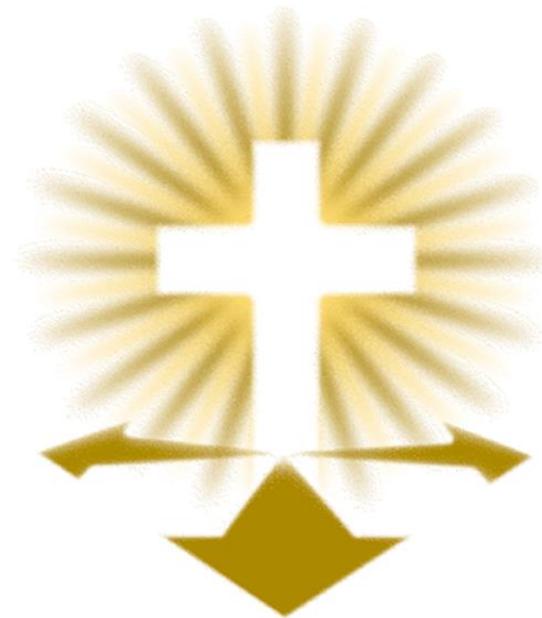


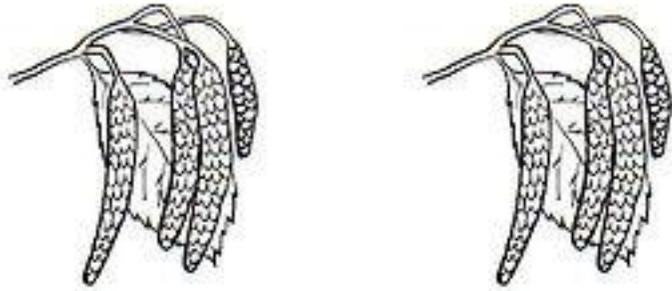
Trinity

# Update

February 2018



**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT**  
**'Church for Everyone'**



## WOMEN'S HOUR

Women's Hour returned from its Christmas break on January 4<sup>th</sup>, with Communion taken by George. As well as the quiet reverence of Communion we had George telling us some of his jokes!! And some of our ladies read a short story or two and so it was an enjoyable afternoon all round.

The following Thursday we had a real treat; Joan King and some of her colleagues from The Inner Wheel gave us a wonderful afternoon tea with dainty sandwiches, delicious scones, accompanied of course by jam and cream, and little fancy cakes. This was all served to us at the tables and the teapot was brought round for any top-ups requested. We also welcomed three ladies from Remick house with their Activities co-ordinator, Mary. A very jolly and fun filled time was had by all. Joan and her ladies worked hard and we would like to say a very big thank you to each and every one.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January we had an open afternoon. Once again some of our own ladies delighted us with short readings and poetry; we played a few tracks of music as well as our usual hymns, prayers and Bible reading. We have to say a big thank you to Claire who operated a system on her laptop for all the music. These open afternoons always seem to go well.

Daphne and Jean V on behalf of Women's Hour

### Verse for the year 2018:

**'We will, in all things, grow up into...Christ.**

**From Him the whole body...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'**

*Ephesians 4:15-16*

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including to Natalie Mitchell for proof-reading and to Wendy Sear and Heather Baig for final assembly of the magazine and prayer leaflet. Special thanks to Tat for technical help.**

**Please note that the March 2018 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

**The LAST date for March articles will be Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

## WOMEN'S HOUR CLARIFICATION

Thank you Jean for a wonderful write up last month - I didn't recognise myself!!

There are just a couple of points I'd like to clarify - firstly I was never a prison visitor, I worked in the tea bar and also on occasions signed visitors in. This started with the WRVS and later, as things changed, with Send Family Link - a charity to help the children and families of prisoners.

I have not been awarded the MBE .....yet????! The Surrey Appropriate Adults Volunteer Scheme were awarded the Queen's Award For Voluntary Services, which is the equivalent of the MBE for voluntary services, some years ago and I have volunteered with them for many years.

Pat Clare

## DEBS REFLECTS....

### What is your shape?

Not your individual body shape, but your unique S.H.A.P.E. which helps to form the Body of Christ, His Church, and in particular this local branch of Christ's Church, Holy Trinity, Aldershot.

Let me explain myself!

**S.H.A.P.E.** describes our

**S**piritual Gifts – God's unique gifts to us, for the building of His church.

**H**eat – what motivates and excites us; what we love to do.

**A**bilities – our talents, knowledge and skills.

**P**ersonality – our character, personal qualities and strengths.

**E**xperience – the prism through which so much of God's work in us is revealed.

### All for God's service, every day, everywhere.

All of which, as those created in the Image of God, makes us who we are. Now if you've been a Christian for a while, you have probably attended courses in the past, or completed exercises that help you to reflect and understand who you are, what makes you 'tick.' I've certainly done a few! Of course as we go through life and experience different events and stages, things can change. Often we just don't take the time to really think or pray about this. If we are involved in church life, there is often not time to be listened to, just the requirement to fill the gaps on the next rota!

Well, this year at Holy Trinity we want to commit to making time, to listen, to each other, but most importantly to our Heavenly Father who knows us better than we know ourselves.

Our verse for the year, '***We will, in all things, grow up into Christ. From Him the whole body ... grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work,***' (Ephesians 4.15-16), emphasises our desire to grow up. In order to grow up, we need to grow in depth, to check that our roots are nourished and anchored so that when life happens we are not swayed or tossed back and forth by the waves.

