

Trinity

Update

January 2019



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ALDERSHOT
'Church for Everyone'

A THANK YOU FROM MIKE PUSEY

For the 18th year the annual ATFC Christmas Carol Service has been held at HT - and again so many members of the church give themselves to making sure that everything is in order for what is now such an established date in the Club diary. The opportunity to gather so many Shots Supporters to not only sing some Carols and hear a Chaplain's report, but best of all to listen to a clear proclamation of the Good News of why Jesus came to this earth. This year Vicar/Chaplain George preached powerfully and we pray now for response from many hearts to that message.

Thanks to all who worked so hard towards the event and on the day; your labours of love are greatly appreciated not only by the Chaplains, but also by the Manager, Players, Chairman and Directors.

Rev Mike Pusey (on behalf of Chaplains George & Linda Scard).

Verse for the year 2019:

**'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 February 2019 issue of Update will be in Church on Sunday 27th January.

The LAST date for February articles will be Sunday 20th January.

WOMEN'S HOUR

On 22nd November we had Debs telling us about her life, her ministry and her family; with some lovely photographs of her and Danny's son's wedding recently. It was a great afternoon enjoyed by us all.

The 29th saw George, our vicar, recounting the exciting day he had in London taking part in the Lord Mayor's parade and the very lavish luncheon enjoyed afterwards. Lots of photographs of everyone in the traditional gowns and the great-looking coaches. Not quite so comfortable to ride in apparently! It all looked and sounded amazing.

On the 6th December we had Sylvia telling us about her wonderful trip to Israel with a party led by Jos and Ursula Johnston. Unfortunately, the projector broke down and her pictures couldn't be displayed, but we look forward to seeing those soon. It sounded like the trip of a lifetime and Sylvia was very aware of where she walked; in the footsteps of Jesus! The history of Jerusalem and the surrounding area coming alive before them.

We had a lovely afternoon of Carols, poems and short stories on the 13th. Some of these were hilarious and we are grateful to all of those who contributed; especially Wendy who did one of her Joyce Grenfell schoolroom stories. Hilarious!

On the 20th December over 40 of our ladies enjoyed our 'end of term' party. As usual George gave us Communion, after which we sang carols. Much to everyone's delight, this was followed by a visit from Father Christmas, who distributed small gifts and bags of goodies donated by a friend of Daphne's. We then enjoyed a cup of tea accompanied by Christmas cake (made by Daphne) and mince pies. A few sweets circulated as well, I believe! A fitting end to the year.

We wish everyone at Holy Trinity a Happy and Blessed 2019

Daphne and Jean V

DEBS REFLECTS 2019!

As I write for this month's Update, Christmas is almost upon us and I am in the midst of juggling various lists! Writing January's article is on one of the lists and part of me is just eager to get it written and then crossed off. But, at the end of another year, it is good, I think, to look back and to pause, perhaps especially in the midst of the busyness and to notice what God has been doing in our lives.

For those of you that keep journals, I expect you will find some time between Christmas and the New Year to have a little read through. As I've said before, the discipline of writing regularly for Update means that I can easily look back over my articles for the year.

Here is an extract from what I wrote for January 2018's article.

'Perhaps if you are someone who makes New Year resolutions, this year can be more than an optimistic wish list along the lines of eat less, exercise more, read my Bible every day... Let's pray for the courage to be hope-filled, to take steps that actually bring into reality those things we know we are being called to do. As the church of Holy Trinity, there will be opportunities this year to intentionally learn more about being a disciple of Jesus, of discerning His call on our lives, each and every one of us, so that we can grow into the people and the church that God has called us to be.'

When I wrote this at the beginning of 2018 I trusted and prayed that it would indeed be a year when we would see transformation in our lives, in our church and in those around us.

God has been so gracious in answering this prayer. We have had some wonderful times together, especially through the SHAPE courses, five in 2018 with over 50 participants all discovering, or rediscovering the unique ways in which we have been created for God's service in all of our lives, not just for church. And then through the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course, intentionally slowing down and choosing to set aside time to be with God and out of that to serve Him, from a place of knowing that we are loved.

There are a number of people for whom this has been hugely significant. Times of breakthrough of being set free from all sorts of ways of thinking and being. Patterns of living that have held us back from fully receiving life in all its fullness that Jesus promises. New doors have opened as sometimes others have closed and we begin to see new life as a result.

