

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

December 06 – January 07



If you have any queries concerning Trinity activities, please contact me, your Pastoral visitor, and if I don't know the answer I will find someone who does.

Name.....

Tel:.....

Christmas is for Children

Is this a true statement? I think, on the whole, it is true. Christmas is a time for awe, wonder and excitement, which are particular childlike emotions. But isn't it more that Christmas is for those with a child like attitude to life rather than an age thing.

Christmas is therefore not just for children but for all those who can, like a child, still gaze in wonder into the heart of the Nativity and believe the unbelievable and imagine the unimaginable. It's for those who are able to live with the mysteries of life and trust implicitly in the things of faith; who are open to the possibility that the stories they are told are true and who can stand in joyous anticipation and receive the gift that's given.

Jesus said, "unless you become like little children you will not see the Kingdom of Heaven".

I hope we can all let the child in us get out of our sophisticated adult minds and hearts this Christmas and discover again the joy of Christmas. Let's not let the kid's have it all. It's not only for them!

With love and peace – *Geoff*

PS. Thanks for all the various acts of love and support shown to Simon and I this year; it's so very much appreciated. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Churches Together in East Grinstead

Town Christmas Fayre

Sunday 10th December

10am – 4pm

This year we will not be holding an outdoor Carol Service as we feel the Lord is leading us into a new and exciting outreach to our town.

Aims: To proclaim that Christ is at the centre of Christmas
To be a visible Christian witness *throughout* the day.

What's the plan?

We will set up an **attractively decorated stall**, displaying the 'Churches Together' banner. With Christian music and singing.

Give **free mince pies** to passers by. There will also be a youth team who will take mince pies through the town centre. All volunteers will be wearing 'Churches Together' T-shirts.

Give **free balloons**, with a Christian message or symbol, to children.

We will have a **Prayer Centre**: people to pray for our town throughout the day and to offer 'on the spot' prayer when requested. There will also be a Prayer Wall for people to write their own prayers and post them on the wall.

We will need volunteers.

- ? People to distribute mince pies and balloons on the stall
- ? People to sing
- ? People to help with setting up (8.30am)
and taking down (4.00pm)
- People to provide mince pies (or donation to buy them)

If you are able to help, please sign up on the list in the Welcome Café.

We are sure that you will agree that this is a wonderful opportunity for Churches Together to be a Christian witness out in 'the market place'.

Advent - Christmas - New Year Services

December 3rd: Full Immersion Baptism for Julia Harris, Rob Weighill & Simon Bell at 10.45am. This is our All-Age service for this month.

Special Youth Service at 6.30pm

December 10th: Usual service times today & Churches Together stall in Town 10am-4pm

December 17th Candlelight Carols Service at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve: United Service (both morning congregations together) for all ages at 10am. This service will include the Christening of baby Joishanth Enoch Jeyaraj.

Afternoon Service for children & their families at 4pm

Midnight Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day: A power-packed celebration for everyone at 10am.

New Year's Eve: Normal times for both morning services but no evening service.

January 7th: Covenant Service at 10am (both morning congregations together).

Transport to Church Services & Church Events

A List of Volunteer Drivers is being compiled for the purpose of providing transport to Church Services and Church Events, for those of our congregation who would otherwise be unable to attend. We already have a few names of those who have committed themselves to help in this respect but for the scheme to work efficiently more Volunteers are needed.

If you can help, even if it would only be occasionally, please enter your name and details on the list provided for this purpose in the Welcome Café.

For those people requiring help with transport for Church Services and Church Events, please call John Taylor, giving as much notice as possible. If he is out when you call, leave a message on his answer machine, including your telephone number and he will phone back as soon as possible.



Forest Row Lifeboat Choir and Guests

present their Christmas Carol Concert in aid of the **RNLI** on
Saturday, 9th December at 7.30 pm
in the Large Parish Hall, East Grinstead
Price: £9 to include a welcoming glass of mulled wine, and a
ploughman's supper.

Tickets from Wickenden's, High Street or
Thelma Manning (phone number in printed edition).

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
that I must say something on
every subject and every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out
everybody's affairs.

With my vast store of wisdom,
it seems a pity not to use it all,
But You know, Lord that
I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from
the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing, and love of
rehearsing them is becoming sweeter
as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy
the tales of others' pains, but help me
to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for growing humility
when my memory seems to clash
with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that
occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;
I do not want to be a saint-
some of them are so hard to live with,
but a sour old person is one of
the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see the good things
in unexpected places, and talents
in unexpected people.

