

# HTC News

## A Family Affair!

Winter 2009



Charles Evans (pictured left) is one of 10 young men and women who were baptised during the 6.30pm service on Sunday 6 December. His twin brother Alex, who was baptised last year, was there to support him, along with his mum Lindy.

Charles said, "I decided to get baptised because my faith has really grown in the last 18 months and I am ready to start putting God at the centre of my life. Seeing the transformation faith has had on my brother Alex and my best friend Andrew Howe has been very inspiring. I started going to the 6.30 service and

then joined Alex's post-Alpha group and the twenties group at church, learning more about the Bible and experiencing fellowship with other Christians. All of it has had a big impact on me. I then did Alpha this term and found out more that way too." He added, "Being baptised is the most important day of my life to date and having family and close friends share that experience with me is very special."

Alex read a specially chosen passage from the Bible before Charles was fully immersed in the water by Tom Darwent and Philip Plyming. Lindy, their mum, said

that after all these years of praying for her children, her prayers had been well and truly answered, "There is no doubt that the amazing change in Alex has touched all of us, including Charles. And of course my daughter Zara, Alex and I have prayed for Charles constantly. As a family I think we are living proof of the spirit at work and prayers answered."

The other young people baptised were Ben Davies, Abriana Davies, Alexandra Davies, Katarina Davies, Toby Dipper, Emily Howe, Beth Sadler, Matt Smith and Aeona Winchcombe.

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... and a great deal more to keep you in touch!

Holy Trinity Claygate

*Following Jesus Together*

## Thanksgivings

### We thank God for the marriage of

Jay Baworee                      3 October  
Gina Johnson

### We thank God for the baptisms of

Kathryn Stannard &    27 September  
Emilia Cross

Maddox Valter                25 October

Ben Davies                    6 December

Abriana Davies  
Alexandra Davies  
Katarina Davies  
Toby Dipper  
Emily Howe  
Beth Sadler  
Matt Smith  
Aeona  
Winchcombe

### We thank God for the lives of

Alan Fairman                20 October

Peter White                 22 October

Gay Whittaker              24 October

James Pritchard          26 October

Eva Crowther              28 October

## Letter from the Vicar



I hope you are finding the Mission of God journey a stimulating and rewarding one – I certainly am! One of the things that has struck me so far is how God's mission is all about people. People were the crown of creation, and are called to be stewards of it. Abraham and his descendants are the way God wants his name to be known in all nations. And God's salvation came to a real people in captivity, and brought them to freedom and so much more.

The thing that continues to excite me about serving at Holy Trinity is how God continues to be at work in people's lives. The Alpha course which has just finished has reminded me again how God is often at work below the surface, but in ways that are very real nevertheless. We have seen many of the twenty four guests come to the realisation that a relationship with Jesus is really possible, and begin to walk on that journey with him.

There is lots more in this bumper edition of HTC News about how God is at work in real people through tough times as well as through times of more obvious blessing. In the run-up to Christmas we will be showered with messages from advertisers telling us that such and such a gift is a 'must-have' for Christmas. Our society tends to be better at placing value on things we possess, rather than people we relate to. I think this is a worrying trend and part of the reason why relationships come under strain.

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*Our society tends to be better at placing value on things we possess, rather than people we relate to.*

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And yet the Christmas story gives us the opposite message. It tells us of the most amazing gift, that the eternal God became a little baby, dignifying our human condition and ultimately creating a way back to a relationship with the God who made us. This is the proof we need that for God nothing is more precious than those people he has made, and how we can relate to Him.

In our house we have a saying we use when we break things or when they get damaged. It is 'people are more important than things' Christmas may be no bad time to remind ourselves, and those whom we love, that the most precious thing in life are other people, and the God who became a person himself.

