

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

01342 302862

March 2007



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:.....

Rescued from the Mud

I read recently about two boys who were rescued from mud as they tried to walk across the River Hamble at low tide. One boy was rescued but the other had sunk in the mud up to his neck, making it difficult to breathe. The only way to rescue him was for the Inshore Rescue boat to drive as close as possible by using its speed to run up across the top of the mud. When it got within 40ft of the boy the boat stopped. The coxswain's son then tied a rope around himself and half swam, half crawled across the top of the mud to the boy in distress. With great difficulty he pulled the boy free from the mud, laid him on his chest and the crew pulled them both to safety. How must the coxswain have felt as his own son risked his life to rescue the boy? Although the rescue services often risk their lives for others, death by drowning in mud must have been a very frightening thought in deed.

As we begin our journey through Lent again this year, my thoughts are with God (the coxswain) and His son Jesus (the coxswain's Son) who not only risked all the evil of this world to rescue me, but knew it would end in a cruel and nightmarish death. That's love beyond all measure. The boys situation came about because they had spent the money home on ice cream. Our heavenly rescue was necessary because, in the same way, we do things without care for the consequences, often selfishly or thoughtlessly, sometimes deliberately.

Why do we do these things? Why does God not throw His hands up in dismay and walk away from us? We do it to Him enough times! I'm sure God must feel like that from time to time. It isn't easy to love or to forgive. But God is love and therefore continues to love and forgive us. How can we look at the agony of Jesus on the cross and ever think that God does not care? How can we watch such love and not respond in love, to Him and to others? It's a costly thing but then look at the example we've been given.

With love and peace – Geoff.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March 2007
at St. Mary's Church

Theme: **United Under God's Tent**
Women from Paraguay

10.30 am Mrs Maggie Wright
Evangelist for women & children

8 pm Mrs Jean Lorrinder
Missionary to Paraguay for 10 years

Everyone welcome

Refreshments after each service
Traidcraft stall



Wedding Announcements

Our congratulations go out to Carrie Learnihan & Simon Maynard on the announcement of their engagement, and we wish them God's blessings at this very special time in their lives. The wedding will take place here at Trinity on Monday 28th May at 11am. Everyone is welcome.

Congratulations also to Anna Holmes and Harry King on their engagement. Their wedding will be here at Trinity on Saturday 5th May at 1.30pm.

Ministerial District Synod @ Trinity

We will be welcoming up to 180 Ministers from the South East District of the Methodist Church to Trinity on Friday 16th March, between the hours of 9am – 5pm.

Please note
The Welcome Café will be closed on
Friday 16th March.

A Rough Guide for Dads

Join Richard Hardy (Care for the Family) and discover the secret to being a great dad!

Featuring:

- Confessions of a struggling dad
- Getting over getting it wrong
- The challenge of two families
- Coming clean: admitting your failures
- Do something; do anything
- Fatherhood is a team sport
- It's never too late to start
- Kid's need dads – it's official!



March 22nd 2007

7.30-10 pm

£6 per ticket

Crawley Baptist Church

www.justfordads.org.uk

Tel: 029 2081 0800

(Care for the Family)

Prayer Week for East Grinstead

Every day 7 am - 10 pm



Venue: **Trinity Methodist Church**

Starts: **Monday 19th March 2007 at 7.00 am**

Finishes: **Sunday 25th March at 6.30 pm**
with an evening celebration

‘Freedom Praise’

‘Jerusalem, I have put guards on the walls to watch. They must not be silent day or night. You people who remind your Lord of your needs in prayer should never be quiet. You should not stop praying to him until he builds up Jerusalem and makes it a city all people will praise’

Isaiah 62: 6-7

Contact the Church office for more information on
01342 302862 or phone **07845442154**

Life Discovery

After Jonathan Crouch's visit on the 9th of February we have been offered a number of places for a Christian to bring a not-yet-believing friend along to one of their Multi-Activity Days which includes Karting / Mudsports / Quads / 4x4s at a cost of £30 per head.

The date we have been offered is Saturday 7th April; if you have already expressed interest please confirm your intention to register for the event by giving Mike Bartrop your payment.

If you can't make it on that date please speak to Mike Bartrop or Shane Hannam so that you can have an opportunity to go on another date, also they can answer any queries you may have.

