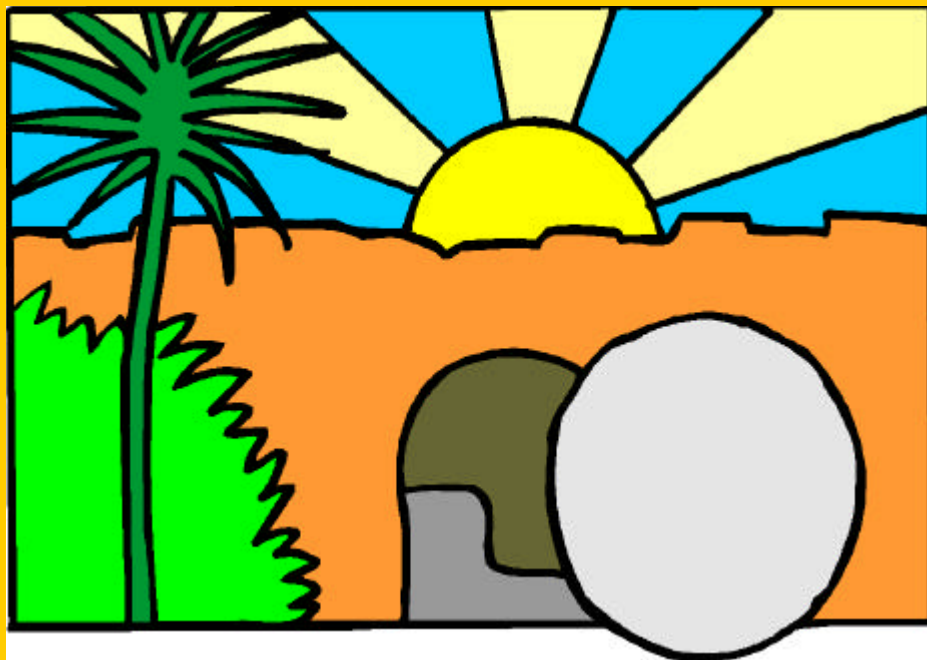


TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

01342 302862

April 2007



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

Name.....

Tel:.....

Twist of Faith

I love a story with a good twist at the end. Alfred Hitchcock, the Hollywood film director, was a master at it. “Psycho”; “Dial M for Murder” and others. “Sixth Sense”, starring Bruce Willis, also has a brilliant twist in its tail. Such stories never end as you’d expect them to, although I always do – in a state of perspired excitement and nervous tension.

All of this is to say how powerful the story of Jesus is, with such a great ending! It ends with a twist of faith. So familiar are we with this ending that it’s become tame; failing to astound us any more, as it should. But read Mark’s gospel and we can reach a different conclusion. Mark has two endings (16:1-20). The longer second ending (9-20) involves a discourse from Jesus about heroic faith. But the first and shorter (1-8) ends rather abruptly, with the disciples left feeling astounded, confused and terrified. Most New Testament scholars agree that the first and shorter is the most reliable, the longer being a later edition to somehow explain the unexplainable truth of a *dead man walking* (another great film by the way!). I think the first ending is the best, for it’s just how it left me feeling when first I read it.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, crucified, dead and buried, is the best twist to any story to date, intellectually shattering, absolutely astounding and central to all we believe by faith. The fact that it’s also a true story *directed* by God Himself makes it good news in the end. It tells me that God’s endings always come later than ours, that He is a God of surprises and that He always has the final word, often delivered after most of us have gone home.

Have a good Easter – with love and peace – Geoff.

Parables of the Passion
A reflection for Holy Week
8pm

Monday April 2nd

“Weeds in the Wheat” - Matthew 13: 24-30
In which we learn that it’s not for us to divide true followers from false, but God.

Tuesday April 3rd

“Sons in the Vineyard” - Matthew 21:28-32
In which we learn that it is dangerous to say one thing and do another.

Wednesday April 4th

“Tenants in the Vineyard” - Matthew 21: 33-46
In which we learn that God gives us all an opportunity to change our ways of living before it’s too late.

