

# TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

East Grinstead

01342 302862

## April 2008



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

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



## Money, Sex & Power

Money, sex and power are three of the most potent realities of our lives. We see their effects played out on the world stage, through our TV screens, nearly every day. But they are also powerful drives in all of us. If Christianity had nothing to say about these major forces in our lives, it could rightly be accused of irrelevance. But Christianity has much to say about them.

*Firstly* it says that each is a gift from God that enables the world to be a better place for all, but that each one has been corrupted by human beings which causes the opposite to happen.

*Secondly*, Jesus not only defrocks the pompous pretence of money, sex and power, in their claim to be the way to live a full and complete life, but He provides an alternative way of living.

*Thirdly* He opens up this new way of living by His example, making it possible for us to live in that new way too – a way that does not come naturally to us. He makes it possible for the inner springs of our life, which have become contaminated, to be cleansed; to have the guiding values of our lives, which have become warped, to be straightened out, and to have the motivating drives of our lives, which have become damaging, to be transformed.

A world fuelled by money, sex and power, which is unredeemed by Christ, is clearly not functioning as it should. It is half functioning at best and patently destroying itself at worst. But over this distorted world stands the figure of Jesus – poor, chaste and *apparently* powerless. It is time to take Him seriously; to start living on the radical basis He not only taught and modelled, but made possible for us all, through the Holy Spirit.

With love and peace - Geoff



**Congratulations to Mick Creasy,**  
now in Littlefair Nursing home, on the occasion of her  
**90th birthday on *1<sup>st</sup> April***

### **Annual Church Meeting**

**Sunday 20 April 4.30pm**

It is an opportunity for everyone to share in discussing the aims and concerns of our Church, so please try to join us. The meeting includes the appointment of representatives to the Church Council and the appointment of continuing and new Worship Stewards. It lasts for about an hour and ends with a Bring & Share tea.

The agenda has still to be finalised but it is likely we will be hearing news of the youth worker project and about the rebuilding of the Church.

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

**T** here is a time turn, turn, turn

For every season turn, turn, turn  
And a time for every purpose under heaven  
A time to play and a time to grow up  
A time to raise children; then the empty nest  
A time to cook, to wash and to iron  
And a time to refrain from ironing!

There is a time turn, turn, turn  
Fro every season turn , turn, turn  
And a time for every purpose under heaven  
A time to visit and a time to stay home  
A time to work and a time to rest  
A time to shop and a time to shop  
And a time to refrain from shopping!

There is a time turn, turn, turn  
For every season turn, turn, turn  
And a time for every purpose under heaven  
A time to help and a time to say no  
A time to work hard and a time to let go  
A time to reap and a time to sow  
And a time to reap what you personally have sown

There is a time turn, turn, turn  
For every season turn, turn, turn  
And a time for every purpose under heaven  
A time to love but no time to hate  
A time to give but no time to waste  
A time to serve and a time to rest  
And a time to pray without ceasing.

(From women's world day of prayer)



I would like to recommend a book series that I have totally enjoyed reading and getting lost in. It is The Redemption Series written by Karen Kingsbury, an American author. Karen Kingsbury is currently America's bestselling inspirational author. She has written more than 30 of her Life-Changing Fiction titles and has nearly 5 million books in print. Dubbed by Time magazine as the Queen of Christian Fiction, her fiction has made her one of the country's favourite storytellers, and one of her novels --- Gideon's Gift --- is under production for an upcoming major motion picture release. Her emotionally gripping titles include the popular Redemption series, the Firstborn series and Oceans Apart. I am currently waiting to read the last book in the Sunrise Series, I will be sad to get to the end!

Karen and her husband, Don, live in the Pacific Northwest and are parents to one girl and five boys, including three adopted from Haiti.

Thank you to Julie Wilkins for introducing me to these wonderful books!

Ruth Windsor

### **Sponsored Swim**

Sue S at Horley is organising a sponsored swim again in aid of JMA on Saturday June 21st from 4.45pm till 5.30pm at the Horley Anderson pool, with tea afterwards at Horley Methodist Church.

Several of our young people took part in this a couple of years ago, and it was a great success.

Please see Linda H for more details.

# The Ten Commandments

---

Starting on Sunday 6th April we will begin a preaching theme at both morning services, entitled “Top Ten”; the Ten Commandments. The Sunday preaching will then be followed up in the Home Groups during the week.

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) are the foundation block of the Old Testament Law (Torah). They give the basics of what God requires from His people; the boundary posts of conduct expected of those who follow Him.