London Men's Convention 2007

*19th May 2007, 10am - 5pm
The Royal Albert Hall*

The theme this year is

“liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons”?

BE MEN OF GODLINESS

Studies from the book of Titus

Cost for seats in the Arena, Stalls and Boxes is £27 on top of which you will have to add your travel cost.

Please speak to Mike Bartrop as soon as possible to book your place.

More details from www.londonmensconvention.co.uk

A date for your diaries...



Concert

in aid of

JMA & Sackville College

arr. by Marion Small

at

Trinity Methodist Church

on

Saturday 9th June

7 pm

Refreshments

men@trinity
Diary dates for March

- 2nd** Café Night an opportunity to discuss & study
- 16th** Ten Pin Bowling revisited
- 17th** Six-a-side football
- 23rd** Small Group Prayer
- 30th** Café Night more opportunity to discuss & study

Please see separate notices for the
Day at Discovery Life Ministries
and The London Mens ' Convention

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* **Trinity Thursday Group** *
* Crawley Down Hall *
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* **March 1st 7.30pm Gill Matson will talk** *
* **about 'Care' in East Grinstead.** *
*
* **March 15th 7.30pm Energy Saving Trust.** *
* **How to save energy in the home at a time** *
* **when energy costs are soaring.** *
*
* **April 12th 7.30pm Games evening -** *
* **come along & enjoy yourselves!** *
*
* *Everyone welcome* *

Summer holiday recommendation

Have you sorted your summer holiday yet? If not I would like to recommend Spring Harvest Holidays. They have what I would describe as a “holiday village” in the Vendée region of France which is a GREAT place to relax and unwind.

The 4 star site offers accommodation from a pitch for your own tent, through ready pitched, fully equipped tents, to luxurious mobile homes and even a couple of villas. The emphasis is on holidays and recharging your batteries, physical or spiritual. The site is meticulously kept and the flowers are really beautiful. The staff are friendly and keen to help make your stay as enjoyable as they can. There is a swimming pool and a bar where there is evening family entertainment most nights. There is also a restaurant. Through the day children of all ages are catered for with different groups and activities and there is an extensive sport programme (for the more enthusiastic). In short there is plenty to do onsite for all ages.

Off-site, the countryside is beautiful. St Gilles Croix de Vie is a beautiful seaside town with sun kissed sandy beaches and plenty of restaurants so you can get your moules marinière and frites fix! We will never forget the trip to the Velo Rail, a disused rail track where you hire four-seater pedal powered platform with train wheels (google “velo rail” for more info). Great fun.

Unlike the Easter teaching weeks, at Le Pas Opton there is not a strenuous teaching schedule. If you were to attend all of the spiritual program it would consist of a half hour “thought for the day” at 7:30am, an hour long teaching session at 10:00am and evening worship at about 7pm. As you would expect from Spring Harvest, the worship is good and the speakers are worth listening to. It is important to emphasise that you are not expected to do it all.

The Raby rabble have been there twice and we would thoroughly recommend it.

For more info go to www.springharvestholidays.co.uk

Membership Service

We are thrilled to announce that the following folks will be welcomed into Full Membership of Trinity MC on Sunday 4th March



Jose Evans
Simon Maynard
Gail Ablitt
Evelyn Kennard
Janet Mockford
Robin Hii
Catherine Gillbard
Simon Bell
Rob Weighill

“You are no longer strangers to God, or foreigners to heaven, but members of God’s family and you belong in His household with every other Christian”

Light HOUSE

Light House at Trinity

Light House at Trinity is open every day, especially Sundays.

Please come and see the latest books, music, gifts and the lovely range of cards and notelets. There is also a good selection of children's books, stationery and even watches!

Books are available on the theme of Geoff's preaching, study books for lent and daily readings. There is always something to challenge us and stimulate our growth.

Any special requests can be made and I will follow these up with the shop and check their availability.

I 'man the shop' most Sunday mornings between the two services. During Café hours the staff will be pleased to help. At other times you can serve yourself and add your purchase to the list and settle up another time.

My recommended read is 'Journey into God's Heart' by Jennifer Rees Larcombe. This is a compelling story of a journey of faith, and understanding God's timing at times of difficulty. The book abounds with examples of our surprising God.