With my love and prayers,



Thursday 14 January  
repeated Tuesday 19

Thursday 4 February  
repeated Tuesday 23

Thursday 4 March  
repeated Tuesday 16

## Visitors to HTC in November



**A very special South Indian visitor popped into HTC in November. Bishop Samuel Gnanaprasam**, who has a ministry in the Cumbum Valley, in Tamil Nadu, was on a visit to the UK and found time to come and share with us all that God has been doing. He has been supported by HTC in recent years.

Bishop Samuel is based in the Rhema Garden in Cumbum, where there are five distinct ministries: work with disabled children, with orphans, a medical centre, a theological college and a church-planting centre. Bishop Samuel told the fifty people at the meeting how 26 churches had been planted in the last five years, often in places where the name of Jesus had never been heard before. 'We are so thankful to God' Bishop Samuel said, 'and grateful for your support and prayers.'

**November also saw a visit from the Revd John Dunnett, General Director of CPAS, the Church Pastoral Aid Society.** He preached at the 9.30 and 11.15 services and spoke about the work of CPAS. John shared how

CPAS has a particular vision for encouraging leadership within all areas of the church, producing the Growing Leaders course that many churches, including HTC, have used.

John said he was passionate about the importance of leadership in church life; 'it is the one single most important factor in church growth' he commented, before sharing stories of people who have grown in leadership through the work of CPAS.

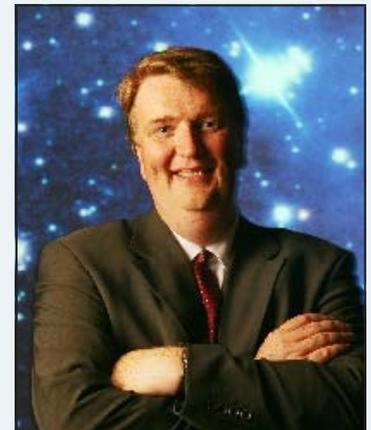


Vicar Philip Plyming said he was encouraged by the clear vision of CPAS. 'We have seen at HTC the blessing of the Growing Leaders course in developing leaders on all levels' he said, 'and we are really glad to support CPAS as one of our partner mission organisations.'

**More than 200 people packed into Holy Trinity on Sunday 15 November to hear renowned scientist Dr David Wilkinson speak about the beginning of the universe** – and how God was involved. Dr Wilkinson, who is Principal of St John's College, Durham, was speaking as part of HTC's regular Christian FAQ series on the title 'How did the world begin, and how was God involved?'

Drawing on his knowledge as a theoretical astrophysicist and Christian minister, Dr Wilkinson had the audience gripped as he set the question in context, describing how the sun and the earth revolves and is but one of 100 billion stars in 100 billion galaxies. He then said we could date the age of the solar system as 13.7 billion years old, but that, despite the wonders of quantum theory and the theory of relativity, we had very little idea what happened in the first second of the universe's existence.

For Dr Wilkinson, however, the God he worships is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ. He said, "In Jesus I was introduced the Creator God," and he shared with the audience his own personal faith in Jesus Christ.



Wilkinson said, however, he did not believe in a 'God of the gaps', that is, a God who is just in the bits of creation science cannot explain. Highlighting some of the amazing anthropic balances in the created order, Wilkinson went on to describe how the wonder of creation pointed him and many other scientists to a Creator God who sustains the world today.

*Continued on page 3...*

# Another Vicar in the Making!

**Congratulations to Jon Hidden who has passed his BAP (Bishop's Advisory Panel) and has been accepted for ordination training. He told us about his journey of faith so far.**

"It's been a gradual process to work out my true calling. For many years I'd been praying for guidance on what to do after University. About two years ago things started to snowball, such as dissatisfaction with my 9-5 work and a real enjoyment of serving at HTC. Importantly at this time several vicars I knew asked me on separate occasions if I'd thought about becoming a vicar. The combination of these events led me to explore the idea of ordained ministry. The



opportunity to leave my job at Barclays and becoming a ministry assistant at HTC has really helped to clarify this all the more.