SHAPE is the first of two courses that we are going to offer at different times of the week to enable as many as possible of you to join in and set this time aside to ask the question, perhaps especially, but not exclusively in terms of church life – Am I a round peg in a round hole? Some of us might discover that there are things we need to lay down, in order to pick something else up. It might be a bit messy, but that is fine!

After Easter we will begin the second course encouraging us to go deeper with God as we learn what it is to be emotionally healthy and spiritually mature as Christians.

Our prayer is that whilst there is work to do, (it is never easy to allow God to challenge us), this will be a time of deepening relationships in our church family and an opportunity to have some fun too, as we learn together.

George, Jane and I completed the SHAPE course with Guildford Diocese in the autumn, as we sensed this might be something God was calling us to bring to HT. We are looking forward very much to seeing where this might lead. It is also a good follow-on to those who attended, 'Releasing Spiritual Gifts.'

The SHAPE course lasts just 3 sessions with an opportunity for a 1:1 follow-up conversation afterwards if that would be helpful. We will be running it on Wednesday evenings, (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March). Thursday evenings, (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March), and Monday afternoons at 1.30pm (March 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>).

Debs

## SOUL SISTERS

*Soul Sisters is Holy Trinity's  
answer to good fun, fellowship and  
a good laugh.*



A date for your diary! As we had such a lovely weekend at the Greenhouse Christian Centre in Poole last year, we have decided to go there again. Therefore we have booked the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June, and we are looking forward to another great time of fellowship, fun and food. The cost will be £140 for full board from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

This is a lovely venue, and it even has a swimming pool! If you have any questions or would like to start a savings account, please see Jacquie Kellagher or Trisha Haley

Details of other events will be available in due course, so watch this space!

Trisha Haley

On behalf of Soul Sisters

## JOHN KELLAGHER WRITES

I've been thinking about this year's verse for the year, and in particular how we use pictures from ordinary life to help us think about spiritual things. One of the features of Jesus' teaching was that he used pictures of earthly things to talk about heavenly, spiritual things. He often said – the kingdom of heaven is like... a mustard seed, a farmer going to sow, a pearl of great treasure. Or he talked using parables, again using stories that people could relate to and understand, to help them see what God is really like, (as opposed to what we think God is like). Paul did the same in his letters – he used pictures of a human body, he talked about running a race – to help his readers understand how to live as a follower of Jesus. And when I'm preparing a sermon, one of the challenges is to find an illustration of the point I'm trying to make – because very often what people remember is the picture first, and then that helps them to remember the point the preacher was making.

The trouble with pictures is that they all have their limits – but they are useful to help us remember and to help get us thinking, using our imagination. So we have to remember that a picture can only show us a part of the underlying spiritual truth.

We can apply this to thinking about growth – the focus of this year's verse of the year is growing up into Christ. The trouble with talking about growing up is that in human terms this is a process that we do when we're young, and which has an end. We talk about people being grown up, he's stopped growing, she's fully grown – all of which says that we grow for a bit and then that's a phase of life that we're done with.

But that's not the idea of growth that Paul has in mind when he talks about growing up into Christ. Because when we stop to look at what we're growing up into, there's no limit. The whole passage in Ephesians 4 v1-16 is about growing up, and in v13 he talks about us 'being built up, ...becoming mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ'. And earlier, at the end of chapter 3, in his great prayer, he prays in v19 that they 'may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God'.

Paul uses two phrases with almost the same wording – the measure of the fullness of Christ / God. But when you stop to think about it, how we can put a limit to the measure of the fullness of God – or of Christ? The fullness of God is something that has no limits – which means that there is no limit to the growing that can be done. It's a bit like a balloon – with normal balloons if you blow too hard or too much air into them, eventually they will go pop and burst. But if you had a limitless balloon, you could go on blowing air into it and it would just get bigger and bigger, without ever bursting.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is to accept that there is always more of God, of Jesus Christ, which he wants to give us, but we have to want it – he won't force it on us. It's too easy to think – life is ok at the moment, and settle for life like that, thinking that that's how life is and will remain, and forgetting that there are rhythms and seasons in life, so while there may be good times, settled times, they may well not last (indeed they probably won't last), so that more difficult times will come. That doesn't mean we should take a perverse pleasure in those difficult times, but the difficult time doesn't mean that God has left us, or we've done something wrong – it's just a different opportunity to continue growing.

On a completely different note, there was a mix up with my contribution to last month's Update, and I am not currently in training for any marathon or any other run!

John Kellagher

*What John is very graciously **not** saying is that I made a complete mess and pasted in an article from several months ago instead of the correct one. My humble apologies to John and to our readers.*

Christine

## FIRST FRIDAY CLUB

The **First Friday Club** for men meets on the first Friday of each month and provides an opportunity for men to get together, to get to know one another and to share their experience as sons of the King. For more information speak to John Kellagher.

This month the First Friday event is on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Meet at church at 7.00pm.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

I would like some help with the flower arranging, please. There used to be four ladies on a rota, which meant that each person would do it once a month, but that is no longer the case.

If there is anyone in church who loves flowers and would like to have a go at flower arranging, you can find me at church most Sundays or telephone me on 01252 311139.

