Delve Deeper at Farnborough (see page19)	
28		2030s attend the Big Church Day Out (see page 4)	
29	SUNDAY		
	9.30am	Morning Praise with prayer for healing	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	

* Check with group leaders for meetings in the week Mon 30 May to Fri 3 June, which is school Half Term holiday in Hampshire.
Young people’s groups do not usually meet during Half Term.

WOMENS HOUR

On March 24th David, who comes to our 9.30 service, came to give us a talk on the Victoria Hall in Ash. This was a very interesting talk on its history, construction, the events that went on in it and those that it is used for now. It was an interactive talk, much enjoyed by all.

The following week several of the members took part in the reading of the Bible with the rest of the church members. We all found it to be a very uplifting experience to be involved in.

On April the 7th we had a quiz about weddings that we had attended many years ago and had to try and identify members from the photographs they had brought with them.

On April 14th we had a fruit and veg quiz, as our speaker could not come, but we had a fun afternoon.

During the month we made up the posies for Mothers Day, led by Jenny and all funded by Women's Hour

On a more serious note several of our members have been admitted to Frimley Park: Dawn, who has been unwell for some time, Sheila with an ongoing infection and Maisie, who is very poorly. We would ask for prayers and healing for these members

Daphne and Jean



Verse for the year:

'Is not my word like fire . . . and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?'

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including to Rob for most of the drawings.

**The June 2011 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 29th May.
The LAST date for June articles will be Sunday 22nd May.**

SOUL SISTERS



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

On 26th March we had a Quiet Day, entitled 'Licence to Chill', at Stockton House in Fleet. This was an opportunity for us to take time out from our normal routine, to relax and to focus on God. We spent time meditating on some Bible verses and praying for each other. We also had a fun 'creative art' session, where, in groups, we used various art materials and words and pictures from magazines to create two collages, one representing our concerns for the world and the other showing God's promises. The results can be seen on the display boards at the back of the church.

For various reasons we have decided not to hold an event in June, so the next date for your diaries is our weekend away at Weycroft Hall in Axminster, 16th-18th September. As a lot of work goes into organising this and also we are aware that there may be financial constraints, we need to know how many people are interested in going. Therefore, if you would like to go, please sign up on the list at the back of the church and give a deposit of £20 to Heidi, Sue or myself by the end of May.

Trisha

On behalf of Soul Sisters



LADIES' PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next Ladies Prayer breakfast will be on Saturday 21st May at 8.30am in Crossover.



This is an opportunity to enjoy a relaxed breakfast, chat with other ladies from the church, perhaps get to know someone new, share prayer needs and pray together.

If you plan to come, please let one of us (see below) know in advance. Also, help is needed with setting up beforehand and with clearing and washing up afterwards. If you can help, please let one of us know.

Contacts:

Before May 15: Trisha (332541 or trisha.haley@virginmedia.com)

From May 15: Christine (320210 or christine.m.ward@btopenworld.com)

COMPASSION UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who supported the work of Compassion these last two Sundays. So far we have raised a total of £240 in donations and 7 of the 9 children from a project in Rwanda have found sponsors: Seven lives changed forever, praise God! If you would like to sponsor one of the two remaining children or if you would like to find out more, please come and speak to me or visit <http://www.compassionuk.org>

Belinda

My Compassion Tel: 01932 836499

Compassion exists as an advocate for children - to release them from physical, social, economic and spiritual poverty in Jesus' name. Currently Compassion supports over 1 million children in 26 of the world's poorest countries.



2030s AT THE BIG CHURCH DAY OUT

The 2030s Group will be attending the Big Church Day Out at Wiston in West Sussex on **Saturday 28th May**. Anyone who wants to go should buy a ticket online at www.bigchurchdayout.com and speak to Belinda or Lisa asap to arrange transport, so they can all go up together.

Lisa says, "You can buy tickets anytime before the event, but you need to let us know asap if you are planning on going, by the 7th May if possible please. You are welcome to bring your children if you like.

Ticket prices are currently £27 per adult, £21 for children 5-15 and free for children under 5. "

Contacts:

Lisa: Home: 513711 Email: lisagailhoey@hotmail.com or
Belinda: Home: 328335

Aged between 20-39? Interested in socialising with other Christians? 2030s at Holy Trinity run regular events to give you a chance to get some time out, relax or try something new and exciting. Through these events, we are aiming to build friendships and witness to others the amazing, life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH TEA & CAKE!