Currently I'm visiting colleges, choosing where Hannah and I might live while I spend three years studying. Once I've completed my studies I'm set to do a curacy for three or four years. Then I'll move on to a new post such as being an incumbent (vicar) like Philip. Luckily everyone in my family is pleased that I am doing something I love as they've all seen me enjoy serving at HTC and believe it is the right path for me, which is really encouraging.

Looking back, my Christian journey actually started in the early 90's when my family started coming along to HTC. My sister dragged me along to YF aged 14 which got me plugged into HTC. I loved the social side of YF but I also loved finding out more about God. I'd say I became a Christian when I was 18, just before heading off to university when I realised there was more to life. This is exactly what Jesus

promises to those who follow him. At university I went a couple of churches where I discovered more about Jesus and my new faith in him. I also started leading at youth camps, which was a great experience. After university I got stuck into leading at YF, and serving in other ways at HTC, which leads me to where I am today in HTC as Cornhill Ministry Assistant.

Seeing HTC in action on a daily basis has been a brilliant experience; being able to work alongside Tom and see a curate in action, and also working with Drew and his inspiring ideas for youth work. It's provided me with opportunities to test and explore what it would be like to be an ordained minister. The highlights are many; from the weekly staff bible studies where we all study God's word together, to wrestling John Cole for his socks during the infamous Thunderdome game at the YF weekend away! It's been an amazing journey so far!"

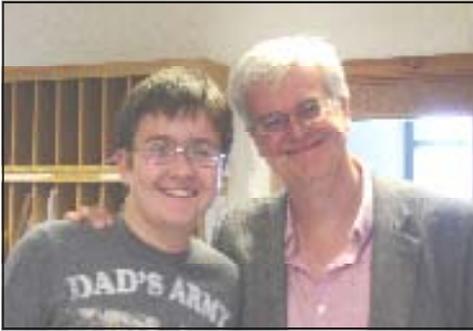
*Continued from page 3*

....."I was drawn to Christian faith. Because I loved evidence," he said, "and while science does not prove God, it does point us towards the reality of his existence."

Philip said he was delighted to have David Wilkinson speaking at HTC. "David has an amazing ability to make complex concepts understandable to us all and to hear such a knowledgeable scientist speak about his Christian faith gives further lie to the idea that science and Christian faith are opposed to one another." He added, "I know many were encouraged in their own faith by hearing David speak, and some who are still not sure were given ways to take their questions further."

# Dad's Army Afternoon

Mike Harle reports on another Claygate Seniors' Event



In the 1970s, Dad's Army used to regularly attract TV audiences in excess of 15 million (many more than watch the X Factor today!). On 29 October, 70 HTC Seniors packed into the church foyer to watch one of the greatest episodes, 'War Dance', introduced by my 13 year old son, Thomas, who helped organise the event.

Thomas said, "I love Dad's Army for the variety and warmth of the characters. I felt like a proud father bringing my favourite episode to such a big audience of Seniors!" The fantastic turn out demonstrated the enduring appeal of Dad's Army, which clearly extends across all the generations!

In the 'War Dance', the platoon's efforts to hold a morale-boosting dance for "our wives and sweethearts" gradually descends into hilarious chaos as Private Pike announces his engagement to the "unsuitable" Violet Gibbons. Better order was maintained afterwards at our tea and Dad's Army quiz in the Church Hall! Everyone had great fun tackling the tricky questions that Thomas had set us. Well done to Elizabeth and Michael Adams who top-scored! Try your hand at an abridged version of the quiz on the right.

This hugely enjoyable afternoon was part of our ongoing efforts to engage HTC Seniors in events that nurture Christian fellowship and fun. It was great to see so many members of our special 'family' at The Firs coming along to Church for the event. Particular thanks go to Thomas for helping put the event together and to all those who helped on the day.