Sylvia Easton



## GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in the relatively early part of January owing to the fact that I will be away for almost 3 weeks in the second half of January and the beginning of February (celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary 'down under', which will be the first holiday of more than about eight days for almost a decade!)

This is certainly turning out to be a year of significant change (especially in the staff team). Simon has started in his new post and we must keep praying for him and his ministry, as well as praying for the advert that is out, that we might find someone to fill our role as Children and Families Minister. Related to that (as it is the same church) you will also probably have heard that Debs' husband, Danny, who is vicar of Shottermill, will be leaving there around about Easter to take up an exciting post with the diocese. That will mean that we will be looking to house Debs and Danny and family in Aldershot, which is good news for us and it will certainly save Debs a lot of commuting time.

However, the news that will have hit us the most is the announcement of Jonathan and Susan moving on after 13 1/2 years with us here at HT. This has come as quite a shock to many of us and there is so much to celebrate as we look back over such a significant era and all that they have brought to us in so many different ways. We are probably still taking this in and we will need to do much planning for the future. However, we are glad that they will be with us until about Easter and we will work towards an appropriate celebration and send off for them nearer the time. The provisional last Sunday we have for them is April 8<sup>th</sup>. I know that they would appreciate prayers in terms of next steps and finding somewhere relatively local to live. There will be so much about them and their ministry that we will miss, yet we must focus on the positive in what they have brought us (under God) and what He has in store both of them and for us, in new phases of ministry. Therefore prayer is vital through this time, as well as continued listening to God.

We will be starting our **SHAPE courses** in February and we would encourage everyone in the church family to try to get on to one of these short courses. We are looking to do them in just three sessions, which should make it much more accessible, with a one-to-one follow-up for everyone afterwards. To make it easier, we will try to run one on Wednesday evenings and another on Thursday evenings, as well as one in the daytime. We will be highlighting this course in the services, but it should help each of us grow together as the body of Christ and help us to know how we fit together and how we can use our experience, gifts, abilities, personality, linked with our hearts' desires, together and for the building up of the church in every way. Potentially this is really exciting and could make a real difference. So please do note the dates opposite and I would encourage you to sign up for one of the courses.

*George*

## SHAPE Course dates:

Wednesday evenings – 7.30 for 7.45 in Crossover on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and 7<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday evenings – 7.30 for 7.45 in Crossover on 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Daytime – Mondays at 1.30 in Crossover on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We have decided to arrange a church **Vision Trip to Nepal** next autumn (2019), however, if you are interested, please register that by March and we have a meeting for all interested at 10am on 17<sup>th</sup> March in Crossover. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Men, do sign up for the **HT Men's Weekend** at the end of April in Poole; it is a great venue (The Greenhouse Centre) and we need a minimum of 20 to have the whole site to ourselves. The cost, full board for two nights, will be in the region of £140. See Jonathan in the meantime if you have any questions.

So, may we all be aiming to grow up into and in Christ and grow together as the body of Christ (see Ephesians 4:15-16, our verses for the year).

*George*

## ALDERSHOT CHURCHES PRAYING TOGETHER

The Aldershot Churches Together (ACT) prayer meetings are held monthly on a Monday at the Church of the Ascension, Ayling Hill, at 7.45pm. This month's ACT prayer is on:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

## CHIEF'S CONCERNS

*Whilst on sabbatical I came across this Christian author, Andrew Wommack; his story is worth looking into.*

*On the subject, 'Don't limit God', Andrew has these challenging words, yet spoken with deep humility.*

Do you know that, chances are, you are limiting God? Most of us limit God in one way or another. There are many things that can hinder – or limit – what God can do in our lives. One area in which we limit God is through our wrong beliefs. Our lives go the way of our thoughts. We must start taking these limits off our wrong thinking, because the way we think in our hearts will direct the course of our lives. We need to change ourselves – our thinking, our mindset – if we want to take the limits off God.

### **Romans 12:2**

**“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”**

Andrew goes on to describe how God spoke to him out of Psalm 78. 'It revolutionized my life. This psalm was written so that the younger generation could see what the older generation did, so they could learn not to limit God and not grieve God as their parents did. This is powerful! The Lord used this psalm to completely change my life.”

### **Psalm 78:41 (NKJ)**

**“Yea, they turned and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel”**

God spoke this very simple passage to me in 2002, and I pray that He speaks this to you, too. Not one of us has exhausted God's ability, resources, and power for our lives. God is infinite. God is huge. Our lives ought to be a reflection of that. If you can look at your life and say, “Well, I went to school, I did this and that, and I earned the things I have”, you have missed God, Your life should be such a testimony that when people ask how you're doing what you're doing and why you're so blessed, you should be able to say that there's no explanation outside of God. If you can point to your great education, your charisma, or your ability, then you have missed God. If your life isn't supernatural, it's superficial. (Ouch!!)

God will call you to do something that is beyond yourself. He will call you to do something that is bigger than yourself. If it's something you can do on your own, I doubt you have heard from God. For instance, God called me to preach the Word while I was an introvert. I couldn't look someone in the face and talk to him or her when I was in high school, and now I speak to millions and millions of people. God called me to do something that is absolutely beyond me!

God had me do things for which there's no human explanation. I don't have an answer to why God's blessings are so big on my ministry. It's beyond my natural ability. I'm not doing anything except loving Jesus and holding on to Him. I can't point to my ministry and tell you that it's blessed because of my great talent or ability. As a matter of fact, if I were God, I wouldn't have chosen me.