Some people criticize the ten Commandments for being too negative, but they follow a positive assertion: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery..” (Ex 20:2). Therefore they’re a charter for God’s liberated people (Ex 12:31-14:31, and rules for living in a world of freedom and choice in the Promised Land (Josh 1:1-6).

The idea that God has rules for the way we live may sound old fashioned and off putting to most today, but if there is a God who made us, and if He has spoken, then surely it makes sense to listen to what He has to say about how we live our lives. And I believe, quite passionately, that we need to recover the Ten Commandments for our society today. For if we look at most social trends, Britain is in moral decline. There’s a rise in crime, family breakdown, personal debt, pornography and drug abuse. There seems to be no shame or standards. In such times the Ten Commandments offer us a firm foundation on which to re-build.

Please try to engage with this course, if you can, either by regular attendance at worship, attending a Home Group, or both. Home Group listings are on the Notice Board in the Welcome Cafe.

Love Geoff

## **Men's Breakfast**

On Saturday 15 March about 20 of us gathered for a new venture in the Men@Trinity programme. This was another opportunity for the men to get together and to introduce their friends. With the latter in mind the topic was on this occasion deliberately non-Christian.

We started by enjoying an excellent full English breakfast provided by Jim Casey and his team. We were grateful to Jim for making an early start to ensure we could be served from 8am.

This was followed by a talk by Jo Webb, a uniformed officer who organises the Police Neighbourhood team. Her team contains various disciplines but is largely made up of Community Support Officers that patrol our neighbourhoods on foot. They provide the reassuring visibility of police on the beat and their job is to be familiar with the issues that trouble the local communities.

Jo chose to speak about anti-social behaviour particularly among young people. This involves the high profile Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). It has only been necessary to issue four orders in our area. These have had a 50% success rate in preventing re-offending. They are however a last resort because the process starts with the Police taking action as soon as someone has been drawn to their attention three times within a six month period. In the case of young people the first stage is a visit to the offenders home where a behaviour contract is drawn up with the offender and the offender's parents. This early intervention is often successful in preventing further anti social behaviour.

Jo was reassuring in saying that the young people of our Town are generally well behaved and come from families that take steps to ensure they are actively engaged in purposeful pastimes of all sorts from sports to uniformed organisations and youth groups. A particularly difficult age though is from 16 to 18. This is a time when they are outgrowing youth activities but are too young for more adult social activities such as pubs and clubs. These youths have nowhere to meet and tend to congregate outside in our neighbourhoods and can cause nuisance and be led into abuse of drugs and alcohol.

Geoff Bell asked what we as a Church might do and outlined a proposal to open our Café, say one evening a week, as a meeting place. Jo welcomed the idea and encouraged us to explore the idea. If this is something you feel you can get involved with then please let Geoff know.

We are grateful to Jo for her interesting talk and to Graham B for organising the breakfast. We hope it will become a regular event.

Tony Styles



## Trinity Activity Afternoon – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008

The day started off with an interesting race. Gerry and myself had challenged Shane and Laurence to a gazebo race. Now considering ours was much bigger and far more complicated, we didn't expect to win. However with some great team work (and instructions!) we did. Once these were up Gerry and I set about erecting the Graffiti Wall in the car park. This was a challenge but got done and I know many people were very impressed with it and it was a brilliant eye catching activity to draw people in.

Throughout the day we had people drawing and painting on the wall, attending drama and dance workshops, eating the food produced from the BBQ and exploring the activities the group leaders had set up. The surprisingly popular activity of the afternoon was the fun and games people were having on my Wii and we had people of all ages giving it a go!

I feel that the afternoon was very successful and I just want to thank everyone who put so much effort into it and all those people who attended and brought people with them.

God Bless

Rob Weighill



## TAX PAYERS – PLEASE READ!

An apology! For those who read the item last month I regret that I was over generous with the amount that the Government was giving us. I overlooked that when the basic rate reduces to 20% next month the starting rate of 10% is abolished.

This means that anyone whose taxable income is about £10,000 or less (a gross income of £15,000 and only the standard personal allowance) will in fact pay more tax. For those above this figure, the amounts I quoted will be reduced by about £230.

## BUT GOOD NEWS

As part of the budget the Chancellor announced that despite the reduction in the basic rate of tax, charities will continue to be able to reclaim at the old rate until 2011.

This means that our income from Gift Aid will not drop.

Can I still ask you to prayerfully consider you giving? It is very easy, particularly when using a standing order, to just continue giving the same amount year on year despite the changes on our income. The church has budgeted for a deficit and we as a church need to increase our giving if we are to move forward.

Also, if you are a tax payer and not in the Gift Aid scheme why not join?.