Andy & Debbie are supporting a national MS fund-raising event and opening their garden to host a 'Scrumptious Cake Break'. From 12pm to 5 o'clock on both Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May, we shall be serving sandwiches, cakes and tea, along with a few other goodies. Many of you will know that Andy was diagnosed with MS in November 2008 and it has changed our lives considerably.



Everyone is welcome but having an idea of numbers would be helpful so please let Debbie know if you intend on joining in (07837 388973). If any church group meeting the same week would like a gift of cake for their meeting in return for a donation, then please also let Debbie know. If you are not able to come but wish to donate please visit our website at:

www.justgiving.com/DebbieSmith-Evans

As well as being a simple and enjoyable fundraising event, Scrumptious Cake Break makes a positive and lasting difference to people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) throughout the UK. By attending a Cake Break you are helping the MS Society provide essential practical and emotional support, financial assistance and care to help people affected by MS and allowing us to invest in vital research to find a cause and cure.

MS is the most common disabling neurological disorder amongst young adults.

MS affects around 100,000 people in the UK, with Scotland and Northern Ireland having the highest prevalence of the condition in the world. In MS, the immune system attacks the central nervous system, damaging the coating of the nerves that carry messages throughout the body. No one knows what causes MS and there is no cure. Its varied symptoms can strike without warning and include loss of mobility and sight, muscle spasms, slurred speech, fatigue and depression. For some people, MS is characterised by periods of relapse and remission while for others it has a progressive pattern.

For everyone, it makes life unpredictable.



SPOTLIGHT ON ROSEMARY

Rosemary has been at Holy Trinity for just over 3 years. She has been married to Ed for 44 years, has 3 daughters and one son and 9 grandchildren. She is a Pastoral Assistant, and also serves on the Prayer Ministry Team.

What was your childhood like?

I was one of four children – 2 boys and 2 girls – born into an army background, so as a family we moved around quite a lot, which for me meant attending seven different schools before I was 12!



What's the first news story you remember hearing?

Mum was taking my younger brother and I to the cinema in Benghazi, and we arrived to find that the manager had just closed it, having heard that the King had died and Princess Elizabeth was our new Queen. I was very sorry for the poor Princess who had just lost her Papa, but sorrier still to miss our special treat...though of course didn't dare to say so.

What brought you to Aldershot (and when)?

I was born in Aldershot, as was my younger brother 14 months later. My elder brother (now a Minister) was born in India, and our little sister in Dovercourt. We joined my father in Cyrenaica when I was 5, then after he left the army having served for 32 years, we moved to Aldershot (via Cheshire and then Essex).

Ed and I returned here after the last of our offspring had flown the nest 18 years ago. Aldershot was top of the 'don't want to live there list'....

What jobs have you done?

When I left school, I worked as a clerical assistant in the Civil Service, but left home at 18 to live in London, where I had much more fun working for the Rank Organisation head office in Victoria. We used to get free tickets for all the latest movies, though as my then boyfriend insisted on taking me to all the horror films, I sat through a lot of shows with my eyes closed.

Apart from the occasional part time job to help the coffers when the children were growing up, I didn't work again until they were all at work or college, when I got a job in the CSSD. department in Farnham Hospital until they closed it.

Have you always been a Christian?

We were strictly brought up within the Roman Catholic Church (my father's faith, though Mum was Anglican) and I was confirmed in Benghazi Cathedral when I was 6. After the service, we had a lovely breakfast with party food, and like all the other
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little girls, I wore a pretty white dress and veil – which I ripped taking a short cut home under a barbed wire fence!

I first married at 18, and had two beautiful little girls, and when my second daughter was 6 weeks old my husband left us. Three years later, Ed and I had met and married, had a son, and moved to Australia. Two years after that and a third daughter richer, we returned to England.

Church hadn't played much of a part in all these years – though we intermittently attended whichever church was nearest to where we were living, and all our babies were baptised.

How did you become a Christian?

In my thirties, after family trauma, and wanting to find meaning for life, I began to search for God. I'd always loved the stories about Jesus, but owing to the early teaching of a fiery priest that had us all quaking in our little white sandals, hadn't wanted to think about God too much.

