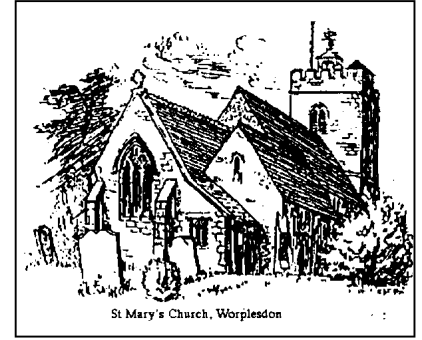


St. Alban's Church, Wood Street

Welcome to  
**Crossway**  
 Worplesdon Parish Magazine



St. Mary's Church, Worplesdon

## Reflection

This year, Easter is almost the earliest it can be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and so Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, falls in the week after the Church has celebrated Candlemas. We will only have two days of 'ordinary time' in the church calendar; having left behind the celebrations of God become human in Jesus, we turn almost immediately to face the suffering of the cross.

Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season with the presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the temple at Jerusalem and the purification of Mary, forty days after the birth of Jesus.

It is also the midway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and in folklore, because of its midway point, various customs to predict whether winter is over have grown up.

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
 Winter will have another fight.  
 If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,  
 Winter won't come again.*

In many countries, animals are reputed to come out of hibernation and poke their heads above ground. If they see their shadow, they pop back in for another six weeks nap but if it is cloudy, they remain out.

In pre-Christian times, Candlemas was a festival of light and candles were placed in windows of houses. Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from the ancient traditions. It is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the candles to be used in church during the coming year were blessed and in our services on that Sunday, people are given a lighted candle to reflect upon the light of Christ in their lives.

In the early Church, Lent followed immediately after Epiphany (when the baptism of Jesus as well as the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus was remembered) reflecting the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert immediately after his baptism. This year with Easter being so early and Lent coming hard on the heels of Candlemas, we can also go into Lent with the message of Christmas still ringing in our ears to think about our response to the love God showed to us through the life and birth of his son. God loved us first, how do we respond to that love in our everyday lives?

The season of Lent offers us an opportunity to reflect upon the way we live our lives in the knowledge that we are all loved by God. Later in the magazine, there is an article about the various opportunities available for contemplation in the parish during Lent.

I wish you a holy and special time this Lent.

*Mandy*

## A prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus Christ, you called your disciples  
to go forward with you on the way to the  
cross.

Since you first walked that road countless  
millions have followed you.

In all that I do as your disciple, save me from  
false familiarity with your journey. May I  
never presume to step into your shoes, but  
make me small enough to fit my own, and to  
walk in love and wonder behind you.

*Amen*

## Quotes to ponder

Those who hear the message of the resur-  
rection of Christ, and no longer hear the cry  
of the crucified contained in it, no longer  
hear the Gospel, but a myth.

*Johann Metz*

The opposite of love is not hate,  
it's indifference.

The opposite of art is not ugliness,  
it's indifference.

The opposite of faith is not heresy,  
it's indifference.

And the opposite of life is not death,  
it's indifference.

*Elie Wiesel*

## God's Family at Worship

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
10.45am at St Mary's

You are warmly invited to join us for our  
monthly informal all age service when we will  
be thinking about the choices we make and  
how they can be used for good or ill. There  
will be a crèche but as usual our Sunday Club  
children will join us for the whole of the ser-  
vice.

Our next Parade Service will take place at St  
Alban's Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Mothering Sun-  
day, at 10.45am when we will be joined by  
our Uniformed Organisations. The next  
God's Family at Worship will take place on  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am at St Mary's  
Church.

## Sunday Evenings in February

*All are welcome to these quiet reflective  
services which usually last about 30 min-  
utes – a quiet end to a busy day and/or a  
moment of peace before a busy week.*

*6.00pm at St Mary's Church.*

3rd **Healing Service** – an opportunity to  
bring before God the dis-ease in our  
lives and to pray for all in any kind of  
need as well as to receive the Minis-  
try of laying on of Hands.