I believe there is more to come and there are more to come and join us. Praise The Lord, that we are already beginning to see this happen. 2018 has not been about doing a couple of courses and then putting our notes on a shelf, but about going deeper as disciples and growing in confidence of **who God says we are** so that we can share that Good News of freedom from all that enslaves us, of Hope beyond what we can see with those who don't yet know Jesus.
(continued opposite)

As we go into 2019 together, there are plenty of challenges ahead, not least with the current political situation, but we need not fear. In the words of a great Gospel song I remember from the eighties, 'I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.'

Our verse for 2019 is the same as our verse for 2018, because that is God's call to us as His church for the next year, to grow deeper, to grow up into the fullness of Christ and to encourage each other in love to give of ourselves. It will be exciting to see how this evolves with continued opportunities for engagement with SHAPE and Emotionally Healthy Discipleship and especially with the launch of a new strategy for small groups.

WELLBEING MEETING

Our meeting on December 15th had a Christmas theme - surprise, surprise! The music, quiz and wordsearch all had a Christmas theme, but there was also colouring, chat, laughter, hearing aid adjustments and of course a time of prayer. We were also blessed by the company of a young (in spirit) lady from Kingsley Court and two young ladies from our own congregation. Tea and cake were available as always - thank you, Daphne.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday January 12th between 10 am and noon. Do drop in if you would like a bit of company.

Pat and Daphne



JOHN KELLAGHER WRITES

I was invited back to Tongham at the beginning of December and was asked to preach on the first part of Luke's gospel – from v 5 to 25 of chapter one. This is the story of the angel appearing to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist to tell him that his prayers have been heard and he is going to have a son. As many of you will know, the fly in the ointment is that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth are both old and therefore beyond child-bearing. Zechariah understandably struggles to believe the angel.

As I was looking at the passage, and trying to see what relevance it had to Advent, I started wondering as well about why does Luke start his gospel with this particular story. In fact, it's that sort of wondering, or questioning about Bible passages which is key to getting into them.

Because when you look at the passage you see that in it Luke includes a direct quote from the last verse of the Old Testament (Zech 4 v6). So at the start of his gospel, Luke hooks back to the Old Testament, showing how John the Baptist is the fulfilment of prophecy from long ago. And at the end of the gospel, there's a verse about how Jesus goes through the whole of the Old Testament showing how the whole of the Old Testament refers to and is fulfilled in him. Luke book-ends his gospel with references back to the Old Testament.

It seems to me that there are messages here at multiple levels – and the most important one, the message at the base of them is that in Jesus and in the story of Jesus, his birth, life, death and resurrection, God has been faithful, and what has happened is the continuation of the story of the people of God.

God has been faithful at the macro – big picture – level in that the prophecies of the Old Testament have been fulfilled. And at the micro level of Zechariah and Elizabeth, God has also been faithful in that he has heard and answered their prayers – prayers which they doubtless said when they were younger and looking to have children, but which perhaps stopped as they got to an age where child-bearing wasn't going to happen.

The message that God has been, is and will be faithful is one that we need to hear, because it's not always obvious. It's not surprising that Luke felt that this was an important message to get across. Paul on his missionary journeys spent much of the time in the synagogues when he went to a new town, seeking to show to the Jews that Jesus was the fulfilment of the promises of God – and that despite the evidence – of his execution on a cross - which lead many religious Jews to believe that Jesus couldn't possibly be the Messiah promised by God. Indeed NT Wright, one of the leading Pauline scholars alive today, published a book recently in which he analyses Paul, what he did and why – and he entitled it Paul and the Faithfulness of God. Paul spent his life debating and showing that God is faithful – and therefore how we are to live in the light of God's faithfulness shown in Jesus.

What does it mean to say that God is faithful? It means that he is true to himself, and so he is true to his word. Consequently he can be known, because what he reveals

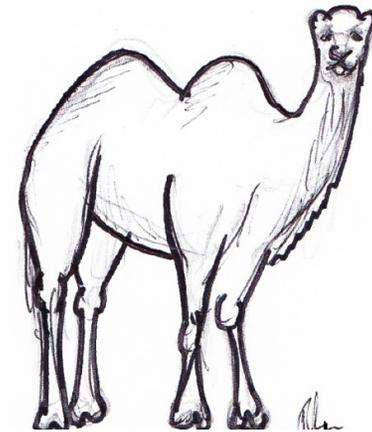
about himself in his word is reliable; he can be trusted because he will keep his promises.

