

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

01342 302862

March 2008



If you have any queries concerning Trinity activities, please contact me, your Pastoral Visitor, and if I do not know the answer I will find someone who does.

Name..... Tel.....



Man for All Seasons

Many of us can remember when Good Friday was a very solemn day indeed. People fasted, or ate only fish. Shops, theatres & restaurants were all closed. It was a sad & empty day, where time seemed to stand still. Nowadays Good Friday is just like any other day, for most people. But

the story of Jesus is still with us & the events of Easter, relevant as ever.

In the 19th century & up to the Second World War, cynical scholars sought to discredit the Jesus story. They argued that Jesus was a mythical figure who never existed, but was merely an invention of the early Christians, anxious to establish the credentials of their new religion. This is not the view today. Most historical scholars today agree that Jesus lived & died as the Gospels tell it and that His resurrection, though a matter of faith, cannot be discarded easily given the eye-witnesses evidence, documented in various historical writings, so close to the events.

Personally I have no difficulty in believing in this astonishing man. He is one of the most convincing characters in the whole of history. What leaps out at me, from each chapter of the gospels, is not so much His divinity & holiness – though that is apparent on every page – but His humanity. This I can really relate to & because of it I know that He can really relate to me. He was so good with people; power with humility; authority with modesty. He had a wonderful

intellect yet with such a loving, all embracing, heart. His treatment of woman, in an age where they were discounted, is always with the highest regard for them. His bravery in the face of agony, humility, mockery & the desertion of friends; the loneliness of His death. The way that, after His resurrection, He sought out Peter, & the others, despite their desertion & betrayal, & forgave them all. And what He did for them He still does for me – I know it in my heart - what a wonderful thing - thank God!

Those 19th century scholars who confidently predicted that Christianity would not survive to the year 2000 were wrong. Here we are & there are more Christians today than ever before – the best part of two billion of us. It's the alternatives that have fallen by the wayside – those modern creeds & superstitions which were going to replace Jesus Christ in our hearts & minds – Communism, Fascism, Nazism, Scientism etc – are dead & gone. They have been tested & found wanting, to say the least. But the story of Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, who preached love, forgiveness & turning the other cheek; who was crucified for this message, lives on, stronger than ever. A real, living, vibrant man, for all seasons.

Have a great Easter – with love & peace – Geoff.



IMPORTANT – TAX PAYERS PLEASE READ!

The good news.

From the 6th April the basic rate of income tax will be reduced from 22p to 20p.

This means that if your income is £10,000 your tax will reduce by (approximately) £100 per year. If your income is £15,000 this will be £200 and so on at a rate of £20 per £1,000 income until the maximum reduction in the region of £750 is reached when the higher rate of tax starts (on an income of about £42,000).

The bad news

The amount the church can recover under Gift Aid is reduced from a little over 28% to 25%. In the last full tax year this would have reduced our recovery by over £2,000.

What can we do?

This loss would be offset if everyone increases their giving by at least 3p for every £1 of giving.

Please prayerfully consider how you will use the amount given to you by the Chancellor.

And if you are a tax payer and not part of the Gift Aid scheme, see Douglas NOW!

Diary Date - Annual Church Meeting

This very important event in the life of the Church will be held on
Sunday 20 April, 4.30pm.

It will be followed by a bring & share tea and the evening service.

Queen Victoria wanted to be sure.

After attending a service in St. Paul's Cathedral, she asked her Chaplain, "Can one be absolutely sure in this life of eternal safety?" But he did not know any way to be certain. The Court News published the remarks and John Townsend, an unassuming evangelist, saw them. After reading Queen Victoria's question and the answer she had received, Townsend began to think and pray about answering her himself. Then he sent the following note to the Queen.

To her gracious Majesty, our beloved Queen Victoria, from one of her most humble subjects: With trembling hands, but heartfelt love, and because I know that we can be absolutely sure now of our eternal life in the Home that Jesus went to prepare, may I ask your Most Gracious Majesty to read the following passages of Scripture: John 3:16; Romans 10: 9 – 10? These passages prove there is full assurance of salvation by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ for those who believe and accept His finished work. I sign myself, your servant for Jesus' sake, John Townsend.