If you would like to share a recommendation or review of a recent book or CD who have enjoyed then please let me know or send it direct to Ruth our Magazine Editor.

Pauline Styles

Light House Shop – 01342 302660

Stewards' Away Day

February 10th 2007

West Watch

On a miserable February morning Geoff Bell and seven stewards (sadly Sally was ill and unable to be with us) left Trinity for West Watch, Chelwood Gate. West Watch is a lovely old house in beautiful grounds and is so remote and peaceful it could be a million miles from East Grinstead, so is ideal for a day away.

Our theme for the day was 'Building the Body' and after a warm welcome from the manager, then coffee, we began with worship in music and prayer. Geoff led us in a bible study on Luke 5:1-11 and posed the question 'Should we be sharing our faith more out of the box i.e. outside the confines of the church building?'. Jesus was innovative in his approach to sharing the good news so we should be too. The disciples were willing to try again after failure so we should be too. They were overwhelmed by the miracle as a sign of Jesus' holiness; we need that sense of awe too.

After a break for a superb lunch we looked at various discipleship courses with a view to using one at Trinity to build people's confidence in sharing their faith.

The day ended with a simple and moving communion service and then we left to return to the world, feeling encouraged by the time spent away together.

AGM

Sunday 22nd April at 4.30pm

Please can all **reports** from all Trinity committees, groups and clubs for the Annual General Meeting be emailed (preferably) to admin@trinitymethodist.org.uk or given to Ruth by the 30th March. Thank you.

Coming soon: “Amazing Grace” in cinemas nationwide March 23rd

Dear Friends,

Premier is pleased to announce the forthcoming release of Amazing Grace. A new film based on the life of antislavery pioneer William Wilberforce. The film’s release also coincides with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Amazing Grace stars Ioan Gruffudd (Black Hawk Down), Albert Finney (Erin Brockovich), Michael Gambon (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban), Rufus Sewell (Legend of Zorro), and introduces Youssou N’Dour.

Gruffudd plays Wilberforce, who, as a Member of Parliament, navigated the world of 18th Century backroom politics to end the slave trade in the British Empire. In 1785 Wilberforce underwent a spiritual encounter which he described as a conversion experience. He resolved to commit his future life and work wholly in the service of God, and one of the people he received advice from was John Newton, a leading evangelical Anglican clergyman played in the film by Albert Finney.

Youssou N’Dour plays Olaudah Equiano. Born in Africa and sent as a slave to the Colonies, Equiano bought his freedom and made his home in London, where he wrote a best-selling account of his life and became a leading figure in the fight to end the slavery of his fellow countrymen.

Over the next few weeks we’ll be telling you more about the film and how you can use it as a tool for outreach. You’ll also be able to find out more about Amazing Grace Sunday on March 25th, when you can join churches around the globe in singing Amazing Grace and pray for an end to slavery once and for all.

You can also make church or group bookings by calling the following freephone number 0800 6122136 (Premier Christian Radio).

www.amazinggracemovie.com & www.premier.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Your Church Council met in January -

Week of Prayer –

This has been rearranged for Monday 19 March to Sunday 25 March. Times will be from 7am to 10pm each day plus overnight on Friday and Saturday. There will be one or more prayer stations in the Church with items displayed to pray for. The focus will be for prayer for the Town. This is an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

Town Christmas Shopping Sunday 2006 –

The meeting reviewed the Churches Together stall. This was a new venture.

The feedback from the event, including Churches Together in East Grinstead (CTEG), was very positive. The stall was felt to be a better approach, than the normal carol service, for meeting people face to face and as an opportunity to evangelise. Doug Bentley was concerned that the event implied the Churches support for Sunday trading. However the general view was that this was outweighed by the benefits of the Churches going out to meet people. Also the Churches were not actually involved in trading. Jayne Crossman's organisation and commitment was greatly appreciated, and this had been endorsed by CTEG.

It was agreed that the Good Friday Service in the High Street should go ahead as usual.

