

THE CHURCH IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Christians Together in Tunbridge Wells and
Tunbridge Wells Fellowship of Evangelicals



TOGETHER

Website: www.twchurches.org.uk

No 26 February 2009

Dear Friends,

Almost three months into the New Year, I wonder how those New Year Resolutions are holding up. The diet you promised yourself, the extra exercise you committed to, the extra few minutes with your Bibles each day, maybe by now have been lost and forgotten in the busyness and daily struggles of life. And so comes Lent: the season of self-denial, and of gaining renewed strength and renewed peace of mind.

Many of course have forgotten what this 40 day period before Easter is really all about. Unlike the other time of year when we open windows on calendars, we seem not to indulge in extra sweet goodies.

While Lent is a time of self-denial and giving up indulgences, there is a reason for the sacrifice: spiritual growth. Lent is a chance for Christians to replace their daily "here-and-now" moments with moments of prayer and reflection. Lent is observed for 40 days before Easter, and through self-discipline, Christians are able to train themselves not to focus on their bodies, but to focus on their spiritual relationship with God through Bible study and meditation.

When a person commits to fasting or abstaining from specific pleasures, the time that would have normally been spent selfishly should be spent in prayer. People can use Lent to build their spiritual strength by resisting a temptation for forty days. When a person that which they have given up for Lent, they see that craving as a reminder for prayer.

I believe that this time can be a very special time for the Christian. We can come closer to God in our quiet time. We can remember the temptations of Christ and how he used Scripture to help him bear that attack. We can ensure that all is well within our spiritual lives, so that when Easter does come, the time around the cross and the celebrations on Easter Sunday, we can fully experience the true wonder and majesty of what Christ did for us.

Use this forty day period to come closer to God. Deal with those things in your life that need God's attention. Approach Easter ready to receive the blessings of the risen Christ. I pray that many will come to know Jesus in a very real way this Easter time.

See you in the precinct on Easter Saturday.

God bless you,

Mike Lloyd

Trinity @ Trinity

An exploration and celebration of God the Trinity through word, image, music and action.

June 6-7

This is an opportunity to explore the nature of God as Trinity in many different ways through visual arts, music, singing, poetry, story, dance, movement and other visual media . It is rare in our teaching programmes to spend time getting to grips with God the Holy Trinity. God in community three persons differentiated yet one in unity and being; we can see that we have much to learn as Christians together about living with difference in unity. Our bibles do not mention the 'Trinity, yet it is the way we have come to understand the nature of the Godhead through experience of early Christians of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the work they do. It is always hard to describe the Trinity other media and visual images can help us understand our own images and understandings and see different ways of looking at who God is God self and how God is in constant relationship and community.

In our own churches there is often little time or opportunity to make, create, compose, pull together and do work with others or on our own that expresses some aspects of our faith.

The event would be held over Trinity weekend, 6-7th June and will involve an exhibition, of invited artists and others, workshops including Arts, dance, banner making, a scratch (gospel) choir, poetry, storytelling, and media. On the Saturday night we propose an evening with either a well known speaker (waiting confirmation) or a film which will be open to the public too and a discussion afterwards exploring themes from the film, some suggestions: the Kite Runner, Babettes feast The culmination of the weekend will be an act of worship on Sunday evening that incorporates some of the works created in the workshops. The theme of the worship being The Holy Trinity: God in community. This then leads us towards thinking of outreach events such as picnic in the park.

Further details later from

Cliff Allen

Or

Rev Kirsten Rosslyn Smith

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS CELEBRATES
FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
With
A FAIRTRADE FASHION SHOW**

Join us on Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm
At Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells

See the latest in Fairtrade Fashion

Hear Oumarou Gadjere, a cotton producer from
Cameroon and find out how Fairtrade is changing
lives for the better in his community



Come and have fun, sample Fairtrade Wine and
other Fairtrade produce. Find out more about the
wide range of ethically produced clothing and
other cotton products.