Blessings

Jonathan

## NEWS FROM TOM CHITTOCK

Greetings from the Netherlands and firstly thanks to everyone who supported me to get here and know you are supporting God's Work. We are about a month in now and seeing God at work. It's been a huge privilege to have people come on board our escape room.

I work in the cafe which we have on board. I really like it. I get to chat to the visitors and encourage them, which is great. We are doing lots of street evangelism, which is nice, just walking through the town praying and sharing with people.

It's very different from the Logos Hope. There are only 74 crew on board and we all get on really well, which is blessing.

Do be praying for us as we head to Germany soon and that we can continue to be a blessing to the people there. Thanks again for all your support and prayer.

Regards and see you end of March.

Tom Chittock

## MENTAL HEALTH DROP IN

We had a meeting on 13th January and talked about how we all coped with Christmas and the different stresses we were under at that time. It helped to talk about how we coped with what can be a very difficult time for some of us. We had a little music, tea and cake (thanks again Daphne!) and we were joined by Debs.

George and one or two other people dropped in, so there was also a lot of laughter and we ended with a short time of prayer. Our next meeting will be on February 17th.

Pat and Daphne

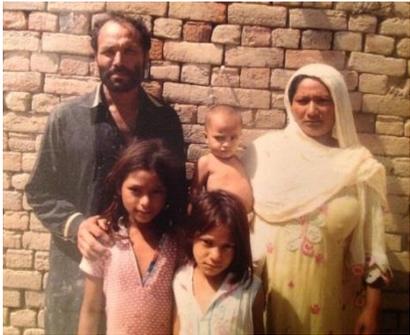
## Freedom from Slavery and Abuse

*Some time ago a suggestion came from our monthly Prayer, Praise and Prophecy evening that the church make a special gift to a needy cause. It suggested persecuted Christians in Pakistan. PCC agreed £5000 for this. The Barnabas Fund and the British Pakistani Christian Association were suggested channels, and at the PPPs on 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December it was agreed to divide the money equally between them. We have now heard from both organisations how the money is being used.*

### Barnabas Fund (BF)

In Pakistan, many impoverished Christians work in brick kilns, earning a living making bricks – back breaking labour under a sweltering sun, barely earning enough to be able to feed and care for their families. Without any spare money to cover medical care or other unexpected expenses, workers are forced to borrow from the brick-kiln owners, who deduct money from meagre wages to pay the interest on the loan.

Unable to pay back the amount in full, the workers become bonded labourers, legally tied to the brick kiln because of the debt. Unable to leave, and taking home a reduced wage that is barely enough to survive, they are effectively slaves. As children get older, they too help with brick making as they must work to try to pay off the family debt. It is impossible for them to go to school, so the bonding continues into the next generation.



Amin Shahzad (45) and his wife Rukhsana (28). Their daughters are Leesha (8) and Ribqah (7).

Their little son is Aman (2).

Their debt was 290,000 Pakistani rupees which is £2,102. HT has contributed £325 to help this family. The remaining amount will be covered by other donations.

As a church, we felt led to give £2,500 to help free bonded brick-kiln labourer families and BF has sent information about the families that our gift has directly supported. These families are now free from being bonded to their employers. Praise God!

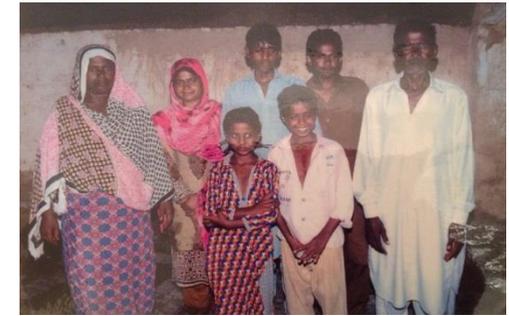
They will be paid their full wages and will be able to continue in work as free skilled workers. They can also leave and get another job if they desire.

Sadeeq Masih (55), his wife Zubeda (50).

Their five children – the boys William (19), Ashar(18) and Rashid (11).

The girls are Rimsha (17) and Aman (9).

The family's debt was 300,000 rupees, equivalent to £2,175. Our gift from HT has paid off the whole debt.



**The future?** What will happen next time someone falls sick? Will they have to borrow from their employer and re-start the whole cycle of debt and bondage? No. These families are now receiving a monthly food parcel from BF. So, their basic living costs are reduced, and they will have funds to pay for unexpected extras like medicines and visits to the doctor.

Please uphold both families in your prayers. As a suggestion why not cut out this article and put it somewhere as a reminder to pray?!

### British Pakistani Christian Association (BCPA)

Our gift to BCPA was divided between 3 priority areas.

We gave £1000 for legal support and they are using half of this for Maherwar a young lady who needs to escape Thailand as she has a death threat imposed on her from the Pakistan Embassy there. She went through a tumultuous blasphemy law accusation in Pakistan, then narrowly escaped from the Thai Police which would have meant detainment in a brutal detention camp, and then a sexual predator at the Pakistan Embassy in Thailand tried to sexually assault her – hence the death threat.

The other half will help them to get justice for the family of a murdered Christian lad, Adnan Masih. Wilson Chowdhury, Director of BCPA says, “Your donation helps us initiate to some real extent the necessary legal cover to bring a conviction and eradicate the impunity for crimes against Christians,” although he adds that the latter will be “over time, of course.” Crimes by Muslims against Christians are often sidelined by the courts.