And, give me O Lord,
the grace to tell them so.

Starting 7th January 2007

*A seven week Preaching & Teaching Series on
John Newton's hymn*

“Amazing Grace”

7th January: Compassionate Grace - *“amazing grace,
how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me”*

14th January: Comprehending Grace – *“I once was
lost but now am found; was blind but now I see”*

21st January: Confusing Grace - *“Through many
dangers toils & snares I have already come”*

28th January: Confident Grace - *“God's grace has
brought me safe thus far & He will lead me home”*

4th February: Comforting Grace – *“Twas grace that
taught my heart to fear, & grace my fears relieved”*

11th February: Converting Grace - *“How precious did
that grace appear, the hour I first believed”*

18th February: Continuing Grace – *“When we've been
there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've
no less days to sing God's praise than when we first
began”*



Christmas with Marilyn Baker

Marilyn's Christmas album has been re-released. It contains many of the old carols but to new settings and some new ones, all sung in Marilyn's unique style. It is an ideal gift for non-Christians.

If you did not buy it last year please ask the Lighthouse for a copy. It will be played in the Welcome Café during the Christmas period.

Book the date - 24th February 2007

Marilyn Baker & Tracy Williamson will be coming to Trinity again next year. In the afternoon Tracy will be giving a teaching session - subject not yet decided. In the evening there will be a concert. They will also be taking part in both the morning services on the Sunday.

Collection Envelopes - General Fund

The new sets of envelopes start from December 4th. The use of these envelopes is a good way of remembering to make a regular contribution to the work of God at Trinity. If you would like a set for the coming year please contact me.

The envelopes are also a good way of recording regular Gift Aid payments and save having to complete a Gift Aid envelope each week.

If you are a regular giver to Trinity, pay tax and have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, also contact me. This makes it easier to record gifts.

Douglas Bentley



Church Flowers

Thank you to all who donated money for flowers for the church this year, it is very much appreciated, for all of us to enjoy and people to receive when sick or unable to attend church.

Please remember that there is a list in the Welcome Area for you to add your name to, to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

A suggested amount is 20 to cover the cost of the flowers but any amount, large or small would be welcome.

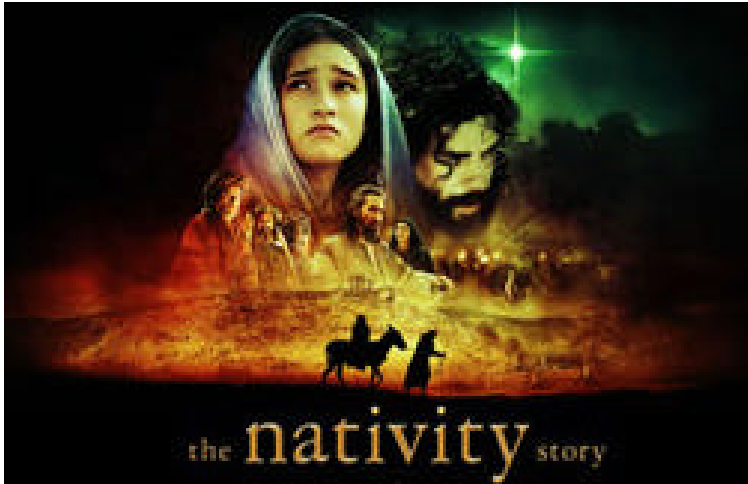
We desperately need flower arrangers to join our very small team. Demonstrations can be given if you feel you need it, don't be afraid, it is not a competition.

If you are interested please contact me either by phone or drop a note in my pigeon hole or preferably by e-mail (see printed edition or White List for details) as I am away a lot.

Many thanks.

Carol Annabring





“I thoroughly recommend ‘The Nativity Story’ for everyone to see. It’s an excellent movie for all the family at the time of year when this story from the Bible will be told and retold in churches up & down the country. It’s also a gift for the church at large to celebrate & share the true origins and meaning of Christmas with the wider communities”.

*Peter Kerridge
CEO Premier Christian Radio*

‘The Nativity Story’

In cinemas nationwide from December 8th.





Welcome Café

The Welcome Café will be closed from
Monday 18th December until Tuesday 2nd January

It will re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2007
10 am – 4 pm



Thankyou...