Together we can change this world for the better

Tunbridge Wells Church Table Tennis & Ten Pin Bowling

Seven local churches have teams in the TW Churches Table Tennis league. They would like more churches to join so that they can have a first and second division. The present league ends in March and will resume in September. Meanwhile there will be a knock-out competition for both singles and doubles

5 churches have ten-pin bowling teams. They play on the last Thursday of each month from 8pm to 10pm. Teams are of four people, and of varying standards.

Could your church put together a team for either of these?

For further information, please contact John Wharton on 533943 (whartonj1@sky.com)

EMBROIDERY EXHIBITION

Tunbridge Wells United Reformed Church

Thursday May 21st to Wednesday May 27th

10am to 4pm

**Free entry, but a charity donation requested.
Refreshments available**

An exhibition of beautiful embroideries by Mrs Pamela Paritt. There will be 38 embroideries on the themes "Creation and the Environment" and "Peace & Reconciliation"

Visitors from other churches welcome

CELEBRATE & SING!

Celebrate G.F.Handel's 250th Anniversary.
Sing 'Messiah' Parts II & III (bring your own copy)
St Mark's Church, Good Friday at 7pm
Rehearsal - 4pm. Tea and Hot Cross buns 6pm
Further information from David Gurney 01892 527708 or
dandsgurney@tiscali.co.uk

Model Alpha Evening.

The Tunbridge Wells Alpha Course is offering an opportunity for church members to come and taste and see an Alpha Evening. It will be at Christ Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st April. All churches are invited to bring a group to experience an Alpha evening. Ring Cliff Allen on 514050 or email cllyallen@aol.com

Exploring Contemplative Prayer

There will be a Teaching Day on contemplative prayer at St Matthew's Church, Wigmore on Saturday 13th June from 9.45 to 4pm. It will be an opportunity to discover or deepen understanding of contemplative prayer. The day will cost £7.

For further information, or to register, please phone 01732 845550 or 01732 848467

In aid of the **Burrswood Hospital Appeal**
a **Musical Concert** with

Quorum

a highly versatile vocal ensemble, in the *a capella* tradition, performing a selection of spiritual and reflective pieces for Easter from their extensive repertoire of renaissance, baroque and contemporary music

Saturday 28th March at 7.00pm
The **Church of Christ the Healer**
Burrswood, Groombridge, Kent
£7.50 per ticket*

*all proceeds to the **Burrswood Hospital Appeal**



For tickets and further information
please contact: **01892 865984** or
email: **events@burrswood.org.uk**



www.burrswood.org.uk

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HOPE FOR PLANET EARTH

As part of a national tour, leading experts from several organisations will be coming to Tunbridge Wells exploring climate change from a Christian perspective.

St John's Church
Thursday 12 March
7.30 to 9.30pm
(Doors open 7pm)

Tickets on the door cost £7 for adults, £4 for under 18's.
£1 less if booked in advance at www.faithtickets.co.uk or 020 8781 1740

For further information ring 020 8781 1741 or visit www.hopeforplanetearth.co.uk

Letter from Christian Aid

The collection taken at a recent United Service was sent to Christian Aid for relief work in DR Congo. The letter below was received from the Director

May I thank you and all involved in Churches Together in Tunbridge Wells for your recent donation to our DRC appeal. You will get a formal receipt. As you may know the situation there (and in the region) is devastating and unstable for us and partners. Yet under very difficult circumstances we are providing some relief. All this is made possible because of the prayers and support of so many. Please convey to others my thanks

Duleep Mukarji, Director Christian Aid

United Worship

The next United Service will be at the TW Baptist Church at 6pm on May 31st (Pentecost) when the preacher will be Stuart Mayho of TWCF.

Give while you spend

Do you shop on line with Amazon? Did you know that there is a Spend & Give website that works with various charities and online retailers which generates cash for the charity at no extra cost to you? Scripture Union is one of the charities benefitting – see www.su.spendandgive.com . Go to this website, and click on to Amazon (or whichever other listed retailer you wish to use), and the retailer will give a commission of up to 7.5% of the cost of your purchase to Scripture Union.