John Townsend told others about his letter to the Queen. Many prayers from many hearts went up to God. In about two weeks he received a modest-looking envelope containing the following letter:

To John Townsend: Your letter of recent date I received and in reply would state that I have carefully and prayerfully read the portions of Scripture referred to, and trust by God's grace to meet you in that Home of which He said, "I go to prepare a place for you." (Signed) Victoria Guelph.

The way of salvation is the same for a queen as it is for any lost soul.

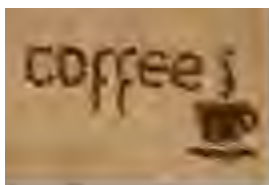
For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should no perish, but have everlasting life.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I was encouraged to share these words with you.
Love in Jesus' name.
Mike S.

Thank you
To Kitty A for the kind words after receiving the flowers from church and also for giving some money towards the flowers for another occasion. The Church flowers are a lovely way to spread a bit of happiness to those who see them so beautifully displayed on the Sunday & to those who receive them the next day. Thank you to all who are involved in this ministry.

Dorothy F has a bird feeding station looking for a new home. Please phone her for details.



Attention All Men!

Men's Breakfast
Saturday 15th March

8-8.30am

followed by

A Talk by **Jo Webb** of the
Police Neighbourhood Specialist Team
covering many current 'Police Issues'
Questions afterwards.

Please ask Graham for invitation cards.



Christian Vision for Men

On Saturday 26th January Mike B and I attended a conference in Bath, in which Dave Murrow, from USA was the main speaker. About 450 men from most parts of the country came.

It was a challenging and thought-provoking day starting with some wonderful worship and singing. Some of Dave's ideas came from his book, 'Why men hate going to Church'. He pointed out that many things happening in the church were 'foreign' to men - worshipping, reading, socialising and hugging! Sometimes the terminology we use in church is difficult for men with emphasis on 'personal relationship', and other feminine imagery. We need to 'adapt the culture'.

The next session indicated some ways in which we can do this - change the decor, shorten the teaching focus, (20 mins suggested), include a visual element and 'man up the music'. We need to keep men in the net and make the holes smaller, so that we don't lose them.

The third session was on 'discipling' and a structure was suggested. CVM had some direct input, suggesting various types of event suitable for men, particularly aimed at building bridge-heads of friendship.

We had a well thought out goody pack to begin the day and some excellent refreshments.

Please support the events for men as you see them advertised at Trinity and bring along your friends.

Graham B

Holy Week Services

17th – 23rd March- 8pm each night

Seamless Robe

Monday

A Seamless Robe of Loneliness

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” *Mt 27:46*

Tuesday

A Seamless Robe of Forgiveness

“Father forgives then for them no not what they do” *Elk 23:34*

Wednesday

A Seamless Robe of Promise

“Today you will be in paradise with me” *Elk 23:43*

Maundy Thursday

A Seamless Robe of Sacrifice

“Dear woman here is your son; son here is your mother” *Jan 19:26*

Good Friday

The heart of the Gospel at the heart of the Town

A Seamless Robe of Love

“For God so loved the world” *Jn3:16-17*

East Grinstead High Street

11am

Easter Sunday

Both morning congregations together at

10am

TRINITY CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP

Meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1.45pm in the Crawley Down Hall at Trinity.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Programme

- MARCH** **Easter Cake decoration with Jackie.**
- APRIL Gift boxes with Anne
- MAY Greetings cards with Anne
- JUNE** **Beadwork with Frances**
- JULY** **Summer Flower Arrangement**
- AUGUST** **Lavender bags with Val**
- SEPTEMBER** **Paper Flowers with Anne**
- OCTOBER** **Knit and natter with Val. (there will be cards to make if you aren't a knitter!)**
- NOVEMBER** **Christmas cards and gift tags with Anne**
- DECEMBER** **Decorating cover of Scrapbook for 2009**

TRINITY NEW BUILD

As you are hopefully aware we are pressing forward with the New Build. A team has been formed and one of our early tasks is to complete a Scheme (Grant) Support Application Form to be submitted to the Methodist Church. One of the sections of this form requires us to give details of any **voluntary work** undertaken by members of the church in the community. We may include work done by individuals or by the church as a whole, which we “identify as an expression of our mission outside the church building setting”.