### **New Circuit Superintendent Minister**

The Rev Robert Jones has accepted an invitation to be our new Circuit Superintendent Minister, based in Redhill, when Rev Bill Prince retires this summer. The next step is for the appointment to be approved by Conference before the move is finalised.

Robert is currently working for the Connexion as Group Coordinator for the Education and Chaplaincy Division. Previous appointments have included chaplaincy at Southlands College Roehampton and time spent in the Kingston Circuit as minister at New Malden. He is a keen gardener and has a love of music, theatre and art.

He has a wife, Janet, who is Pharmacy Manager at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and a grown up family.

## 100 NOT OUT!

The East Grinstead and District Credit Union (EGDCU) has continued to have an eventful period of activity during recent months with our membership passing 100 in September 2007. Collection Points were tested at Trinity Methodist Church and Moatfield Surgery, but the most satisfactory venue remains St. Swithun's Church Hall for attracting membership. In the long term our target is a shop front venue which could be manned on a much more regular basis. Our aim is also to increase the number of loans, which remain low, despite the very reasonable repayment terms we offer.

**Remember if you save regularly for thirteen weeks with the CU then you can have a loan for twice the amount you save.**

An exhibition and information stall was held last Autumn for a week in EG library, manned each day by directors and volunteers, which was useful for publicity purposes. During the course of the year a large amount of leafleting was undertaken in various parts of the town including Stone Quarry, Gardenwood and Blackwell Farm Road. Our spokesman James Baldwin gave a good interviews on Meridian Radio, but various other ways of publicising the Credit Union are now being considered, including the launch of a Friends of EGDCU at our AGM on 10 May in order to help with fundraising to cover our £2000 pa running costs, as well as helping to raise awareness of our work.

Currently the EGDCU has an application with West Sussex County Council for a Grant of £500 as part of the cost of setting up Collection Points at two of the primary schools in the town with a view to encouraging the value of saving and avoidance of debt among young people. An approach is also being made to Queen Victoria Hospital in order to recruit more members amongst staff.

How can you help?

- offer your services as a Board member – we need a Secretary, an Internal Audit Team member, a Training Officer and an

Assistant Treasurer. All these positions would need people with computer experience.

- consider making an annual payment of £60 a year or £5 a month towards our running costs which come to £2000 pa (audit fees, insurance, FSA fees, postage, etc). If 33 people did this the CU would be self-sufficient.
- Be a volunteer on the collection point
- Think about becoming a Friend of the Credit Union to help with fundraising and awareness
- Speak well of us to others, especially if you know they have debt problems and think we can help

Thanks to all our members and supporters, including Churches Together, EG & District Lions Club and EG Town Council.

### **Swimathon 2008**

I will be swimming in the Swimathon at the Kings Centre in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on 20th April. I will be in a team of four called "Late Starters" as we all learnt to swim in later years! The team have to swim 5 kilometres which is 50 lengths each. If anyone would like to sponsor me I would be very grateful - please see me.

I was going to say that if there is anyone without a life who would like to come and support me that would be wonderful but as it is the same time as the church AGM obviously everyone will be there!

Mary C

# **CONCERT**

Arr. by Marion S

**Saturday 7th June**

**At 7pm**

**In aid of  
St Catherine's Hospice  
&  
Sackville College**

## **A Woman's Supplement to 'Men@Trinity'**

Many of you will share my concern for non-worshipping partners and family members. For me it's my brother and my children. We continue to hope and pray that one day they will return to the fold. But can we be doing more than this?

While I was at home nursing my broken wrist (much better now - thanks for all your prayers and practical support) I finished reading 'Why Men Hate Going to Church'. The next chapter spoke directly to us women and how we can help. So let's not leave it all to Mike B and the boys. How about meeting up and finding out what we can do to encourage our loved ones?

Ring me, Pauline S

***Buffet Dinner, Dance & Auction***

**on**

***Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May***

**at**

***The Felbridge Hotel***

**7.30pm**

**Tickets: £25 from Cecilia B**

**Proceeds in aid of St. John's Church  
Building Fund**

# Services for April 2008

Mid-week Communion - Wednesdays 11.30am

## **Sunday 6th**

9am Rev Geoff Bell

10.45am Rev Geoff Bell

6.30pm Mrs Diane Collins

## **Sunday 13th**

9am Mr Robert Burrige

10.45am Rev Geoff Bell - Holy Communion

6.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Quiet Service

## **Sunday 20th**

9am Rev Geoff Bell

10.45am Rev Christine Keyte - All Age Worship

6.30pm Rev Geoff Bell - Cafe Worship

## **Sunday 27th**

9am Rev William Prince

10.45am Mr Brian Lanstone

6.30pm Mr Peter Davey

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