**1. What was the fictional town called in which the programme was set?**

- a) Warburton-on-Sea
- b) Eastbourne
- c) Walmington-on-Sea
- d) Widdrington by the Sea

**2. How did Private Pike frequently address Sergeant Wilson?**

- a) Dad
- b) Uncle John
- c) Sergeant
- d) Uncle Arthur

**3. Which of the following is NOT the title of an episode of Dad's Army?**

- a) Don't Fence Me In
- b) Call Me Irresponsible
- c) Keep Young and Beautiful
- d) All Is Safely Gathered In

**4. Which was the only one of these famous actresses NOT to appear in Dad's Army?**

- a) Barbara Windsor
- b) Wendy Richard
- c) Mollie Sugden
- d) Pamela Cundell

**5. Whose private van was converted into the platoon's armoured vehicle?**

- a) Private Frazer
- b) Private Walker
- c) Corporal Jones
- d) Warden Hodges

(Answers: 1.c 2.d 3.b 4.c 5.c)

# Autumn of Muck & Madness!

## SWEEEEEEET Weekend!



On a sunny but cold Friday afternoon in October, a group of YFers and their leaders set off for a 'Sweet Weekend' in Somerset. They arrived in the dark so it was only the next morning that they were able to see how pretty their surroundings were at Great Wood Camp.



The programme of skits running throughout the weekend was based on German sweet makers "Hanzel" and "Gretel" who looked

very much like Drew Waller and his assistant Abi Curtis! Their plan was to make the world's greatest sweet, helped by YFO sweet connoisseurs.

The weekend was full of silly games such as toilet paper Dodgeball, 'The Great Sweet Heptathlon' and Thunderdome! All of which meant the YFO members getting very messy!!

Everyone enjoyed fantastic food over the weekend provided by Lisa Buhr and on the last night Lisa's husband Raimund put on a great BBQ. And what YFO camp would be complete without a bonfire and toasted marshmallows?!



## Yuckfest!

Back in September, youngsters kicked off the new YFO term with their annual 'Yuckfest,' a night of glorious gunge and goo! Some keen YFOers had already made up hundreds of flour bombs and bucket loads of the trademark gunge. Youth Leader, Abi Curtis said, "There really is a science to making gunge, including getting the right consistency and right colour, which varied from bright blue to luminous pink!"

"The night proved to be a great success and a really good opportunity for members to bring friends along to a church event and see that Christians can have fun! We felt that the evening really broke down barriers as it was open to all kids whether they went to church or not, and was a great way for them to see what we do at HTC Youth and how our activities are available to all."

The teenagers also enjoyed a series of talks from Emma Waller which provoked great Bible study and some tough questions for the leaders! She said, "Although the group was small it was a great chance for the teenagers to bond with each other and their leaders, and to look deeper at their faith."

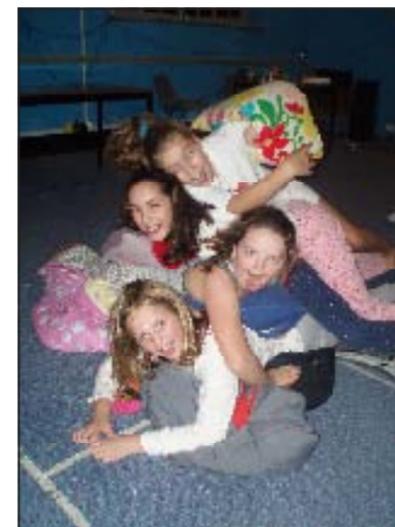
Emma added, "We were blessed with great weather for the weekend. Although it was cold, the rain seemed to hold off for most of the time!" Planning for next year's October camp has already begun after such a successful trip this year!



Ellie Curtis said, "It was the messiest I've ever been but so worth it!" Beth Sadler agreed, "Yuckfest is the highlight of the year. I can't wait until next year!"