I explored Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses, and pestered anyone who seemed to have that special inner 'something' I longed for...Then one morning, in desperation, I called out to God, challenging Him that if He was real, and cared about individuals (me...), to show me. Then picking up a Bible and just opening it where it would, the following words were standing out bigger and blacker than those around them:

'...if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding'
if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God' (Proverbs 2:3-5)

A few weeks later I surrendered to Christ (in the bath – the only place of peace and quiet in a house full of children...) and a few weeks after that, was prayed for by Jackie and was wonderfully baptised in the Holy Spirit.

In the years since, I've been a prison visitor with Prison Fellowship, a Samaritan, led a prayer ministry team, and been involved in Pastoral care for 15 years, and for the last seven years have been part of the ministry team at Acorn Christian Healing Foundation.

Would you recommend Christianity to others?

My Christian journey has been exciting, frustrating, challenging, difficult, tedious, amazing, disappointing, and wonderful in equal measures – but it's the only journey worth taking – ever.

A THANK YOU TO HT

First I must introduce myself. I am the chap with the dodgy haircut who accompanies the lady with the walker to church.

Roz moved into a local care home back in the Autumn and we started to come to Holy Trinity about a month later, having tried the Methodist Church. What we received from both the Methodist Church and Holy Trinity was a very warm welcome, for which we are both very appreciative. Our first contact was Carol who was cleaning up the Autumn leaves when I took Roz for a wheelchair ride around Aldershot. Like everyone else, she is an excellent advert for the church.

Having not attended church since my Sunday School days at a Wesleyan Chapel in Cornwall, I was staggered at the changes that I encountered. The screening of the words of the service, the lack of pews and the interaction that occurred during the services, to name the obvious. I must admit when I first had to 'greet my neighbour' I was very apprehensive, but the welcomes that we received were clearly genuine and my embarrassment has diminished over the months.

Roz prefers the later service. Although she has sight difficulties she is aware of the flags and she loves the music, which is another difference for someone who expects a traditional organ. The sermons, if that is still how they are described, particularly in the later service, can be challenging, with the Christian message always present. This I also find comforting. Viewing the Church from the outside, through the image that the media projects, one gets the impression that it has become obsessed with politics and almost, at times, apologises for its existence. You do not get that at Holy Trinity, which delivers, I believe, an excellent brand of socially active Christianity. George in particular never compromises and his passion, I am sure, drives all the other activities. Roz is a regular attendee at Woman's Hour and also the Blind Club that meets at the church. I have managed to be an Innkeeper at the Crib Service, do a talk at Women's Hour and I have just become a helper at Contact. I even read for half an hour at the Bible marathon (just a word of warning – if you have to read Jeremiah, have a practice first).

Ironically, although I am sure it is known, I am not a believer and no-one has tried the hard sell which probably put me off Christianity when, as a student, I got visits from 'The God Squad'. Peeling away at 40 years of non-belief will take time and I do not anticipate a 'blinding moment'. However, likening my situation to internet dating, I have total compatibility with the social message conveyed at Holy Trinity but not quite, yet, the chemistry. So once again thank you for the great welcome that we, and I suspect everyone else, receives when they cross the threshold into Holy Trinity Church.

Dave

Dave offers his services in running quizzes, a treasure hunt or a Karaoke session for charity and also offers Maths coaching

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HELP NEEDED FOR A YOUNG HT MUSICIAN

Hi everyone, my name is James and I have been coming to Holy Trinity since I was about 6 years old and I'm now 17. I am a member of the 11.15 service and most of you will know me as the guy who plays the guitar in the worship team and if you're really observant you will also occasionally have seen me on the drums and leading the congregation in worship along with Jonathan.



I am currently studying music, music tech and jazz at Alton College and play the guitar and piano. I feel that musicianship is an area in which God has gifted me. In the past, with the youth from Holy Trinity, I have attended New Wine, Viney Hill and Soul Survivor. Last year Jonathan spoke to me about a Christian summer school, NGM (New Generation Music), for performing artists, with a particular emphasis on musicians. I thought about it, but it did not seem to be the right thing for me to do at the time. In the last year my playing ability, skills and confidence have grown and I now feel both as a musician and as a person that I am spiritually in the right place to go to the NGM Boot Camp summer school and really get something out of it. NGM Boot Camp at Thornbury near Bristol offers a week of singing, musicianship, teaching, presenting and meeting with God... amongst other things!

I am not sure where God is leading me with music, but I do want to explore the options and possibilities open to me as a young Christian. The cost of the course is £270, plus there are some additional travel costs involved with getting there and back. I would appreciate any financial and/or prayer support you can give towards this. Please feel free to come and talk to me about this and of course I'll come back and tell you all about it!