We are asked to list the organisations, groups and bodies with which we work as volunteers e.g. charities, hospitals, schools, residents’ associations, councils etc. – in fact almost any group, which enhances any part of life in the community. We would really like to give a full list (and if possible include the roles undertaken), so please if you are a volunteer, could you give details below and then pop this leaflet into the B pigeon hole **ideally by Sunday March 2nd**. (If you are reading this in the monthly magazine after this date, then by **Sunday 9th March at the very latest** please). Many thanks,

Maggie B

Organisation

Role
(Optional but helpful)

Name (optional)

Hope 08

This Easter, Jesus is going to be broadcast into 10 million homes.

‘The Passion’ is a dramatic BBC series retelling the death and resurrection of Christ. It’s scheduled to go out at peak time, in 6 half hour slots between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Filmed in Morocco and starring actors such as Joseph Mawle, James Nesbitt (Cold Feet) and David Oyelow (Spooks and The Last King of Scotland), the production is ‘an extremely vivid piece of drama’.

Andrew Graystone, Director of the Churches’ Media Council, goes on to say that ‘this Easter the whole country will be talking about Jesus. Not about church politics or the finer points of theology, but about Jesus.’

As an opportunity for evangelism, we think that this is pretty exciting! (For an official Hope08 comment on this, see below.)

We’d like to help you come up with ways to respond – from simply encouraging people to watch the programmes to hosting a debate on the themes – this is a chance to really help our communities engage with the Easter story.

If you already know how you're going to make the most of this, we'd love to get your ideas out there! Let us know via www.hopenews.co.uk

Comment from the Hope08 Board:

“We’ve been praying hard that quality Christian programmes would be given airtime on the mainstream media this year in order for the Church to engage in public discussion about Jesus.

Having seen some of the passion series which is to be broadcast at prime time on BBC this Easter we believe this challenging and fresh account of Jesus' last week on earth, presents The Church in the UK with a golden opportunity and would want to encourage every Hope08 church and partner to consider how they might sensitively use this opportunity to the full. ”

Healthcare Hell

It's murder to get sick in Zimbabwe, writes Cathy Buckle, who has just gone through the experience.

Cathy Buckle

27 Jan 2008 06:27

Only once in the last seven days has there been electricity, water and telephone services at the same time and that was for less than two hours one afternoon. In the past week electricity has been off for 18 hours a day, every day, and water cuts last for days at a time. This is now the norm of life as everything is approaching, or has already reached, a state of complete collapse. All attempts at normal day to day functioning are virtually impossible.

This week I had a first hand encounter with the precarious state of Zimbabwe's health delivery system and it made me very aware of why we have the lowest life expectancy in the world. My body had been aching for two days and I was racked with fever: dripping with sweat one minute and shaking with uncontrollable cold the next. I knew I needed help and was fortunate to be able to see a doctor - this is a luxury most Zimbabweans rarely have. The first sign of abnormality came after the blood test when the doctor apologised for not providing a plaster - something so simple but now unobtainable. It was an insignificant inconvenience. Far worse lay ahead. There are four pharmacies in the town and none had the common drug that had been prescribed to treat malaria. An alternative drug was proposed but none of the chemists had this one either. Malaria: so common, so deadly, no drugs for treatment - this was chilling.

My next stop was the hospital, by now I was weak and disorientated and had only got this far thanks to the help of a friend with a car - another rare luxury unavailable to most. Only four patients occupied beds: few can afford the hundreds of millions of dollars needed per night. The hospital also didn't have the prescribed malaria drug, or the alternative that I needed. Finally a course of injections was made available but only if I could pay cash upfront for the vials so the hospital could immediately try and replace them. How many others before me had been down this road and not been so lucky?

Over the next five days I visited the hospital every morning for another precious injection. For three days and nights the hospital had no running water at all. When the doctor did his rounds, nurses trickled water from a jug over his hands after he had examined each patient. A local farmer had helped and provided a bowser of water but this was being carried in, by the bucket load, to flush toilets, clean human waste, wash dishes and equipment and sponge down patients. The hospital, like the rest of the town, was only getting electricity in the middle of the night; water was being boiled outside on open wood fires. A generator was dealing with emergencies, the cost of running it phenomenal.

Every day I felt so privileged to be receiving treatment from nurses working under such appalling conditions. They have left home without a hot meal or cup of tea in the morning. They will return home to carry water from wells, cook outside on open fires and prepare for another day of much the same. And yet always they were polite, professional, helpful and gentle. On my last day I asked the nurse when she would have time off - I seemed to have seen her there every day. She told me they were short staffed because so many nurses had gone. "Gone to the Diaspora," she said. "To Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK, South Africa, Botswana - anywhere." I asked the nurse what made her stay and she said it was very hard to go. As hard as it to stay.