## Princess Weekend

It was a weekend of right royal treatment for 12 Pathfinders who gathered on a Friday night in October for a girly sleep over at Emmanuel Hall!



The princess pampering began with the youngsters slathering on chocolate and strawberry flavoured face packs and painting their nails every colour of the rainbow.

After scoffing huge quantities of ice cream sundaes, marshmallows and popcorn, everyone helped to set up camp beds and sleeping bags, to turn Emmanuel Hall into a comfy and cosy den. The girls then settled down to watch a couple of DVDs and after a bit of persuasion everyone was asleep.

Abi Curtis, who organised the weekend, said, "The princess theme was designed to show the girls that their HTC Youth leaders think that they're very special. But more importantly, we want them to know that they are definitely princesses in Jesus' eyes!" Pathfinder Megan Wright said she had a great weekend, "The sleepover and trip to London were fantastic! I hope we do it again."

## Paintballing

Two teams of young fellas from HTC Youth battled it out for a day of messy, combative fun on a glorious Saturday in November. The 16 youngsters on the paintballing trip included members of the Pathfinders, Young Adventures and Youth Fellowship.

The day was even more enjoyable because the paintball centre in Cobham provided body armour and other protective gear so bruises were minimized. Over the course of the day they engaged in 12 rounds of 'capture the flag', 'protect the leader', 'defend the base' and other fun challenges. By working as a team everyone quickly bonded and, by the end of the day, guys who had started out as strangers were laughing with one another and sharing supplies.

One of the younger lads said, "This was wicked fun. I have never done anything this before and it was great to hang out with the guys from YF." Youth Leader, Jon Hidden said, "It was a great day because guys from all our different groups had a chance to bond and get to know one another."



Having slept like royalty, the girls caught a train on Saturday morning to Waterloo where they made a bee-line for the London Eye. Following a 4D film, which simulated flying over the London eye and other tourist attractions, the girls boarded a pod for their "flight" for magnificent views of the London skyline.

After lunch everyone walked along the South Bank, watching all the performers. The girls spent all their spare change on the human statues that came to life to shake hands, wave and even dance with the girls! Pathfinder Lucy Bennis said, "I really enjoyed the London Eye and the sleepover - it was brilliant!"

## Scouts' Centenary Service

More than 200 people of all ages gathered together at HTC on 10 October for a very special service to give thanks to God for 100 years of Scouting in Claygate.

During the service Philip Plyming interviewed four generations of Claygate residents about their memories of Scouting in the village, stretching back to just after the Second World War. The congregation laughed at the thought of a trek cart being pulled along the old A3 to Cobham – something nobody would attempt now!



Philip also described the close relationship Claygate Scouts had with Holy Trinity Church, stretching back to its founder in 1909, who was the son of the then vicar! In his sermon he described the importance of saying thank you, not least to the God who makes all things possible. He also displayed his own cub scout jumper from almost thirty years ago, but found it rather too small to put on!

## On the Road to Recovery



**Following a major hip operation last year, Marion Thorley had a catastrophic fall in the snow which left her fearing for her foot. Sue Cole reports.**

It was a sad day when Marion Thorley announced in 2008 that she would be retiring, after teaching countless people to swim for more than 30 years. But in July 2008, just a few months before she was due for a hip replacement operation, Marion received the shocking news that she had developed Parkinsons Disease.

Despite these cruel setbacks Marion was all set for her final year of teaching when she slipped on her icy driveway during the heavy snowfall in February, "There was no one around so I had to pull myself into the house and phone for an ambulance as my foot was dangling at the wrong angle. It took a long time to come because of the snow and ice."