James

Men at Trinity - Men's breakfast

8.15 for 8.30am on Saturday 14th May.

at Coffee Mi (Victoria Road)

THE MARRIAGE COURSE – A PARTICIPANT’S PERSPECTIVE

from Debbie & Andy

Andy and I did the Marriage course that is about to start here at HT a few years ago in a local church. We had been married just over a year and went along with two other couples whom I knew through work. None of us knew what to expect, we each had different reasons for going along and were at different stages in our marriages.

The Church of England Marriage service opens with the following words:

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church. The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love. Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

We each entered marriage with different expectations based on those of our upbringing and experiences. Marriage is our journey where we commit to growing as individuals and together in God’s love and trust. Sometimes the journey is difficult, as letting go of old habits and behaviour patterns does not happen overnight, but God’s example of love and forgiveness guides and sustains us. Growing involves change and for Andy and I it has been stimulated by the challenges that we have encountered. In all areas our commitment to each other and to Christ has been the foundation for our ability to work through our circumstances together. Doing the course was a vital building block to strengthening this commitment and faith in our marriage and clarifying what was important. The seven areas (see opposite) cover those that can befall a marriage and put it under strain and personally we have had to revisit each one in our journey. The course aim is to help couples establish patterns of relating that will keep marriages alive for a lifetime.



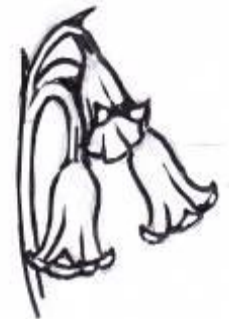
The evening started with a meal taken at your own candlelit table adorned with fresh flowers and other romantic touches. The emphasis behind our course was that it was ‘just for you’ as a couple; there was no group work and virtually no interaction with the other couples as part of the course. We started with a short introduction and video clip then moved on to going through the relevant section in our work book. This was the ongoing format. The course leaders were available for help but we were allowed to work at our own pace or at least that is how it seemed. The questions prompted us to consider areas of our marriage in ways that we could relate to, because we were doing the work to answer them – it was not a ‘go along and be taught’ type of course. At the end of each week we had homework to complete, but this enriched our understanding of what we had looked at during the session and gave additional dimensions to consider. Although it is clearly a course based on Christian beliefs and values, not all participants on our course were Christians, but they had come along as they saw sense in what was being taught. At the end of the course you keep the work book and so can use it again if needed and use it for regular marriage MOTs.

We would recommend the course to anyone, whatever stage of married life you are at; there is always something to learn and some area of marriage to be worked on.

Debbie & Andy

The Marriage Course sessions are:

- 1 - Building Strong Foundations - Friday 6th May
- 2 - The Art of Communication - Friday 20th May
- 3 - Resolving Conflict - Friday 10th June
- 4 - The Power of Forgiveness - Friday 17th June
- 5 - The Impact of Family - Past & Present - Friday 24th June
- 6 - Good Sex - Friday 8th July
- 7 - Love in Action - Friday 22nd July



GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

Two potentially life-changing courses start this month. First is a new **Alpha course**; it is such a privilege to lead these courses and see the beginnings of new life in people as they grasp the gospel and start to encounter God's love by His Spirit. If you have not done it before or want a refresher, do sign up and let me know. Similarly, do be asking others you know if they would like to come and then you can join them for the introductory first supper. If you can help cater, there is a sign-up sheet for that as well.

The second is the **Marriage Course**, obviously for married couples, which will be happening in Crossover on Fridays, but not every week, also with a meal, starting on 6th May (7.30 meal, with the meeting starting at 8pm). For those who are married and are Christians, our marriage relationship is the second most important we have and faces pressures from many aspects of the current secular world view. This course is similar in some ways in style to Alpha, but the discussion times are more confined to being between the couples. The format for the seven sessions will be input from a DVD with times in twos for short 'exercises' interspersed. Those who wouldn't call themselves Christians are also welcome. Strong marriages are more likely to produce more secure offspring and give a greater stability to society generally, yet we can often overlook our marriages for the many other issues and pressures of life, much to our detriment and the detriment of those around us.



This month we are also re-launching our **men's work** at Trinity with a **men's breakfast** on Saturday 14th May at 8.15 for 8.30am at Coffee Mi (Victoria Road). It will cost in the region of £5 each and will launch the start of a new discipleship, fellowship and outreach work for and to men, partly based on CodeLife by CVM.