There are two problems people encounter. Firstly it doesn't always appear to be the case, that God is faithful. The Psalms contain many verses where the author cries out to God that they are in a mess, and what is God doing about it. That is borne out in the experience of the people of Israel – they go into exile, and although they do return from exile (unlike any other nation that was displaced at that time), they never regain the power and prestige that are implied by the promises that God had made to them. And it's very easy to think that when things continually feel as if they go wrong that God has given up on us.

Secondly, how God is faithful may not be how we expect. Thus, we say that God was faithful to his promises in Jesus. However, there was a delay of 400 years between the last of the Old Testament prophets and the birth of Jesus – and the way that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament was not at all how people had expected this to be. Zechariah and Elizabeth were surely not expecting a baby in old age.

Sometimes the way that God is faithful is obvious and it blows our mind – Psalm 126 talks about how the fulfilment of promise and the faithfulness of God generated laughter and joy. But sometimes it's not so obvious, and we need help to see what God has done – and then the joy comes.

Paul the apostle was convinced of God's faithfulness. At the end of his first letter to the Thessalonians he prays for the Thessalonians that they will be kept holy for the coming of the Lord – and then he finishes with the wonderful words – the one who called you (that's God) is faithful – and he will do it! A slight variation on the Nike advert – Just Do It; God is faithful and He will do it! Happy Christmas and may 2019 be a year when we all learn more of God's faithfulness.



GEORGE WRITES

Dear Friends,

A very happy new year to you all! As we step into another year, maybe even more full of uncertainties in our nation, we can step with confidence knowing that God is in control and is with us and that He has a plan for each of our lives as we connect together as His body / family / church, like pieces of a jigsaw. I certainly believe that there are fruitful and exciting times ahead this year.

However, I would like to look back, first, to recent weeks and our Christmas services and outreaches. Thank you to so many who did so much to make these events so special and unique, as well as God-glorifying. We have seen many specific answers to prayer which we will highlight at the PPP. I know many of you were very intentional in inviting people and praying for them and it was wonderful to welcome many new people to celebrate and hear something of the good news. Can I encourage you to keep praying for them as well as keeping going with that discipline of invitation. Wouldn't it be fantastic to see our church grow significantly this year?

But looking back further through 2018, I believe it was the beginning of a really significant season, as we ran five Shape courses that have been helpful, not just to those that attended and engaged, but also for us as the leadership to see the shape of the body here for such a time as this. This helps us now to plan forward into a year that will feel somewhat different, but will build very much on last year's foundation. Similarly, the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship Course (part one) has made a significant difference as people are learning to root down deeper into Jesus and also allow Him into areas of the past that may have continuously been shaping us in a negative way. We can already see in many people the beginning of a genuine and deep transformation and process of being set free.

So, 'What is in store for 2019?' you may be asking. If you heard me speaking either about or during the Shape course, I trust you will have heard my excitement about the prospect of getting people with similar godly heart's desires in the same room studying aspects of God's Word around that subject and planning and praying together about how to see the outworking of His call in this area within our church and town. This could be transformative and really explosive! So, we will be starting a number of time-limited small groups, many of which will be based around particular subjects which are of importance and relevance, that have the intention of being there for the building and equipping of us, the body of Christ, and also to see how we can work together to make a kingdom difference in that area locally.

Assuming that you have taken our verse for the year card for 2019, you may have noticed that we have the same two verses as 2018! We are absolutely convinced that these verses from Ephesians 4 are at the heart of what God will be continuing to do among us. We believe that He is continuing his work in building us up in maturity in Christ, as well as encouraging us to learn to work together more, to be really effective

in bringing about kingdom change and blessing to our town, which so needs it. As you engage in these small groups, which will be announced towards the end of January, you will see and experience the outworking of how these will build us up and help us to work together effectively. In the meantime, if there is something burning in your heart that you would like to see as such a small group, please let us know.

Otherwise this month, knowing the importance of praying for our area, as well as the PPP on 7th, there is a special time of prayer at the new Cambridge School in Wellesley on the evening of Thursday January 24, where we will be joined by a bishop and our archdeacon to pray for this area (the deanery). Please do come and see the new school and join us to pray around the vision of our deanery, which covers many of the nearby towns as well as Aldershot.