To all my friends at Trinity –
thank you for all your love &
support throughout the year.
From Kay Hines.

men@trinity

Diary dates 2006

December 8th

Christmas Meal at Dunnings Mill

(See Mike Bartrop if you wish to come to this event)

2007

January 5th

Focus Team Prayer & Planning

January 19th

A new programme

And then the pub

February 9th

Visit from Jonathon Crouch

Director Discovery Life Ministries

February 23rd

Pub Night

Christian Vision for Men

2007

19th May

London Men's Conference

At the Royal Albert Hall

Going for Gold

Gripped by his word, fuelled by his Spirit

16th-18th November

CVM's annual conference

Coventry

Book now at

conference@cvmen.org.uk

Trinity Men's Event – Running the Race



Saturday 11th November saw the second major Trinity based event for men. The theme was 'Running the Race' and we were challenged to 'pick up the baton'. Thanks to some good organisation and a lot of hard work and preparation by Mike Bartrop and others the event was presented very slickly and was appreciated by the many Trinity men and guests that attended.

We enjoyed music from local singer and song writer Phil Jones. He sang a number of heartfelt songs composed to reflect his own testimony and life experiences. There were several themes but he particularly celebrated God's protection and love for us all. 'You're always on his mind' (Psalm 139) even in the bad times.

Jim Graham was the main speaker and Terry Salter, in 'Parky' style, managed to uncover some of Jim's Scottish background and key influences in his long ministry. He had learned that *'peace comes when you stop resisting the will of God for your life'*.

The evening was punctuated by some entertaining drama from Shane Hannam and Geoff Bell. Particularly memorable was Shane's performance as a drug addict, with pusher Geoff trying to persuade him to accept the biggest fix of all, applied straight to the heart and completely free of charge. Shane was curious but not convinced. Geoff's punch line directed at the audience was 'Do you want to get high?'

Jim Graham's talk was projected in his engaging, blunt, hard hitting style so we were in no doubt as to his convictions and the challenge he had for us all. One of his opening statements was that the church is not well. This has caused the church to leave a vacuum for other religions to fill, including consumerism. This is encouraged by a society that is confused and disorientated. He urged us to abandon our club mentality and our focus on maintaining what we have. Instead we should be demonstrating a real vibrant church. If we then pick up the baton then others will follow.

In 'Running the Race', Jim challenged us to adopt seven promises for Christian men. They are:

1. I am committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. I am committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that I need brothers to help me keep my commitment.
3. I am committed to practising spiritual, moral, ethical and sexual purity.
4. I am committed to building a strong marriage and secure family life through love, correction and biblical values (If he is married!!).
5. I am committed to supporting the mission of the Church by honouring and praying for my Pastor, and by actively and creatively giving my time and resources.
6. I am committed to reaching beyond racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.
7. I am committed to influencing the world in which I live locally, vocationally, nationally and internationally by obedience to the Great Commandment (Mark 12: 30, 31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19, 20).

I am sure these promises are equally applicable to ladies. Don't ask me to explain though what Jim meant by 'correction' in number 4. I cannot remember but I presume he was referring to children!

The evening was a fitting celebration of a successful first year of operation for Men@Trinity and was encouragement to continue to grow the work. On 30th November the Church Council will be asked to endorse the work of this group and approve its budget.

Tony Styles

Going for Gold

Gripped by his spirit, Fuelled by his word is the title of CVM's 2007 annual conference when the principal speaker will be Graham Tomlin who has been on the staff at St Helen's Bishopsgate, Wycliffe Hall and Oxford University. He now runs HTB's St Paul's Theological Centre. Last years conference sold very early and it is recommended that you register now at conference@cvmen.org.uk



A new group starting 9th January 2007

This will be a monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of the month.

Format for the first meeting will be as follows:

- *Lunch in Café... Optional 12.30–1.30.*
- *1.40 – Crawley Down hall... some readings and prayer to start the meeting.*
- *Craft time until 3.30 or 4pm? Tea and biscuits served around 2.30pm.*
- *We will need to make a small charge to cover cost of materials... Lunch NOT included in cost.*
- *We hope to lay on transport for those who need it.*
- *There will be a craft to make each month some ideas are listed below but we hope to have ideas from the group as well!*
- *For those who would like to come but are not interested in crafts there will be a couple of jigsaws to make up and you can always come along and chat.*

List of ideas so far for crafts:

First meeting... Make simple cards and discuss future meetings... & who might help by showing a craft.

Not in any special order..

Flower arranging

Jewellery making

Cards

continued...

Patchwork
Teabag folding
Glass painting
Bookmarks
Christmas ball
Other sorts of Card making
Perhaps combine with crochet.
Calligraphy.



Enquires please telephone Anne Kent or June Crome

Julia Bradbury is proud to announce that on the 19th November **Daniel & Amanda** were inducted as Associate Pastors of His People Church.