Our first summer **cricket fixture** is on Sunday 15th May with a 2pm start at Normandy Cricket Club and will be against Lightwater parish. Let me know if you want to play or umpire and, even if not, why not bring a picnic and come and watch and support? (Our second fixture is against St Peter's Farnborough on Tuesday evening, 21st June).

For those wanting to go deeper into God's word, there is a **Delve Deeper** session at St. Peter's, Farnborough on the evening of Wednesday 25th May, from 7.45pm.

As you may know, on Sundays, as well as our two morning congregations and the Y-POD in the evening, three ethnic churches meet (Nepalese, Indian and African) on site (Crossover and the Hall). For a while I have felt that we should look to work and pray and worship a bit more together so, as a start, we are looking at having a special Sunday on 19th June (Trinity Sunday)

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where we can all fellowship and worship together. We are thinking that we will minimise our morning services (but not cancel them altogether) and then have a big lunch using both church and hall sites which will lead into some time together for worship, prayer and Word. This could be very significant in terms of unity and what it might lead to in terms of mission. Our town is getting very divided into different ethnic groups which can lead to tensions and mistrust; as Christians, we much be proactive in making sure that we go the other way and not the way of the world.

On a different note, I am aware that for many people, especially in this current economic climate, there are many things in their lives that are quite difficult and perplexing. In such times we need both the guidance and comfort of God's word. Our verse for the month is from Psalm 119: 105

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'

Nothing here promises that the path is going to be easy, but God does promise here to guide us and, by inference, we know that He is with us. It was very significant reading the whole Bible aloud a month ago, but the Bible needs to be significant to us day by day and we need to allow God to direct our feet into His paths, as we make decisions based on His will as opposed to ours.

Thanks to all who came along to our AGM in early April. Welcome to Paul and Garry as new Wardens and to first time members on PCC: Marion and Mohammad. It was good to hear about some of the ongoing ministries for encouragement and prayer – thanks to Mary, Ian, Jonathan and Jane for sharing about Contact, a POD, the youth and children and the Larder - and as well as to look back with thanksgiving and to look ahead with prayer.

One area I failed to mention, although it is actually looking ahead two or three years, is relating to the Aldershot Urban Extension. Rather like the Westgate, which seems to be being built now, the urban extension is also well behind schedule, but will probably start to be built in a couple of years. All that area has now moved into our parish (which has thus trebled in size!) so that we can take the initiative of church-planting, with the financial backing of the diocese and, hopefully, with other local churches of different denominations. Ultimately we would like to see the very first resident as the minister who will look to welcome all who move in and start to gather people to worship and pray and seek God. Then, possibly in conjunction with a school that will be built there, we would like to see a place for worship and community events right in the heart of the community that will grow up there.

So let's keep the big picture of what God is calling us to, as we deal with all the different pressures around us, keeping our eyes fixed on the risen Jesus.

George

Verses and visions from April's PPP

There was a long time of prophecy at this meeting, as we sought God for His direction in the current testing times, so here is a précis of what was shared:

A picture of a large yellow banner unfurling, with the Lion on it and the call both to stand firm but also to stand alongside others to enable them also to stand firm.

Micah 4: Many nations will want to follow the Lord and He will settle disputes and they will beat swords into ploughshares.

The Lord invites us to eat much more than the bits and pieces we are picking up at present. This was coupled with several similar pictures and verses about growing up, taking on solid food yet retaining our first love.

Hebrews 5:7-8 and 11 along with Romans 5:8 and 8:6 were shared with the call to full submission and faith, making sure the resurrected Jesus is in the right place so that we take the opportunity that arises and both the angels and the outsiders come in.

We were to pray for those facing tough times that they might know His presence as we did in the meeting and that they might 'turn their eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wondrous face, so that the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.'

Leviticus 19:2 Be holy, for I, the Lord, am holy.

George

**Date for your diary
Holy Trinity Day Away
Priors Field School
Sunday 10th July
Speaker: Mike Pusey**

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY (CPAS)

Sunday 8th May is our CPAS Sunday, when we pray particularly for the Church Pastoral Aid Society and there is the opportunity to give specifically to their work.

The main role of CPAS is to support and encourage evangelical churches in their ministry and outreach. "CPAS enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus".