Before long we will be applying to become an 'Eco Church' and we will communicate more on that as the year progresses. I hope most of you have had a chance to be given one of our Christmas / New Year presents of an HT eco/keep-mug; if you missed out on that and would like one, please ask a member of staff.

So, may God continue to build you up in maturity into Christ and help you all to learn to work together more and in love for His glory and the transformation of our church and town.

George

FAMILY NEWS

Just to let everyone know that I have been asked by the rector of Elstead and Thursley to serve there from January in Reader ministry, and George has given his support. So I will join a small team there. But HT will still be my church family, I will often be here with you, and my licensing will remain with HT.

I have been in a little way a part of Elstead congregation for some time, in that I follow their annual Lent course (which has developed into a fortnightly Bible study), and I'm part of the group that weekly takes the Bible into the village school through the *Open the Book* programme.

There is great need for God in the two villages -- as everywhere. In the churches, the Non-Stipendiary minister at Thursley will retire at Easter and is currently not at all well. The rector at Elstead retires in September. Both churches have small memberships, with around 15 people attending the main Sunday service at each.

I take with me to this challenge a scripture, Luke 1: 37: 'Nothing will be impossible with God.' Or in a different translation: 'No freshly spoken word of God (no rhema) will ever come to a person that does not contain its own ability to perform itself.'

Ursula Johnston

BULGARIA

Big Thanks from Bulgaria!!!

Last year The Outward Giving group at Holy Trinity found out, via a casual conversation, that HT member Elena would be heading home to Bulgaria to visit her family and friends, including the church she used to attend, which had set up a project for homeless people. Unbeknown to Elena, we agreed that it would be good to support this project and so we gave her £100 to pass on to support the valuable work. We have since received a lovely thank you message headed "Big Thanks from Bulgaria!!!" and some photos from Peter Blaginov:

She says: "I am writing to you from Bulgaria. I want to thank you for your trust, sending us the money and the interest about our work with the homeless here in Bulgaria. We are part of the same Evangelical church Elena used to go to in Gorna Oryahovitsa.

In 2011 we started a shelter for homeless people. The staff and the volunteers are all part of the church. We didn't expect to find so much need in our area. At Alpha in the church we met some people who needed help and that was why we started with this ministry. From the first day we had a mostly full house. People come to us through friends, the police, the local authorities, the hospital and after spending time in prison. Many of them are without papers and can't receive any help from the state, because for them they just don't exist. It is a really crazy situation. We give them not just food and a warm bed, but we also help them to get new identity documents and help them to find a job. It is not easy, but we are sure it is a really important work. People are coming from the whole country.

It is always a big challenge to find finances for the food, the heating, the water, the electricity and so on. We are very thankful to you for being ready to support what we are doing.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

God bless, Peter

THE SUPER-HERO ACADEMY



One of the things that I hear people say a lot is "children are the church of tomorrow." While I do understand what people are trying to say, I think that they are missing a major point. Children are not the church of

tomorrow, they are the church of TODAY. We are not just trying to get them through Sunday School, to hang in there, until one day they can be fully fledged members of the church. They already are. They are already growing in Christ and worshipping him, and they already have so much to give to our church.

One of the things I am passionate about, is seeing them becoming involved in real ministry. Getting to a place where they feel they are a needed part of the church. And this is going to be one of the focuses of our next term.

Our oldest Sunday school group are going to be taking part in the participate course. This is a course like SHAPE, in which these children and young people will be seeking to find out how they can best serve God. They will then try out different areas of ministry in special placements.

This is something which will really benefit them, as they see how they themselves as a needed member of our congregation. This will also benefit the church. And this is not just a token gesture, these guys really do have so much to offer.

They are taught things in school that didn't even exist when we were there. This generation are creative, self-aware, and they really care about those in need. Within our congregation we already have children who are great evangelists, prayer warriors and have a hunger for the word of God.

Do not be surprised, if over the coming weeks, you are approached about placements, and have a child or young person serving beside you. I am sure that you will benefit from it almost as much as they will.

Alice Stanford

INDIA MINISTRIES

As a church, Holy Trinity supports a number of Christian ministries in Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh in Eastern India. This started after George's visit about 10 years ago, and further developed with the visit four of us made in November 2013 to run a 4-day leadership training workshop for the pastors there.

Our main contact in Rajahmundry is Pastor Prakasha Rao and there are several other pastors associated with his organisation. Each year we send them a proportion of our tithe (10% of our income) as one of the 10 main organisations the church gives to, and we have recently heard how this money has been used.