Maundy Thursday April 5th with Holy Communion

“Guests at the Wedding Banquet” - Matthew 22:1-14
In which we see God offering good things to all who will receive them



Good Friday – April 6th:

Churches Together in East Grinstead
United Act of Witness
High Street – 10.45am

Easter Sunday – April 8th:

Sunrise Service at East Court

Meet 20 minutes before sunrise on the top terrace
followed by breakfast at Trinity

Morning Worship Celebration
with Holy Communion – 10am

Evening Worship
“Quiet Service” style – 6.30pm



A Prayer for April 30th

Dear God, just for myself I make this plea:
Hold April in Your hand a moment more for me,
That I may wonder ere the wonders flee.

Snowdrop and crocus along have gone,
But daffodils could surely linger on.
The wildflowers, like a drift of snow
Sway gently on the forest floor below
And blackthorn also clothed in white,
Says spring is surely in our sight.

The creeping ivy may confuse,
The shyer violet does the light eschew.
No gold of man could ever shine,
As bright as your own celandine.

What do the bluebells say to me?
A drift, a carpet, then a sea.
Queen of the woodland, there you reign,
To lift my winter soul again.

The blackbird sings at break of day,
The starling splash their bath in play.
The hedges green, the new mown grass,
How does this always come to pass?

This magic month, so quickly to depart,
Hold in Your hand that I may write it on my heart.

Judy McEwan

An Ecumenical Celebration

May 20th 2007 6.30 pm

At Reigate Methodist Church

**To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of
the birth of the Rev Charles Wesley**



1707-1788

The celebration will take the form of:

- **A dramatic exploration of Charles Wesley's life, written by Mr. Brian Frost**
- **A number of hymns chosen to illustrate Charles Wesley's beliefs**
- **A United Ecumenical Choir**

Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 22 April 4.30pm

Please put this date in your diary. It is everyone's opportunity to share in the concerns of our Church, so please try to join us. The meeting, which includes the appointing of representatives to the Church Council and new Stewards to replace those who stand down this year, lasts for about an hour and ends with a **Bring & Share** tea.

The special topics for discussion this year are expected to be

- Plans for developing youth work by extending the current youth worker scheme, and
- Ideas for redeveloping the Church building (Phase 2).

Your ideas and comments on these important matters will be very welcome.

Please give any nominations for representatives to the Church Council to Tony Styles or Ruth Windsor by 8 April.

Important for all tax payers

Two questions! Are you a tax payer? Are you a member of the Gift Aid scheme?

If the answer to both questions is "YES" you need to read no further. If your second answer is "NO", please read on.

In the last financial year 15% (£15,000) of the General Account income of the church was from the tax refunds we received under the Gift Aid scheme. For every £1 given to or through the church we can recover 28p tax (only 25p after April 2008, as a result of the recent budget in March 2007).

The beginning of the new tax year is an ideal time to join the scheme so that the church can benefit fully from your gifts.

If you would like to sign up or would like more information please see or phone Douglas Bentley.



TRADE JUSTICE

Mass rally in London

Join Christian Aid and Trade Justice Movement campaigners at the German Embassy in Belgrave Square, London, on Thursday 19th April at 11 am, and demand that the EU – under Germany’s presidency – does not use new trade deals to lock poor countries into poverty.

Without last minute pressure, free-trade deals could wreck havoc in developing countries. By the end of 2007 the EU wants to finalise these economic partnership agreements (EPAs). They are supposed to be a tool for development, but in their present form they are set to put jobs and economies at risk, undermine healthcare provision and education for poor people, as well as damage their environment.

On 19th April thousands will be calling on the German government to listen to the concerns repeatedly expressed by poor countries. Christian Aid campaigners will be adding their voices to those of fellow campaigners in 20 other countries throughout Europe & Africa. The EU must re-write these deals before it is too late.