Their work includes:

- training events for church leaders, with a particular focus on preparation for mission
- exploratory weekends for any Christians who feel God may be calling them to further service
- "patronage" (responsibility for selection of a new vicar) in over 500 parishes
- advice to Christians considering ordination and to ministers considering their next career steps
- the production of training materials for developing Christian leaders – for example, the 'Growing Leaders' course
- running Venture Camps, Christian activity holidays for young people (8-18), including the subsidised Falcon Camps for young people who might not otherwise have a summer holiday.



CHIEF'S CONCERNS

The Idol of Individualism

I heard a story recently of someone who found themselves on a train late one evening; they had had a long day and not being in the mood to strike up a conversation found themselves people watching. One of the first things that struck them was the silence in the carriage, no one talking! They also realised something else, every single person in the compartment had earphones on, and so even if this person had wanted to talk to someone it would have been very difficult – they had a sudden feeling of isolation.

We live in one of the most crowded Islands in the western world and we are retreating from one another more and more. When the serpent persuaded Adam and Eve to an extra meal, the heart of the temptation was to a life of independence. The first question God ever asked was, 'Where are you?' Adam and Eve were not only hiding from God, they hid from one another when they realised they were naked. We have been hiding ever since. Yet God has been seeking us ever since. His mission goes beyond finding each of us as individuals. His purpose is to make us into a people.

One of the great idols of the 21st century, the Baal of our day, is individualism. Life is all about me, my hopes, my dreams, my comforts, my rights. It's even in the names of our gadgets; 'I' Phone, 'I' Pad. The new trinity is me, myself and I.

The god of this age has invaded the church too. It is all about MY ministry, MY calling, MY destiny. We land at the church that will most benefit ME. And yet this leads to the bitterest type of loneliness. A loneliness that is one of the major causes of depression and panic anxiety attacks. The reason for this is that we were not created to live independently. We were made in His image. God is community. We can't reflect a God who is community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit by ourselves, because you can't be a community of one.

We must live out in our churches community for the sake of others - communities of joy, hope and healing. I can only truly know who I am, when I know to whom I belong. Anything else is a sham, a mirage. It is in our relationships, between us, that we reflect His love and grace. The local church is the hope for the world. It means vulnerability, honesty, serving one another, forgiving one another, preferring one another, spurring one another on.

This generation is, in many ways, the lonely generation. We, the church need to model committed community. This will be a long process when the idol of individualism has such a firm hold over hearts and minds. We need to emphasise that the invitation to become a Christian is not about 'me' but 'us'; not 'a person' but 'a people'.

www.htca.org.uk

In our self absorbed world, let us choose to be counter cultural and in our life together point people to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Taken from Open Mike, Youthwork Magazine)

Jonathan

DO YOU HOLD A CHURCH DOOR KEY?

I am trying to hand over an up-to-date list of key holders to the new church wardens. If you hold a church door key, please can you let me know and if you no longer use your key, please return it to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, especially Martyn, for their help and support over the past year.

God bless you all.

Pat

Our thanks to both the recently retired Church Wardens (Pat and Martyn) for all their hard work, mostly behind the scenes, during their years of service.



A SUMMER WALK

Are you interested in joining us on a summer walk?

On the 28th of May we will be taking a short morning walk around Frensham Pond or Waverley Abbey. We will confirm details near the time.

Refreshments will take place after the walk in a local pub. However you can still bring along your own refreshments.

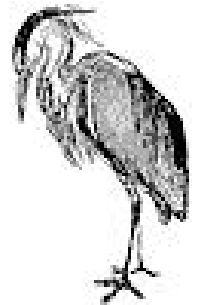
We will meet on the church premises and a car share will be possible. All church members and their friends are welcome.

For further information please contact church members:

Mike on 325612

OR

Helen on 338917 or email helenharratt1965@yahoo.co.uk



THE BIBLE READERS

A total of 103 people took part in the 78 hours of Bible Reading in the week of 28 March, reading the entire Bible, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:13, with the final half chapter read aloud together by the congregation on Sunday morning. Readers ranged from under 20 to over 90 in age and included fellowship groups, Women's Hour, members of other churches and TCPT. For everyone who took part, it was a memorable and fulfilling experience.



BOOK REVIEW – “NOBODY’S CHILD” *



It's very rarely that I complete a book, but while I was away for a few days, I took a book called "Nobody's Child" – and I couldn't put it down.

It was about a boy whose mother didn't want him, so he was fostered. The foster parents shut him in a room in the attic and he couldn't see out.. He wanted to do things that other children did. When he got older he made friends with the wrong people. He turned to drugs and alcohol. But he ended up in prison for stealing to feed his habit.