Pastor Rao's own organisation used some of our donation for money & food for 40 poor & destitute lepers at the time of the floods at Andhra Pradesh – see picture. And some of the rest was used for the mission work. "30 Pastors were encouraged with leadership teaching and a little bit of money gifts." Quite a lot of people have had serious losses as a result of the floods this year, but this is the only thing we have been able to do for them."



Pastor Rao's daughter and 2 sons are involved in the work, and the daughter, Mamatha, runs a children's home. A bit of our contribution went towards food and school materials for poor children who are under her care at Kothapalli & Veeralankapalli. And the remainder was used for clothing for poor widows.

Some of you will have seen Mamatha's name recently on the Prayer Tree, as she has been in hospital with a fever. She got married earlier in the year and is pregnant which made this more serious, as her blood count was extremely low. Happily she now seems to be much better – see picture of her recovering in hospital.



Some of our support went to Pastor Nageswararao who is a poor elderly pastor. You may remember last year we sent some extra money to help when his daughter, Yangala Sravanthi, was ill and had to rush to Hyderabad for an operation. In the end, after tests, they could not do the operation and she returned for treatment in Rajahmundry, where she is now much better, and we have just heard the good news that she is pregnant with her first child. She and



her husband thank us for our prayers. Some of our tithe money went towards food for the Pastor's family and for the extra medical costs.



(right) and Yesu giving school materials to a child. The sign behind me reads, "SUMMER SPECIAL CLASSES TO CHILDREN, AND GOSPEL OUTREACH IN THE TRIBAL REGION." It also refers to the prayers and support of George and Holy Trinity Church, UK. The first picture below shows the children at a meal and the second is a game during the classes.



Another local minister is Pastor Yesu, who works in the "tribal region". Some of our tithe was used for 50 poor children and a few destitute widows. A bit was used for school materials (text books, note books and stationery) for the poor children, and the rest for distributing food for needy widows and what he describes as "the old aged."

The first picture shows Pastors Rao

(right) and Yesu giving school materials to a child. The sign behind me reads, "SUMMER SPECIAL CLASSES TO CHILDREN, AND GOSPEL OUTREACH IN THE TRIBAL REGION." It also refers to the prayers and support of George and Holy Trinity Church, UK. The first picture below shows the children at a meal and the second is a game during the classes.

Recently we have agreed an extra small gift of £75 to enable Pastor Yesu to buy Bibles in the Telegu language for newly baptised converts in the Tribal Region. He wrote to thank us for the money and said they hoped to make the distribution before Christmas.

There was no special Mission Sunday this year for the India Ministries, but I hope this gives you a

small feel for what we are supporting.

Jos Johnston

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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?

Please be patient until roles are agreed – or maybe you could volunteer to help.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ALDERSHOT

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Hall Bookings: Jean Embelton

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Contact (Parents' & Toddlers' Group): Joan Davies, Pat Clare and Debs Wignall (see above)

Pastoral assistants – see opposite

Fellowship Groups: please see separate leaflet

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JANUARY 2019 DIARY

2	11.15am	Holy Communion		
4	10.30am 6 – 7 pm	Fellowship Group at Kingsley Court Kids' Club	(alternate Fridays) (Fridays)	(Mondays)
6	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am 1.30-3.30pm	Morning Praise Alternative Service 20s30s lunch at Jenny's café		
7	7.30pm 2.00 & 7.30pm	PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY Fellowship Groups *	(Wednesdays)	
9	11.15am	Holy Communion with Prayer, Praise and Prophecy		
10	10 – 11.30 am 2.30pm	Contact for parents and toddlers Women's Hour (with Holy Communion)	Thursdays in term Thursdays	
11	8.00pm	TCPT Team Meeting		
12	10am - noon	Wellbeing drop in	(see page 5)	
13	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Alternative Service		
16	11.15am	Holy Communion		
18	6-7pm	Kids' Club (in term)		
19	10.30am 11.15am	Prayer Ministry team meeting Holy Communion		
20	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Morning Praise Holy Communion		
21	7.30pm	PCC Meeting		
27	SUNDAY 9.30am 11.15am	Morning Praise Alternative Service		
28	7.45pm	ACT prayer at the Church of the Ascension		

** Check with group leaders for start dates for the January term*

The Autumn Half Term break in Hampshire schools is from Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th of October 2018. The Autumn Term ends on Friday 21st December 2018.