Marion was rushed to Kingston Hospital where she had a major operation on her ankle. "Unfortunately I had been put in the wrong position under anaesthetic which led to complications with my shoulder and left me in a great deal of pain due to my osteoarthritis." Marion also caught a nasty infection during her 10 days in hospital that developed into a pulmonary embolism. Marion carried on teaching for part of the Spring term, despite the fact that she was on

crutches and her foot was painful and badly deformed. It wasn't until June that she was told the devastating news that the metal plate in her ankle had broken because the plaster had been taken off too early. Essentially this meant that she ran the risk of losing her foot if she continued to walk on it. She had to then wait until August before the appropriate surgeon could carry out an operation to remove the broken metalwork and a further operation to reconstruct her ankle. "The skin is gradually healing on my foot but, best of all, I can now very gently move my ankle. I'm due to find out soon if the bones are set and, if so, I won't have to have another operation!"

"Throughout my life I don't know what I would have done without my faith. I have received some wonderful signs from God of his love during my most difficult times. After a particularly upsetting row with my husband I came up to church and flung myself down in despair. I heard the Lord say, "Why don't cross yourself anymore? Are you ashamed that I died for you?" From that moment on I was in no doubt that Jesus died on the cross for me. I was able to walk home and feel at absolute peace. Now I know that I really don't have to worry about anything as the Lord always provides."

"I want to thank everyone for all the lifts, the cards, and the meals cooked and delivered to me over the past 6 months. Particular thanks go to my neighbour Christine who has been an amazing support and of course my wonderful daughter Tracey who continues to look after me. Most of all I want to thank people for praying for me through all my trials, as I know with absolute certainty that your prayers have worked."

# HTC Children Shine!

## Jill Griffiths reports...

31 October was a very exciting evening for 50 youngsters at HTC. We organised two Shine Parties with the aim to provide primary school-aged children with a fun event as a bright alternative to the darker goings on that evening. The slogan "Why go out in the dark, when you can party in the light?" really summed up the ethos of the night.



The theme of light and shine was evident all around the hall which was beautifully decorated with fairy lights, balloons and anything shiny that we could get our hands on! Many of the children dressed up in bright, shiny outfits and the helpers followed their example. Andy Clifton in a sparkly Elvis costume was a sight to brighten any dark evening!

The children were kept busy with icing and eating biscuits; playing party games and decorating glass candle holders. There were also some lively action songs in the church; a chance to reflect on Jesus being the true light of our world and to give thanks for this.



Much needed hot dogs, snacks and drinks followed. The evening was rounded off with an exhilarating treasure hunt in the darkened church to find glow sticks, glow in the dark stars, chocolate etc. If that wasn't enough, the "booty" was added to by collecting a big bag of sweets to go home with!

Sasha Buhr said, "I loved doing the treasure hunt for glow sticks in the dark. It was brilliant and we got loads of sweets at the end!"

Xandy Slater added, "We had a fantastic time! My little sister Bea was really upset that she wasn't old enough to come, but I did share my sweets with her afterwards."

Everyone went home exhausted but happy without a pumpkin in sight!



## Firs' Service 1st Anniversary

The 'new' congregation at the Firs has celebrated its first anniversary! From October 2008 regular services have taken place every month in the central lounge of the Firs, to which all residents of the Firs, Firs Close and Fawcus Close are invited.



The format is relaxed and informal, with the residents' choice of well-known hymns, a Bible reading, short talk, and an opportunity to commit their concerns to God in prayer. It's designed to be accessible to anyone, regardless of where they are in their spiritual walk. Each service is preceded by tea and cake and lively conversation!



The service has become a recognized and established part of life at the Firs, with around 30 committed and enthusiastic members but newcomers are always made very welcome. We look forward to another good year of fellowship and growth.

# HTC...on a Mission!

**This Autumn the HTC church family set out on an exciting journey called 'The Mission of God.' The 10 month programme of teaching, experience, bible study, prayer and action will last into July next year.**

The Mission of God is designed to give us the whole story of God as its told in the bible, to as to see the big picture of God's activity in the world as well as help us understand how we fit in. The aim is to build our knowledge as well as change our lives. We have already covered three of the nine great biblical themes:

*God Creates* started us at the beginning and the world God created, both good and fallen.