Until next time, thanks for reading,
love Cathy.

Thankyou to Gayle A for sharing this with us.



Drugs & Alcohol - What's the problem?

Ian Wilkins, an old friend of Trinity, was invited to speak at the Men@Trinity cafe evening on Friday 22 September.

He entitled his talk 'Drugs & Alcohol - What's the problem?' Abuse of these substances is of course a very great danger to society and a topical subject.

Ian was talking on behalf of Hope UK, a Christian charity. Drinking, smoking and illegal drug use are linked to a huge amount of health, social and economic harm. Hope UK helps children and young people and their parents, carers, teachers, church and voluntary leaders meet this challenge to their health and well-being.

His talk was well attended and we found it to be enlightening and disturbing but also encouraging. Ian made us aware of the risks and what we can do to mitigate them for ourselves, our families and amongst friends and colleagues. He asked us to consider what we thought the most problematical drug is. We came up with a various opinions but Ian's view was that alcohol was the biggest problem. This is with the relatively cheap availability to youngsters, it's unrestricted availability to adults and the damage it can cause to the lives of heavy drinkers and those in contact with them. One of the dangers of alcohol, even for the casual drinker, is the increasing strength of drinks such as wine and beer.

When we asked what more the Church can do, it was reassuring that the social, as well as spiritual. aspects of our work does provide the kind of positive and purposeful situation that is a deterrent to abuse. Can we do more outside the Church though to get involved where the effects of drugs and alcohol are prevalent? Ian's church in Forest Row is exploring the idea of opening their doors late at night on Fridays and Saturdays to provide a safe haven and assistance to the community. What might Trinity do?

We are very grateful to Ian for spending time with us and for the work he and others do through Hope UK.

Tony S

Thursday Group

Thursday March 6th at 7:30 p.m. . Knitting Evening. Everybody to wear their Easter bonnets they have made at home.

Thursday March 27th at 7:30 p.m.. Games evening

Thursday April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Mr Kevin Dickens, will give a talk about 'Mercy Ships', which is the Thursday Group's charity for 2008.

"A warm welcome awaits anybody who would like to attend any of the above meetings".

The following is an extract from a letter sent by Jack Lancashire, National President of Gideons International in the British Isles, to the Treasurer of the Thursday Group. The letter was to thank all the church members for their prayers and giving during 2007 which enabled the Gideons to place Bibles in many more locations. The donation made by the church was the proceeds of the copper coin collection to which many church members contributed, and which will continue throughout 2008. If you have any loose copper coins that you would like to contribute during the coming year, could you please hand them to any member of the Thursday Group. Thank you. The extract from Jack Lancashire's letter, is as follows:-

This time last year I shared with you our great concern for the young people of our land and the changing attitude of some schools towards the Gideons. Thank you for praying and please continue to do so for their sake. This time I want to tell you about the increase in the distribution of the College/Universities Testament from 54,600 in 2006 to 77,300 in 2007 a growth of 41.6%! Praise God! Just hear what Leah, a 6th form student studying to be a doctor, wrote to our National Office: -

"Thank you so much for the brand new Bible I received. The Bible is such a treasure of comfort and wisdom, one of the greatest gifts to give and receive. You are doing the world a great service through your efforts, with such good motives. Thank you for the Bible I received and indeed all the work you have done and will do. I wish you lots of courage and support for your organisation in the future".

Services for March 2008

Mid-week Communion -Wednesdays 11.30am

Sunday 2nd

9am

10.45am

6.30pm

Sunday 9th

9am

10.45am

6.30pm

Sunday 16th

9am

10.45am

6.30pm

Sunday 23rd

10am

6.30pm

Sunday 30th

9am

10.45am

6.30pm

Lent 4

Rev Geoff Bell

Rev Geoff Bell

Youth Service

Lent 5

Mrs Maureen Edwards

Mrs Diane Collins

Rev Geoff Bell - Quiet Service

Palm Sunday

Rev Geoff Bell

Rev Geoff Bell - All Age Worship

Rev Geoff Bell - Cafe Worship

Easter

Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion

Mr Ian McIntosh

Dr Stanley Jeyaraj

Mrs Sue Shortman

Mr Eddie Newton

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