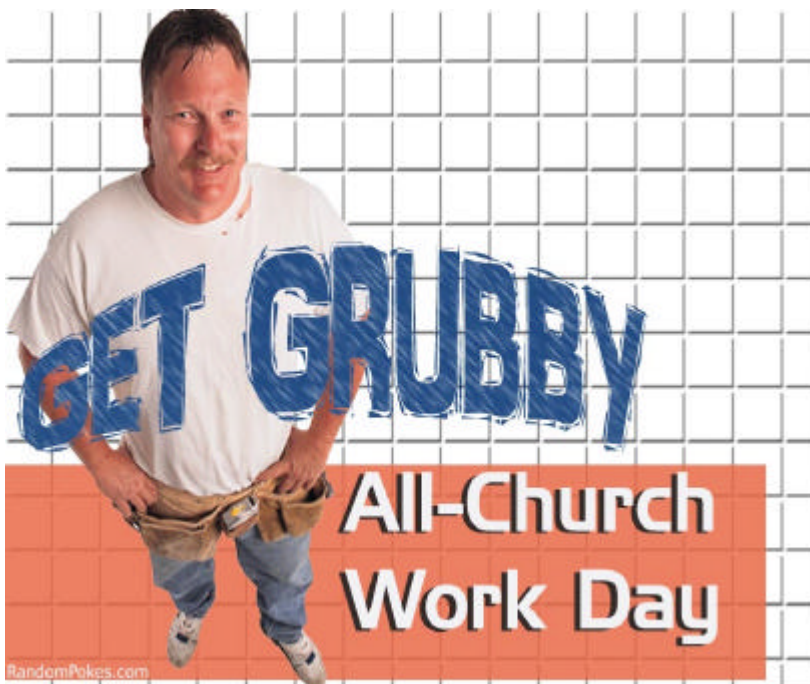
Find out more and register online at

www.pressureworks.org/dosomething

April 21st Your help is needed!

The 21st April is an all Church work day, there are many jobs that need doing both outside and inside, including – attic clearing, tidy garden, clean soak away, sweep car park, clean Crawley Down Hall windows, clean wheelie bin, clean lights in halls, paint white screen for projector, waterproof front of church. Please come and help out if you possibly can and please bring your own tools.

To start everyone off, there will be bacon butties at 9.00am in the Welcome Café.



Easter Service

for under 5's
(older siblings welcome)

Trinity Methodist Church

Tuesday 3rd April

10.30 am

(in the Church)

**Easter story with
Billy the puppet**

Singing

Craft

Drinks & Hot Cross Buns!



men@trinity
Diary dates for April

April 20th A night at the garage.

Visit to Pat's Garage

Tony Harvey will talk about car maintenance

Chris Harvey will talk about Stock Car Racing

(see weekly news for details)

April 21st Working party at Church

Start the day with a bacon butty at 9 am

(see page 9 and weekly news-sheet for details)

April 21st Six-a-side football

NOTE programme change for

June 29th — will be a visit to watch the

20/20 cricket at Hove

Wedding Announcements

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

Everyone is welcome.

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

Trinity Thursday Group
Crawley Down Hall 7.30 pm

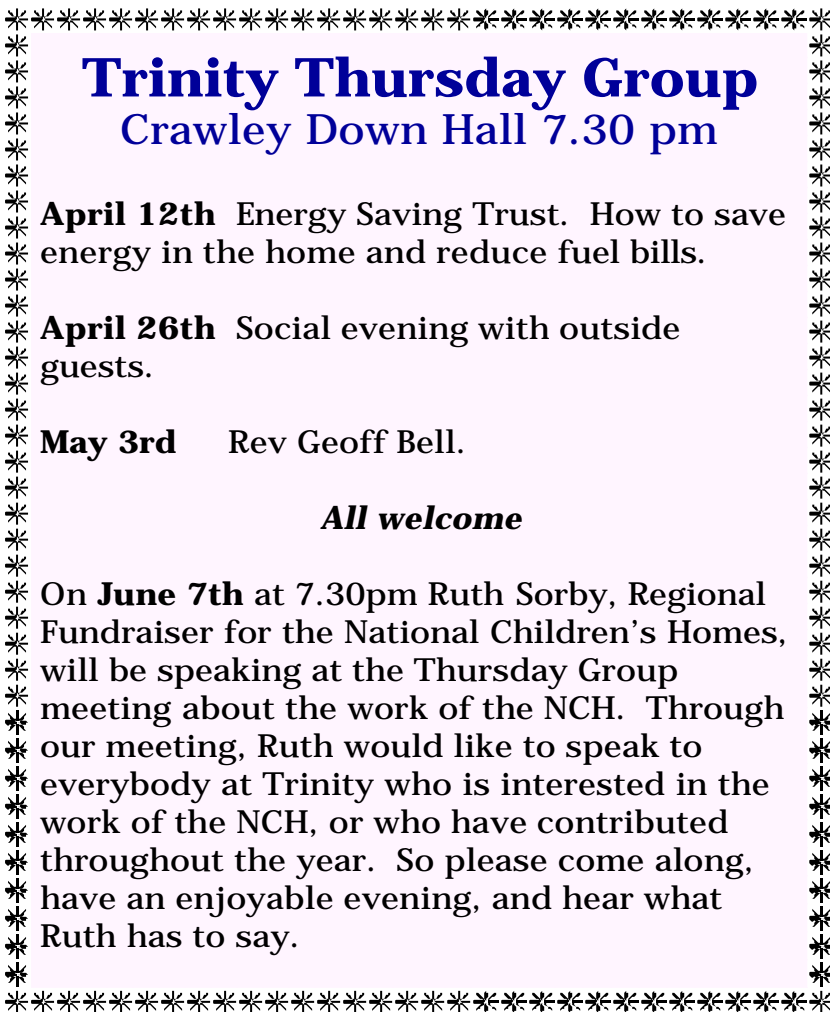
April 12th Energy Saving Trust. How to save energy in the home and reduce fuel bills.