Many thanks to all those who have taught, upheld & prayed for them over the years.

Crawley Open House

In the last 12 months 14,237 clients have contacted the centre for help and advice. 349 men, women and young people live in their hostels. The Day Centre gives free food and drink to babies and young children, free cups of tea and coffee to adults. They serve very cheap meals at lunch time. Food parcels are given to both single people and families in need, so our gifts of food are always desperately needed as are toiletries and clothing (especially men's / youth's trousers).

A new Hostel and Day Centre has recently been opened for 10 young men and women aged between 16 and 17 years of age who all have significant problems. Please keep the staff, volunteers and their clients in your prayers. Open House offers not only help and friendship, but also hope to so many.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

Following the introduction on the 1st of October 2006 of the new “Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005” it has become necessary for the property committee to ensure that all mains operated electrical equipment used within Trinity must have a valid PAT certificate.

It should be noted that this regulation effects all buildings, so Schools, WSCC halls and halls belonging to other churches are covered by this order.

If you wish to bring electrical equipment onto the premises as part of your work at Trinity please contact Tim Bentley who will arrange for your equipment to be tested and given a PAT certificate. If you wish to have equipment tested which is for non church related activities this can also be undertaken, a fee of £20 will be charged for up to five items.

Fire escape routes

The “Regulatory Re form (Fire Safety) Order 2005” also requires all escape routes are:

- immediately usable at all times,
- free from any obstructions, slip or trip hazards.

This means that escape routes and corridors must not be used for storage, and where tables are stacked, they must be stacked and secured so as to ensure the escape routes are kept clear.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters

Property committee

“How often”

**How often do we forget
About others
Only remembering them
When we are in difficulty
For without friends
We are a like a broken chain
With a missing link
A team
With a player short
Can mean a game
Is Lost
A screw out of place
Can mean
An appliance not working.
We need each other
For it is no good
Being self centered
Or self-sufficient.
God intended us
To learn from each other,
Giving support,
Being generous in our giving
Yet willing to receive
From our Lord
Listening to Him
Being honest and open
As he takes
All our faults and failings
And through our weakness
Blends us into his mould
For he has promised
“I will never leave you
Or forsake you.”**

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What is your Mission?

**Have you ever
Taken time
To sit down
With your Lord
And say
“What are your
Plans for today?”
Spending time with Him
And listening to his words,
Noting his example
And soaking in his presence
So that it
Permeates through us
From head to toe
That we will be ready
To take our first step with Him
Holding His hand
As He guides us
Into His way.
When he lets us go
He is still by our side,
Ready to pick us up
When we fall down
On the mission
He has given us
To undertake
In reaching every man for Christ,
For he has called us
to be
Fishers of Men
And to go
Into the world
Telling others
Of the good news
That Jesus Christ
Has given all
So that there
Is a way
To God through Him
For that is
Our Mission**

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Light House

The East Grinstead Christian Resource Centre
Great range of books, cards, music, gifts & fairly traded goods

Friday 1st December

An Evening With

Garth Hewitt

Forest Row Village Hall - 8.15pm – Tickets £5

Saturday 2nd December

10% off everything all day – get Christmas sorted!

+

2 Railway Approach - East Grinstead

01342 302660

Light House online

Www.lighthouse-centre.co.uk

Church Membership

Membership in the Methodist Church is like Confirmation in the Church of England. It's a time of commitment to God and of belonging to His body, the church. Belonging to a strong body of believers is important, for it identifies us as genuine believers (Eph 2:19), provides us with a spiritual family to support and encourage us in our walk with Christ (Gal 6:1-2) and gives us a place to discover our gifts and use them in His service (1 Cor 12:4-27).

***Christians are not only meant to believe,
we are also meant to belong.***

An initial meeting is planned for **Thursday 7th December** at 8pm in Welcome Café. If you are interested in this but would like to know more why not come along, or just have a word with Geoff.

Services for December 2006

Weekly Wednesday Communion 11.30am

Sunday 3rd

9am Mr Cluny Gillies
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion
6.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Youth Service

Sunday 10th

9am Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm Mr Edward Pender - Quiet Service

Sunday 17th

9am Rev William Prince
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell – All Age Worship
6.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Café Worship

Sunday 24th

10am Rev Geoff Bell - United Service
4pm Rev Geoff Bell - Family Service
11.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10am Rev Geoff Bell - Family Worship

Sunday 31st

9am Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell

Trinity Youth Groups... Poster in Welcome Area