Finance Report –

Vanessa Edmonds, Treasurer, drew attention to the projected year end deficit. Results so far showed this to be increasing but this was thought to be a timing issue with the flow of income. This is being monitored closely. We are grateful that giving is ahead of schedule but a decline in direct giving was increasing admin. An appeal will be made to encourage standing orders. Similarly there will be reminder to encourage more use the petty cash system for reimbursement of expenditure up to £50. Again this helps to reduce admin.

Building Fund - Vanessa explained that the latest statement for Phase 1 showed the shortfall had been reduced to £2,800. With the potential for the receipt of a further grant it was hoped the final outturn would be a surplus. There is £11,600 already in the fund for Phase 2.

Ministerial District Synod at Trinity 16th March 2007 -

Geoff Bell reminded the meeting about this forthcoming event. The District Chairman had visited Trinity and is happy with venue and arrangements. Terry Salter is our coordinator for the event and will be organising the Trinity input. Look out for his appeals for help.

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Trinity Ladies Awayday at Westwatch Saturday 28 April –

Geoff Bell was pleased to report that the event was proving to be very popular and all tickets were sold.**Youth Work Programme from September 2007 –**

John Starling outlined proposals for widening the scope of youth work. Max Leslie, our Youth Worker, has been finalising details to present to his support group including ideas for resourcing. It is hoped to attract at least two unpaid volunteer workers, possibly gap-year students. The extra manpower is needed to help develop Trinity's youth and children's activities, extend outreach to schools, as well as to tackle some of the needs of the Town's youth. Max is also looking at possible grants and at the training available.

The proposal to extend the youth work was agreed in principle. More detailed proposals would be presented to the Church Council meeting in March and, if approved, to the Annual Church Meeting.

Geoff Bell remarked what a big difference Max's presence had already made to the development of our youth work as was highlighted by the article in last month's magazine.

Roundabout –

Dawn Evans gave an update on Roundabout activities. Roundabout Town at the Wallace Centre is now nearly full and the After School Club at Trinity is becoming very busy. A visit from Environmental Health had highlighted the need to bring food service standards up to the same level as the Welcome Café. Also they had complained about the type of fencing around the outside play area. The Property Committee is looking into that.

Dawn explained that due to her passing her education degree, Roundabout had been awarded training grants amounting to £5,000 in both this year and the following year. Geoff Bell welcomed the news and congratulated Dawn on her achievement in passing the degree whilst carrying out the very demanding role of Roundabout manager.

The next Church Council meeting is on 29th March. Please let our administrator Ruth, or myself, know if you have any ideas or concerns to raise.

A date for everyone's diary is the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 22nd April at 4.30pm.

Tony Styles

Church is short of cash

**Church is short of cash
Can't pay the vicars
"Footballers earn high wages"
Screams the newspaper.
Kids given money and iPods
Just to go to college.
Politicians argue about aid
And climate change.
Politically correct teaching
Taints our view of life.
God's prophets spoke
To the people,
Many didn't listen
Carrying on regardless.
God's watchmen
Gave the warning
And still people go
Their own way.
God sent his son
Who gave his life
So that we
Can be brought
Back to him.
What will you decide?**

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Fairtrade fortnight

26th February-11th March

Change Today - Choose Fairtrade

Fairtrade goods available every day in Welcome
Café

Saturday 3rd March 10-12 noon

The Great Cake Bake

Lingfield Day Centre

Repeated as last year was so popular!

Friday 9th March 7.30-9.30 pm

Fairtrade Fair

At Trinity

Speaker Mr Paul Chandler -Traidcraft executive
will talk on

'Does Fairtrade make a Difference'

Plus Greg Valerio - Ethical Metals for Jewellery

Large variety of stalls to browse.

Clothes - Foods - Jewellery

Traidcraft has a good range of products always
available. The new Spring catalogue is full of
exciting craft & clothing which can be ordered on
the sheet.

Val & Peter Russell

Services for March 2007

Weekly Wednesday Communion 11.30am

Sunday 4th

9am Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm Miss Janet Ockwell

Sunday 11th

9am Rev Clive McKie
10.45am Mr Brian Lanstone
6.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Quiet Service
with Holy Communion

Sunday 18th

9am Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am Mrs Diane Collins – All Age Worship
6.30pm Circuit Service at Horley

Sunday 25th

9am Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion
10.45am Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm Mr John Starling - Praise service

**For Trinity Youth Groups please see
details in Welcome Area**