We gave £1000 for BCPA's safe houses – places of safety for Christians falsely accused of blasphemy, released from slavery or forced Islamic marriage, or who need protecting for some other reason. Wilson says, “these are always hardest to maintain, as they are a regular ongoing cost. Your donation will provide rent for all three of them for 1.25 months. That is very helpful I assure you.” In other words, we have provided the rent for all 3 houses for one tenth of this year. That's great, isn't it?

The final £500 is to go to build a washroom serving probably about 40 families. Wilson writes, "Despite the unattractive name, our washrooms will improve the life expectancy and daily health of users. They also lower quite substantially the risk of young girls and boys from being kidnapped, raped and potentially forced into an Islamic marriage." The point here is that if they have no toilet near their home, they are vulnerable when they have to go out into the fields at night.

"Your gift is going to do some serious good for Pakistani Christians", he writes, "and we will keep you informed of progress every step of the way."

"We are simply grateful for the very generous help you are giving. Blessings"

*Julie Edwards & Jos Johnston*

## FAITH AND A FUTURE

Jacob was taught that, because he's a Christian, all he'll ever be is a cleaner. He was forced to give up on his dreams. Jose Gabriel missed out on vital years of school because his family were thrown out of their village and not permitted to register him at a local school.

Across the world, children are denied a fair education simply because of their religion or belief.

These injustices happen to children of all faiths, all over the world. Christian children in Nigeria are forced to take Muslim names just to get into school. Rohingya Muslim children in Burma see their schools knocked down. Baha'i students in Iran are expelled from university if their religious beliefs are discovered. This is a truly global problem.

Faith and a Future is a bold new campaign being organised by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), tackling the discrimination and abuse that's seen in schools around the world. Together we want to ensure that no child is punished for their faith.

As a church we support CSW in prayer and financially. Find out more in services during February about how you can get involved in Faith and a Future. Can't wait until then? If you have access to the internet, checkout <http://faithandafuture.com/>

Julie Edwards

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the featured country is Suriname. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname and the subject is **caring for God's very good creation** – an extremely relevant topic now, as sea levels are rising, and fish are being poisoned, either by chemicals such as mercury in the rivers or microbeads and plastics in the sea. Mining for Bauxite has led to de-forestation.

Caring for God's very good creation is a hugely important topic, which is highly relevant to people of all ages and beliefs. It gives us a wonderful opportunity, not only to publicise WWDP more widely, but also to encourage more people to think seriously about how we preserve God's world for our children and grandchildren.

The Aldershot Service this year is **on Friday March 2nd** at the **Roman Catholic Garrison Church Queens Avenue** (at the junction of Queens Avenue and Alison's Road). **It starts at 10.30 and lasts an hour.** All around the World different churches will be holding the service at the same time. Suriname is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic country.

It would be wonderful if you could join us.

Jan Nielsen

### Background

Suriname is a small country on the north east coast of South America, sandwiched between Guyana and French Guiana, with a population of around half a million people. The area was discovered early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Dutch, French, Spanish and English explorers. A century later sugar plantations were established. Nowadays the country's most important industry is the mining and processing of bauxite, which is a source of aluminium. Other exports are sugar, oil and gold. About half of the working population is employed in agriculture.

Suriname was a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands until 1975, when it became independent.

## THE VINE CENTRE – SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Wow where to begin, so much has happened since this time last year. To start with, we said goodbye to Mags Mercer CEO and welcomed Lesley Herniman as our new Director of Operations. We have gone through a period of self-examination, as to what the Charity does, and also looked outwardly at the community and what the need is around us.

The result is that we recognise the Homeless are one of our client groups, yet we serve the vulnerable & socially isolated in a wider community. This has meant we forged new links and strengthened existing relationships, in many areas. One way this has seen us grow, is with **Silvers** – Run to reduce social isolation amongst the over 55's. This group has been a huge success, with growing numbers who participate in various activities and even trips to places like Wisley. There has also been excellent integration, between Nepalese & British with cultural activities.

By far the biggest new addition is **Vine Dining**, our social enterprise scheme. This provides training and employment opportunities within the catering industry. We have a growing client base, of businesses and community groups, that regularly order buffets for lunches and meetings. In addition, we have just opened our first canteen, catering for the construction workers on the Wellesley Development. We have already run several catering training courses and seen our first 6 Vine Dining Employees. It is rewarding to see the progression people make, especially when they go on to secure Full Time Employment. That is the ultimate aim, to help people who would otherwise find it hardest to access the workplace, grow in confidence and self-esteem, so they are able to make the transition from Vine Dining to permanent employment.

All of this is in addition to the regular 1:1 support we offer in the form of Counselling and Mental Health Work; Anger Management; Budgeting & Debt Advice; weekly Job Club; Homeless drop in group, LGBT; Creative Art & Art Therapy groups; Skills Café on the Prospect Estate in Farnborough & Your Space on the Aldershot Park Estate. In total we run 19 services as well as being able to facilitate training courses by providers such as BCOT, People Plus, Hampshire Futures and Aspire Learning.