Then one day when he was out of prison, someone invited him to go to church. It took some time, but over the years God completely changed his life. He felt rejected and not wanted for many years and found it hard to think that anyone was interested in him

We reject God and let Him down, but He still loves us and is interested in us.

Deirdre

*** Nobody's Child: The Stirring True Story of an Unwanted Boy Who Found Hope by John Robinson**

DELVE DEEPER

At St Peter's Church, Farnborough

Wed 25th May 2011, 7.45 to 9.45 pm

“How do I get from here? - Interpreting the Bible”

Speaker: William Challis, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and former Vice-Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford



GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Fri 6 th May, 19.30 | Golden Jubilee Ball in the Nave | |
| Sat 14 th May, 15:00 | Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service - the diocesan family celebrates | |
| Tues 17 th May, 17.30 | Consecration Anniversary Eucharist | |
| Sat 21 st May, 19.30 | Choral Jubilee – Five organists and a choir | |
| Sat 11 th June, 11:00 | Jubilee Summer Fair – fun for all the family | |
| Sun 12 th June, 10:30 | Whitsunday - Patronal Festival Eucharist and Cathedral Community lunch | |
| Fri 24 th - Sun 26th June | National Gathering of The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations | |
| Sat 25 th June, 13:30 | Exploring Wisdom - musical celebration of the National Society for Education, with Cathedral choristers, Surrey Songsters and choirs from local C of E schools | |

There are no special anniversary events in July or August. The celebrations resume on September 10th with a study day on 'Sir Edward Maufe and the building of Guildford Cathedral'. There is a full programme of anniversary events on the notice board at the back of church (on the right as you enter).

Tickets for events can be booked online at:
<http://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/boxoffice>

Also at Guildford cathedral: a photographic exhibition of 20th century cathedrals around the world, May 2 to June 3.

BRING & BUY PLANT SALE

**Organised by Rushmoor in Bloom
and Rowhill Nature Reserve Society**

Saturday 14th May 2011, 11am - 3pm

at Rowhill Field Centre, Cranmore Lane, Aldershot

Just bring along your surplus plants.

Light refreshments available

More information from Rowhill Nature Reserve Society



01252 319 749

QUIZ NITE AT ALDERSHOT TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Thursday 12th May, starting at 7.45pm.

In the Xfor lounge (through the gates at the Football Club grounds)
Car parking available inside the ground around the back of the Stand.

Teams of up to five persons, entry donation £2.00 per person. Instant 50p raffle
Reasonably priced bar. The profits go to a Football Club project.

**TRAIDCRAFT VOLUNTEER NEEDED
FOR TRIANGLE CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP**

The Triangle Christian Bookshop in Farnborough is urgently seeking a Traidcraft Volunteer to help out one day a week on a voluntary basis with their growing Fairtrade section in the bookshop. No previous experience is needed, full training will be given.

If you are interested and able to help, please call:
Paul on (01252) 519172.

Thank you!

FREE HOLIDAYS FOR OVER-60s ON LOW INCOMES

The National Benevolent Fund for the Aged organises free holidays for people over 60 who are on a low income and have not been away for 3 years or more. There is a poster in church relating to their holiday to the South Downs (Bracklesham Bay) from the 9-13 May 2011. They are picking people up from Crawley, Reigate and Woking.



REMINDER - BOOKING THE USE OF CHURCH OR CROSSOVER

If you wish to book the use of the church or Crossover for a church activity, please use the booking chart on the wall in the office (to your right as you go into the office/kitchen area). The notebook is no longer used for these bookings.

To book use of the hall, contact Jean.

Whom do I tell...

...when something needs to be done in the HT building or site?

For problems with **cleaning**, tell **Pat** (336683), the Cleaning Supervisor. She buys cleaning materials and oversees the cleaners (James and Robert).

When **something is broken** or needs replacing, tell **Don** (653182), the Site Manager. He liaises with Wardens and George, organises contractors, etc.

For **toilet rolls** and **paper towels** – tell **Jean**. (320926).





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

3 June	7.45pm TCPT Prayer meeting in Crossover
12 June	Pentecost Sunday
19 June	Trinity Sunday
10 July	Church Day Away

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including to Rob for most of the drawings.

**The June 2011 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 29th May.
The LAST date for June articles will be Sunday 22nd May.**