*God Calls* reminded us of God's call and promise to Abraham, how we today are the heirs of those things.

*God Saves* told the great story of the Exodus from captivity in Egypt and setting out for the Promised Land.

As an additional part of the 'Mission of God' programme, some Church members are reading the bible in a year – cover to cover. Heidi Felton said, "Back in September, reading the Bible in a year seemed like a daunting challenge. But now I find myself really looking forward to the daily readings. It's not always easy going (the depths of Leviticus for instance!) but it's giving me a much fuller and deeper understanding of God's mission."

In the coming months, the emphasis will be on how we, as individuals, can be part of God's Mission. The remaining themes will be explored in Sunday teaching, small groups and childrens' groups in particular.

The series has already provided children's leaders with the chance to access the Bible's great legacy of history and narrative power. Children and Families Minister, Jill Griffiths, said, "So far children have learned how God wants us to care for his creation, be part of Abraham's family, and how He has set his people free from tough times. There's been real scope for creativity, teaching and fun. Who could possibly forget the renditions of Father Abraham!!!"

## Small Groups' Studies

'The Mission of God' has been the focus of weekly studies among HTC small groups, providing a chance to discuss the emerging themes.

"The small group studies are really helping us get the most out of the Mission of God. Our group are lapping up the series!" **Sarah and Nick Slater**

"We get a chance to discuss freely the passage and sermon of the week in our groups. The whole series is really helping us to understand how the mission fits together." **Lyn Gretton**

"We're having really interesting and fruitful discussions in our group. For example, the session on Abraham really helped us understand how we are part of the same family and are to seek to be a blessing to others" **Rob Walker**

## HTC website steps up a gear

### Brian Howells reports...

Since we last updated the Church Directory, we've seen major growth in church membership. The ever increasing popularity of Messy Church, Toddlers' Praise and new Sunday services, to name but a few, draw on larger numbers of volunteers and yet more rotas, with the inevitable risk of diary clashes.

Over the past few weeks we have been gathering data to enable us to create a single list of church members and their contact details on a secure server via the HTC website. The aim is to significantly simplify church administration and reduce the hassles around miscommunication. The system will help us become more effective as a church with information being more accessible to both members and staff through a members only area of the website.

Church members will be able to securely access and change their own details with the result that records will always be up to date. The address/phone book will be on-line and available to all the membership through a secure login. But, rest assured, the booklet form of the Directory will be made available to those who do not have access to the internet!

# Christmas 2009 with our Mission Partners

## Extra Christingle Service



### Christmas in Xining, China

Every year our small international school puts on a big Christmas show and every student takes part, singing, acting or playing musical instruments. This year our production is called 'Not a Silent Night' and will be translated into Chinese so that our audience, a mixture of a the local and ex-pat communities, can understand and follow the story. The

Korean community in our city will perform some songs and we will all sing some Christmas carols in English and Chinese. Anna and Matthew will both take part and Sarah will be involved as all the teachers get roped in. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas story with many who may never have heard it before. As Christmas is not a national holiday here we just take part of the week off for Christmas and New Year and otherwise its school as normal. We eat a special meal (chicken not turkey!) with some friends and enjoy a simple celebration together. Thanks for your prayers, **Sarah, Gerard, Anna and Matthew Charles** xxxx

### Christmas in Gyula, Ukraine

People stop work early on Christmas Eve shortly after lunch and the whole village congregates for the main Christmas Family church service. The service revolves around the Birth of Christ and there are animated stories and songs from children and young people. After church, people invite each other into their homes for a drink or two! Small groups of children visit peoples houses enacting bits of the Nativity in return for a cake or a small gift. In the evening the main Christmas meal is served in each house and children and adults exchange presents after supper.