In November we partnered with Q8 the Global Oil and Gas Company. This was brought about by Strategies Consultancy, which runs Leadership & Management training programmes for Corporate Clients. A group of Q8 employees will, over the course of the next 3 months, put together a business plan for Vine Dining, along with a Marketing package for The Vine Centre as a whole. This, I am sure you will agree, is very exciting indeed and we are looking forward to implementing their proposals.

The Vine has, you could say, branched out. Each one of the branches is bearing fruit and we look forward to a bumper “harvest” this year, as we see more people enabled, encouraged and empowered.

We would not be able to do nearly as much good work, were it not for the regular and generous donations we receive from individuals, churches, community groups and businesses.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of our work or would like to come and visit, please contact

Mary Webb

Head Of Corporate & Community Liaison

07502543375 or [mary.webb@thevinecentre.org.uk](mailto:mary.webb@thevinecentre.org.uk)

## FIRE WALK FOR THE VINE

Mary Webb writes:

I am organising a fundraising event for The Vine Centre; it is a Firewalk on 17th March. I am looking for people who would like to join me in taking part, as well as people who would like to sponsor me. I have a Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mary-webb2> for online donations

When: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 4:30pm

Where: Alderwood Senior School, Aldershot

How much: Sign up fee £25. Please raise £125 in sponsorship.

For more information contact Mary Webb on 07502 543375

Or [mary.webb@thevinecentre.org.uk](mailto:mary.webb@thevinecentre.org.uk)

Or See poster at the back of church

## ST JOHN'S HALL UPDATE

Many of you will be aware that there has been no movement as far as St John's Hall has been concerned for some time. George was able to catch up with David Clifford (the leader of the Council) at Alwyn Periera's induction as the new vicar of St Michael's, and he confirmed that the council is working on a proposal for us. So please keep praying; and in his email David Clifford finished by writing the following: *'We are being realistic and planning (praying) for miracles. Please ask your congregation to join us.'*

Some people may say “that's a politician”, but while we should be wary, we should not be cynical (wise as serpents, harmless as doves) - and we should pray for him and the Council. So please remember them in your prayers - and also keep praying for what happens with St John's Hall.

Thanks

John

## THE YARDSTICK AND THE TIGHTROPE

### Transgender Issues (continued from Jos Johnston's article in January Update)

When I was a teenager and my father was a Civil Servant working in Human Resources, I remember him coming home and talking about his role in supporting an employee as they transitioned in the workplace from male to female. A few years later, at University, I read about a relatively rare condition known as hermaphroditism (now referred to as 'Intersex') in which an individual has both male and female characteristics.

I mention the above because the cause célèbre of the moment surrounds the related issue of gender and gender stereotypes. Whilst these matters clearly were not unheard-of in the past, they were viewed as unusual rather than requiring the introduction of new 'norms'. At a time when the institution of marriage was recognised as being much closer to God's ideal of the lifelong union between a man and a woman and men and women were valued as equal and yet distinct, our yardstick of what sex a person was, remained firmly linked to the biological evidence seen at birth.

The Bible teaches that 'God created them male and female'... the two were to complement and support one another; they fitted together like puzzle pieces... each a special part of creation that was made 'in the image of God'... different but equal in God's sight. Gender, the way in which an individual's sexuality impacts their life, can be a more complex matter, even from a Christian viewpoint: both male and female are images of the one God and, within Scripture there is a freedom in gender roles. In Acts 8, it is Philip's encounter with a high-ranking Ethiopian, who is described as a eunuch, which leads to the further spread of the Gospel. God's love reaches out to everyone.

Enter onto the scene the doctrine of 'Gender Theory' which has swept over Western society on a wave of underlying social change. This theory argues that gender is something separate from that of sexual identity. Its proponents are keen to promote the rights of the Transgender community. The word 'Transgender' is an umbrella term which is used to refer to a huge range of conditions and lifestyles, from transsexuals, intersex persons, crossdressers, fetishists, feminine men, masculine women, gender fluid persons, gender queer and beyond. This is part of the difficulty... it means that a discourse which is being led largely by older transgender people has somehow ensnared teenage and younger children's experiences in its net.

Recently, there has been a rise in the number of referrals to NHS Gender Clinics; particularly of teenage girls who wish to be recognised as boys. Teenagers as well as younger children, perhaps being influenced by social and/or psychological pressures, are exhibiting gender confusion. The question needs to be asked: *why* is this young person experiencing these ideas and how can we help them to understand and enjoy the persons that they were built to be? This is preferable to leading individuals towards a path of confusion, lifelong hormone therapy and possible surgical interventions, which the Transgender lobby are promoting.

**Now why, you may ask, am I writing about this?** Certainly, it is all over the media. Now that we have been softened up by habitual references to new variations in marriage partnerships, Transgender issues appear to be the next big focus for LGBTQI pressure groups. The intellectual elites of much of the Western world seem to have adopted Transgender rights wholesale and the Church of England appears to be falling over in support of this with its recent updating of guidance to schools in the report, 'Valuing All God's Children: Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying'.

Quite a lot has been written about the report, including the Telegraph, the Mail and the Metro all focussing on instructions that boys should be allowed to wear tutus, tiaras and heels if they want to. This brief passage in the report actually says that children – both girls and boys– should be allowed to try different things from the dressing-up box. I don't imagine many would object to that. There are, however, much more serious problems with the report and an Anglican Theologian, Martin B Davie has written a very good, clear, easily readable analysis at: <https://mbarrattdavie.wordpress.com/2017/11/20/the-real-problems-with-valuing-all-gods-children/>.