April 26th Social evening with outside guests.

May 3rd Rev Geoff Bell.

All welcome

On **June 7th** at 7.30pm Ruth Sorby, Regional Fundraiser for the National Children's Homes, will be speaking at the Thursday Group meeting about the work of the NCH. Through our meeting, Ruth would like to speak to everybody at Trinity who is interested in the work of the NCH, or who have contributed throughout the year. So please come along, have an enjoyable evening, and hear what Ruth has to say.



A Disturbing Weekend – 9/10/11 March

It was Fair Trade Fortnight. On the Friday evening Pauline and I attended a special evening of sales and presentations at Trinity. There were many stalls and it was fascinating to see the huge variety of fairly traded goods on sale. From a range of handbags from Nepal, to the full range of food and goods from Traidcraft.

A Traidcraft executive gave an encouraging illustrated talk. Traidcraft has been fighting poverty through trade for 25 years using their unique structure of incorporating both a trading company and a development charity. They try to break the cycle of poverty and despair by helping people to help themselves. Too often unjust economic structures and poverty prevent people from living fulfilled lives. They also encourage consumers, like us, in more affluent countries to recognise the way in which they choose to spend their money makes a difference to others thousands of miles away.

It was very encouraging to hear how the major supermarket chains in this country are taking fairly traded goods more seriously and now appreciate that there is a consumer demand to be met. Traidcraft are entering into an important partnership with Marks and Spencer with a range of fashion items being trialled in selected stores. M&S expect suppliers to be able to turn on production to meet the demand in their shops. In many cases the supply chain for fairly traded goods does not currently provide for this. M&S though are prepared to be patient whilst they gauge the demand and allow the suppliers to gradually build up their capability accordingly. Look out for their new range of fair trade goods.

We were shown some encouraging examples of small businesses in various parts of the world that have been helped by Traidcraft. I can remember one village where the ladies, producing baskets, had benefited from the new trading outlet and expert advice. They were still living in poverty though. Their extra income had been used to help educate their children. It is that generation that will feel the real benefit. A slow but very worthwhile process.

The problems of the exploitation of people around the world for commercial gain was brought home by Greg Valerio the founder of the CRED Jewellery organisation. It brought home that whilst we are celebrating the 200 year anniversary of the end of the slave trade, human exploitation is still far from eradicated. Did you know that to produce enough gold to produce two wedding rings generates *three tonnes of toxic waste* and is destroying the environment where it is mined?

Continued over

Mercury is one of the chemicals used. The adults and children employed in the mining are poorly paid and are subject to many health hazards. So the rings we buy to signify love are in fact destroying the environment and peoples lives. The CRED organisation is producing gold and silver from ethically mined sources and manufacturing jewellery. They do not use toxic chemicals, repair the environmental damage and treat the employees fairly and with respect. Their production is currently a minute proportion of the world production of these minerals but with consumer and political pressure the situation can be changed. Visit www.cred.tv to find out more and see the range of goods they offer.