Jeno Kadar's children  
(Gyula Church Minister)

### Christmas in Mombasa, Kenya

I'll be spending Christmas on my own this year and I'll almost certainly go to the morning service in the Missions to Seamen Chapel, where I usually worship. I enjoy going as there's a swimming pool and I love to unwind in the water. I'll have my Christmas dinner there and then maybe go for a walk on the beach. The Sunday before Christmas I'll be singing with a choir for Carols in the Quarry. There will be a children's tableau and communal carols. The lovely thing about the Quarry is the animals that are wandering about: water buck, giant tortoise, oryx and giraffe.



I would like to send many greetings to you all and thanks for your prayers and support. I'm very grateful. **Meg Merrifield** xxxx



Three Christingle services for children and their families will take place at HTC on Christmas Eve this year. The additional service should ease things after the church was filled to capacity and beyond at both Christingle services last year!

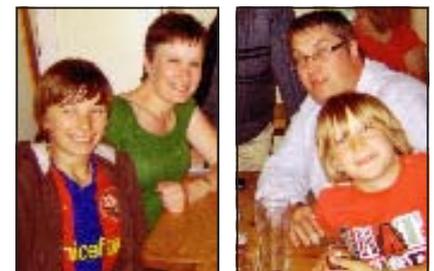
### Christmas in The Yorkshire Dales

The Jonas Centre is much busier this Christmas, with guests staying from 22 December through till the 4 January 2010.

As a family, we shall be at home this year, and Simon will be working on Christmas and Boxing Day being available for the 23 guests who have booked six of our log cabins for the festive season.

We hope to meet up with friends and family from the 28 December till after the New Year including a possible trip to Claygate. Thanks for all your prayers during a challenging 2009.

**Simon, Jo-Ann, Isaac and Theo Eastwood**





These two charming creatures were among a whole host of handmade wares on sale in the foyer on 15 November. Overall the Dorcas Group raised £472 towards the Ukraine Mission medical bill.

## HTC INFO

### Sunday Services

8am Traditional  
 9.30am Lively  
 11.15am Reflective  
 6.30pm Contemporary  
 See website for more details.

### Church Office

Monday to Friday — 9am to 5pm  
 www.holytrinityclaygate.org.uk  
 churchoffice@  
 holytrinityclaygate.org.uk  
 01372 463603

Philip Plyming	Vicar
Tom Darwent	Curate
Valerie Bagley	Asst. Minister
Linda Morgan	Asst. Minister
Jill Griffiths	Children & Families Minister
Drew Waller	Youth Minister
Janet Watkins	Church Administrator

## Me man, me make fire!



### Simon Winchcombe reports...

On a chilly Friday night in September, 20 brave men from HTC pitched tents in Polyapes Wood, Oxshott; leaving behind warm homes, womenfolk and comfy sofas. Rob Walker's mansion and Mark Chapman's delicate circus-style tent put other tents to shame!

Beforehand we had managed to clock up over 50 emails just finalising our eating arrangements. We needed help and it was Roger Marsden who selflessly stepped up to the mark. He took on the role of Quarter Master, having once been in the Scouts!

So it was that a ragamuffin assortment of tents framed our small clearing. The warden could tell we were not military-minded so when our chief fire starter, Andy Clifton, almost set a tree alight, he had to 'have words.' The weather took pity on

us and we had a beautiful clear night. With a stomachs bulging we all sat around a, now slighter smaller, blazing fire.

Drew Waller, with guitar in hand, sang some 'old' American tunes and we all tried to sing-along. Bob Hayes spoke in a Yorkshire accent recounting the story of Noah and something about mahogany wood?

By around two in the morning we were tired so we went to sleep; by seven we were cold so we woke up! Bacon sarnies, a cup of tea and a roaring fire, a sun drenched beautiful wood - awesome. By 9.30am we were packed and by 9.35am we were home!

20 guys having time to sit, relax, chat about nothing, something or anything was great. To squeeze this between the end of the working week and the beginning of the weekend - fantastic!