Davie identifies three main problems:-

- The limited focus of the report on one minority issue distorts the real need to tackle bullying and thereby fails to value all the other children.
- It values LGBT "equality" above that of others.
- Its theology is "thin" – largely absent and unsubstantiated. Without any justification, it changes the teaching of the church for 2000 years.

Which is where a group of concerned Christians here at Holy Trinity come in; we want to understand how this report came to be written and to find out what its implications are for C of E schools: the children, the parents and the teachers. We feel that we must make our concerns about the report known and we seek to open discussion at the grassroots level of the Church and above.

George has raised the issue briefly with ministers of the church at the Chapter meeting held in January. What became clear at that meeting is that this whole issue is more complex than reports in the media necessarily show. One minister said that their school did have an issue, though he was not able to talk about it. So, a live problem already exists in our area. Our next step is to follow this up with Alex Tear, who is the new Diocesan Director of Education for Guildford Diocese, by inviting him to address Deanery Synod, to explain his understanding of the issues and how he proposes to handle them.

The Church holds the yardstick provided by God's Word. It sometimes feels as though we are being encouraged to walk a fine line... indeed, a tightrope, on which we attempt to balance our beliefs with those of the World. In a society which holds that everything is a matter of opinion and feelings rule over facts, the church is likely to be at odds with the mores of the times. The difficulty for us is that C of E schools are also government bodies, and so are subject to government law, and if the law

goes against what we believe the Bible to say, then there is a problem. In attempting to square the circle, the Church seems to have equivocated, creating possibly unforeseen consequences for children, parents and teachers. This report, I fear, makes the tightrope balancing act, that much more difficult.

Let us take on board these words from Matt 10v16: 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.'

If you are interested in this matter, we would welcome your input. You can contact Jos Johnston or me to find out more.

Kit Vessey

## WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY INTRODUCTORY TRAINING DAY

At St Peter's, Farnborough, 17 February 2018, 9.30-ca 3.30

### What do we do?

Waterways Chaplains offer support to those who use and live on the UK waterways and canals. Chaplains are volunteers from local churches who regularly visit the waterways, offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses.



The Revd Mark Rudall writes:

"I have been asked to highlight the above Waterways Chaplaincy training day targeting people primarily in Wey/Basingstoke Canal area. This is written, in the first instance, to George Newton as Area Dean for him to pass the word out to the Deanery by any means at his disposal! I felt it worth copying direct to Fleet and Ash Vale because people in different churches have expressed levels of interest. It may be that you also have ecumenical email contacts within the Deanery and we know there's considerable interest among the Free Churches.."

or more information or to book in to the training day, please contact The Revd Mark Rudall on [mark.rudall@ntlworld.com](mailto:mark.rudall@ntlworld.com) or 01252 645486



There is a **hearing loop** in the main church building and also in Crossover.

To tune into the loop use the "T" mode setting on your hearing aid.

## UPDATE IN LARGER PRINT

A small number of copies of Update and the Prayer Diary in larger print are available at the back of church. Please tell

Christine Ward (01252 320210) if more copies are needed.



Large print **hymn books** are also available at the back of church – if you need one, please ask a sidesperson.

## HELP WITH CLEANING OR IRONING

**Deirdre Baker**, a member of HT, offers a cleaning and/or ironing service, which can be for a short one-off blitz. If interested, contact Deirdre on 317833.

## RELIABLE IRONING SERVICE.

Your ironing done in my smoke & pet free home. Very reasonable rates. Please ring Cathy Hawkins on 07792 913553 for details.

## Whom do I tell...

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

When **something is broken** or needs replacing, tell **Don Payne** (01252 653182).

For toilet rolls and paper towels – tell Jean Embelton. (01252 320926)

<b>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ALDERSHOT</b>		Telephone nos
Victoria Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 1SJ Church Office (when manned)		333 499
<b>Vicar:</b> Rev'd George Newton: (Tuesdays off duty) 2 Cranmore Lane, Aldershot GU11 3AS g@gjsk.prestel.co.uk		320 618 / 07920 867 014
<b>Associate Minister:</b> Jonathan Wiggam (Church Army) (Tues off duty) 311 Woodland Walk, North Lane, GU12 4FE <a href="mailto:jonathan@wiggam.myzen.co.uk">jonathan@wiggam.myzen.co.uk</a>		314 418 / 07860 875 157
<b>Associate Minister:</b> Rev'd John Kellagher (Tues & Fri off duty) 32 Ayling Lane, Aldershot GU11 3LZ cjbk99@gmail.com		337 841
<b>Children's Minister:</b> Vacant		
<b>Curate:</b> Rev'd Deborah Wignall, email: <a href="mailto:debs.htca@gmail.com">debs.htca@gmail.com</a> Fridays off duty		mobile: 07958352083
<b>Pioneer Minister,</b> Rev Jackie Maw, The Wellspring Aldershot 45 Scarletts Road, Wellesley, Aldershot GU11 4AE		01252 329466 07747561375
<b>Licensed Lay Ministers:</b>	Jean Embelton Ursula Johnston	320 926 702 591
<b>Minister in Training:</b> Cara Kear Cara.kear@gmail.com (Saturdays off duty)		07704 889 852
<b>Wardens:</b> Charles Savin, 3 Sportsman's Court, 213 High St, Aldershot GU11 1TS chazms@gmail.com Alan Barber Flat 5, 59 Lynchford Road, Farnborough GU14 6EJ <a href="mailto:barber.alan1@gmail.com">barber.alan1@gmail.com</a>		07917 410109 07787 534 611
<b>Church Parking Warden:</b> Mark Harrison 26A Derwent Avenue, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5AN markfezharrison@hotmail.com		261 654
<b>Treasurer:</b> Mike Ashworth m_i_ashworth@hotmail.com		501 522
Friends of Trinity (FOT) envelopes:		
<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b> Barry Oak barryoak3@googlemail.com		07891 792737
<b>HT Site &amp; Buildings Manager:</b> Don Payne (donpayne99@yahoo.com)		653 182
<b>Hall Bookings:</b> Jean Embelton		320 926
<b>Women's Hour:</b> Daphne Inglis, daphneinglis@btinternet.com		328 205
Jean Vivian, j.vivian940@btinternet.com		409 032
<b>Pastoral Assistants:</b>		
Pat Clare patriciaclare@hotmail.com Tel: 336683		
Joan Davies joandavies@hotmail.com Tel: 328984		
Jacquie Kellagher jacquie.kellagher@gmail.com Tel: 337841		
Joyce Newton joyceamarnewton@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07794 402788		
Aehee Payne payneaehes@gmail.com Tel: 653182		
<b>Contact</b> (Parents' & Toddlers' Group): Joan Davies, Pat Clare and Debs Wignall (see above)		