For Your Diaries

March 7	Fairtrade Fashion Show Christ Church	7.30pm
March 12	"Hope for Planet Earth" St John's Church	7.30pm
March 20	Martyn Joseph & Stewart Henderson Fleet Leisure, Northfleet (Details from 01474 743201)	
March 28	"Quorum" Concert Burrswood (Tickets £7.50)	7.00 pm
April 10	Messiah Pts 2 & 3. St Mark's Church	7.00pm
April 11	United Witness in the Precinct	11.00 am
April 12	Easter Sunday	
April 21	Model Alpha Evening Christ Church (contact Cliff Allen 514050)	
May 21 –27	Embroidery Exhibition TW United Reformed Church	10am to 4pm
May 31 (Pentecost)	United Worship T W Baptist Church	6.00 pm
June 6 –7	Trinity @ Trinity	
June 20	Prom Praise with Graham Kendrick Burrswood (Further details from Karen Warner 01892 863637)	
June 28	Picnic in the Park	

For Praise & Prayer

Fegans: Please pray for those children and families who did not have a happy Christmas and are finding this term difficult.

- Give thanks for opportunities to go into schools in and around Tunbridge Wells to give Christian assemblies and for continuing collaboration with CrossTeach in this area of our work.

- Give thanks that Parents+Plus, an initiative to provide parenting support by pairing up families with volunteer parenting coaches, has become part of Fegans. The initiative has been set up by Mick Haselden in Tonbridge. We see it as a great opportunity to extend the support we offer families.

- Please pray for our counselling team. We are seeing very high demand for our counselling.

Fegans Mustard Seed Puppets - Give thanks for the Christmas Tour and especially for Claire's safety in travelling and pray for blessings and protection for Claire's Easter Tour to toddler groups.

Parent Toddler Groups

See website www.ptgroupstogether.org.uk

Please pray for ongoing local prayer meetings for encouragement and fellowship and for emerging opportunities beyond Tunbridge Wells as we value these Church led groups across the UK.

St John's. ☐ Christianity Explored course begins on 23rd February for six weeks on Monday evenings

☐ Hope for Planet Earth – exploring climate change from a Christian perspective – a joint initiative including Tearfund, A Rocha, Christians in Science, etc. Thursday 12th March

☐ Croc Creek Holiday Club for years Reception, 1 and 2 (infant) will run from Tue 7- Thur 9 April, culminating with a Holiday Club service on Good Friday 10th April

☐ Good Friday supper and presentation of St Mark's Gospel by Lance Pierson

☐ London Men's convention takes place at the Excel Centre in London on Saturday 18th April

☐ Positive Parenting begins on Monday 1st June for six weeks.

Please pray for staffing changes over the coming months – our administrator will be leaving just before Easter and we are looking for someone to take up that post. Our curate is looking to find a new post by the summer. In July, we have an Associate Vicar starting with us.

St Mary's, Speldhurst. Praise for 8 people recently confirmed. Pray for large redevelopment building project – over £100,000 to be raised. Pray for Douglas Wren in his role as patron for the appointment of vicar at St Paul's Rusthall.

Hospital Chaplaincy.

Give thanks for new prayer fellowship meetings on Wednesdays.

Pray for more chaplaincy visitors, and for present visitors as they make contacts with patients, staff and relatives.

Church of Christ, Commercial Rd.

Praise God for those searching for God in our Journey Together group. Pray that they discover and know God's love for themselves.

Pray for God's transforming power to be seen and known through the 40 days of community initiative. Pray for God's vision and direction for our church.

St Philip's Church.

Praise God for a generous gift from St John's towards the cost of our redevelopment of the East end of the church.

Thank God for new families coming along and exploring faith.

Pray for the "Growing Disciples" course for newish Christians and those seeking refreshment of faith.

Pray for more leaders for our children's groups which are growing in number.

Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church

Give thanks that the church roofs have been repaired/replaced satisfactorily and accident free.

Pray for "The Noise" in April, which is to be based at the Baptist Church this year. Pray that many folk will get involved in hosting activities so that the venture runs smoothly. Pray for Adam Parkes in his leadership.