Thanks to Val & Peter Russell and others for their hard work in organising an enlightening evening.

On the Saturday evening we went to see a preview performance of a new musical from Paul Field called 'Cargo'. Paul started out to produce a musical to celebrate the abolition of slavery but during the research his eyes were opened to the vast extent of current day slavery. The production therefore became a campaigning piece about freeing people today. This is a quote from the narration –

·It's 2007. The great wheel has been turning for 220 years. Yet still, at the very least there are **20 million people** trapped in some form of slavery.

Legally there are none, but new words, sleight of presentation, Government complicity and more than a few blind eyes cloak the slavery that still exists.

Poverty, desperation and ignorance hide or disguise what lies ahead for those who find themselves tricked, traded, trafficked, kidnapped, forced, bonded or conscripted.

Now there is slavery for everyone. Sex tourism, prostitution and pornography. Bonded or forced labour, caste based slavery and the worst forms of child labour require an endless supply of slaves. The unprofitable are quickly discarded and replaced. They are disposable people.

You and the rest of us will make the world what it will be in 2107. We're the ordinary people who need to know what lies behind the sugar we eat, the coffee we drink, the tobacco we smoke and the clothes we wear.

We need to break down apathy and prejudice and uphold the right of every human being to be free. Finishing a task can be just as hard, just as inspiring as starting it. Only when there are no slaves can the wheel finally slow down and stop.'

Continued over

A Disturbing Weekend – 9/10/11 March, continued...

No body is free until everyone is free' (Vivek Pandit).

We found Cargo a very moving and enlightening production. There is some great music, striking images and enlightening narration. The official launch was on 31 March in Hull. There are Cargo events throughout 2007 at various venues. These vary from entire Cargo performances with full cast, choir and dancers through to small solo concerts using songs and narrations from Cargo. You can find details on www.paulfield.com/cargo or ask me. Cargo is being supported by the Compassion and Anti-slavery charities.

Then on the Sunday morning there was Brian Lanstone's challenging sermon. But that is another story. All in all, a disturbing weekend!

Don't forget that the film 'Amazing Grace' is showing locally and is well worth seeing.

Tony Styles

'He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the captives, to set the prisoners free'

Luke 4: 18

S

ee, what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes,
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan,
Wrought in love, borne in pain,
Paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ the Man,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is He laid?'
As in sorrow she turns
From the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope,
Bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes
Faith with certainty,
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned
With power and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

Calling All Grandmas & Grandpas

On Saturday 5th May at 10.45 for 11am at Deers Leap Park & St Anthony's Nature Reserve... bring your grandchildren to walk and quiz around the nature reserve and see all the bluebells. Meet at Deers Leap Park, just beyond Saint Hill at 10.45. Quiz aimed at 5 to 10 year olds, but others welcome if you wish.

Cost £2 per child, NO charge for adults. Coffee, tea and squash afterwards and bring a picnic if you wish. Ring Graham Bradbury for more information or if weather is bad.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can.

John Wesley

Hands of Worship

we will be meeting at Trinity on

Friday 13th April

7.00p.m - 8.15p.m.

Come and join us if you would like to learn
how to sign

Some Christian choruses and
some basic sign language

No previous knowledge necessary.

For details please contact:

admin@trinitymethodist.org

Services for April 2007

Weekly Wednesday Communion 11.30am

Sunday 1st

9am	Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm	Mr Edward Pender

Sunday 8th

10am
6.30pm

Easter Sunday

Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion
Rev Geoff Bell - Quiet Service

Sunday 15th

9am	Dr Stanley Jeyaraj
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell – All Age Worship
6.30pm	Rev Geoff Bell - Café Worship

Sunday 22nd

9am	Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am	Rev Geoff Bell
6.30pm	Mr John Starling - Praise Service

Sunday 29th

9am	Rev Geoff Bell
10.45am	Mr Brian Lanstone
6.30pm	Rev Geoff Bell - Youth Service

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