<b>Fellowship Groups:</b> please see separate leaflet		
<b>Prayer Tree:</b> email John Kellagher cjbk99@gmail.com or Jacquie Kellagher jacquie.kellagher@gmail.com		
<b>Weekly notice sheet:</b> Mark Harrison markfezharrison@hotmail.com		
<b>Tech desk email address:</b> TechDesk@htca.org.uk		
<b>Magazine editor:</b> Christine Ward 21, Church Hill, Aldershot GU12 4JT Christine.m.ward@btopenworld.com		320 210
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.htca.org.uk">http://www.htca.org.uk</a> <b>Webmaster:</b> <a href="mailto:terry.gardiner@gmail.com">terry.gardiner@gmail.com</a>		

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4 March Support Sunday for CMJ (The Church's Ministry among Jewish People)

5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, Shape afternoon course 1.00 pm

Men's weekend away, April 27-29<sup>th</sup> (see page 9]

### Soul Sisters Weekend Away - 22nd - 24th June 2018

At the Greenhouse Christian Centre in Poole [see page 5]

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

*A series of short articles drawn from the parish magazines of yesteryear*

**The Vestry Meeting** May 1898 [seemingly the equivalent of the Annual Parish Meeting]

The Easter Vestry was held as usual on the Tuesday in Easter week, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer in the Vestry, when it was decided to adjourn to the Schools in order to have more room for those attending the meeting. The churchwardens next presented their balance sheet, which we regret shewed but a very small reduction on last year's debt, being still £88 5s 7d as against £40 0s 8d last year. We greatly hope that this debt may be wiped out before another year is over.

## FEBRUARY 2018 DIARY

1	10-11.30am	Contact for parents and toddlers	(Thursdays in term*)
	2.30pm	Women's Hour	(Thursdays)
	7.30pm	Alpha Course at the Vicarage	(Thursdays)
	7.30pm	POD Groups	
2	9.30-11am	Parent POD	(Fridays in term*)
	10.30am	Fellowship Group at Kingsley Court	(alternate Fridays*)
	6-7pm	Kids Club	(Fridays in term*)
	7.00pm	First Friday Club for men – meet at church	)
<b>4</b>	<b>SUNDAY CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE (CSW) support</b> (see p 14)		
	9.30am	Morning Praise	
	10.00am	Children's Service in Galpin Hall	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
	1.30-3.30pm	20s30s lunch at Jenny's café	
	6.30-8.00pm	Re:Form, HT Youth, ages 11-16 (Sundays in term)	
5	7.30pm	<b>PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY</b>	
6	2.00 & 7.30pm	Fellowship Groups	(Tuesdays*)
7	11.15am	<b>Holy Communion with Praise, Prayer &amp; Prophecy</b>	
	2.30, 7.15 & 8.00pm	Fellowship Groups	(Weds*)
	11.00am	Alpha course	(also 14 <sup>th</sup> )
	7.30pm	POD Groups	(Weds*)
10	10.00 am	Deanery Safeguarding Training at HT – Domestic Abuse	
<b>11</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
<b>14</b>	11.15	Ash Wednesday, with Holy Communion	
	7.30 for 7.45	Weds SHAPE course, also Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> & March 7 <sup>th</sup>	(pg 8-9)
<b>17</b>	10.00am to noon	Mental Health Drop In	(page 11)
	10.30am	Preachers' meeting at the Vicarage	
<b>18</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		
	9.30am	Morning Praise	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	
<b>22</b>	7.30 for 7.45	Thursday SHAPE course, also 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	(page 8-9)
<b>24</b>	10am–12noon	Prayer ministry team gathering	
<b>25</b>	<b>SUNDAY –</b>		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	11.15am	Alternative Service	
<b>26</b>	7.45pm	ACT Prayer at Church of the Ascension	

Half term holiday in Hampshire schools is from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The Easter holiday is from 30<sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday) to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April.