10th **The Way that you live** – a service  
for Lent reflecting on caring for the  
environment inspired by the Iona  
Community. Lent 1 – Transport

17th **The Way that you live** – a service  
for Lent reflecting on caring for the  
environment inspired by the Iona  
Community. Lent 2 – Water

24th **The Way that you live** – a service  
for Lent reflecting on caring for the  
environment inspired by the Iona  
Community. Lent 3 – Energy

*If you live in Wood Street Village and would like  
transport to the Evening Worship at St Mary's  
please speak to Revd Mary Kirby (G.237131)  
who will try to arrange a lift.*

## Opportunities for Worship in 2008

A leaflet called Opportunities for Worship is  
now available from both churches. It lists  
dates for Edward Bear Club, God's Family at  
Worship, Parade Services and iWorship for  
the coming year.

Please note there will be no God's Family at  
Worship in January as we will be welcoming  
Susan Bloomfield on that Sunday instead.  
The next God's Family at Worship is on Sun-  
day 10<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary's at 10.45am  
when we will be thinking about how to keep  
Lent as a special time. The next Parade Ser-  
vice will be at St Alban's Church on Sunday  
2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.45am when we will be cele-  
brating Mothering Sunday.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

Over 3 million women worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. They will be using an order of service prepared by Christian women from Guyana.

"God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding"

This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that meetings will begin at sunrise in Tonga and finish only with sunset in neighbouring Western Samoa, after there have been meetings in over 170 countries. In the British Isles, there will be well over 6,000 prayer services in different places. They bring together women, men and young people from every background and a very wide range of Christian traditions.

Our local service will be at St. Mary's, Worplesdon, at 10.30 am and the speaker will be Pat Jones.

## Christmas Collections

Thank you to all those who contributed to our two special Christmas Collections at the Parish Carol Service and the Crib Service. A total of £700 was raised which has been split equally between the Disaster's Emergency Committee appeal for Bangladesh and locally for the work of Cherry Trees. Your generosity is much appreciated.

## Parish Registers

### Funerals

19<sup>th</sup> December Roy Harmes  
20<sup>th</sup> December Arthur Chuter  
17th January Dorothy Raine-Allen

### Baptisms

6<sup>th</sup> January Thomas James Gerrard  
Hoare

## Holy Days in February

This month we mark **Ash Wednesday**, the start of Lent, on **6<sup>th</sup> February** with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes at St Alban's Church at 11.00am and at St Mary's Church at 8.00pm.



On 1<sup>st</sup> February, the Church remembers Brigid, Abbess of Kildare. Brigid was around the year 452 in a village some five miles from Kildare in the east of Ireland. She became a nun and eventually the abbess of the double monastery, and is reputed to have strongly influenced the formation of the Church throughout Ireland. Legend has it that she was created a Bishop, an extremely unlikely story but shows the high regard in which the Irish held her. She is believed to have been baptized by Saint Patrick and like him she is associated with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Her emblem includes a flame and the reed four-armed St Brigid cross was believed to protect houses from burning down. She died in about the year 525.

## In the Wilderness

**iWorship at St Alban's Church  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9.15am**

**iWorship offers a time of informal worship where we can together explore prayer, bible study, music and creativity and share in fellowship.**

We hope this service will help us find new ways of sharing in worship and especially those who struggle with more formal worship, are unfamiliar with church or who would welcome a more participative approach to worship. This informal service will, we hope, be inclusive of all ages. After the initial gathering for worship there will be an opportunity to move around different groups offering music, craft, discussion and meditation and concluding with a sharing from the different groups and a simple Agape. The next iWorship will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## The Sunday Club

If you enjoy games, stories, drama or craft activities, and are aged between 5 and 11, then come and have fun and learn about Jesus in The Sunday Club. We meet each Sunday during term time during the Parish Communion, which is a 9.15 at St. Alban's, or 10.45 at St. Mary's. For more information contact:

**St. Alban's: Nicky Parsons 826774**

**St. Mary's: Rosalind Davison  
826422**

## Perry Hill Youth Club

The next meeting of the PERRY HILL YOUTH CLUB is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Worplesdon Memorial Hall from 6.45 pm to 8.45 pm and is open to young people aged between 8 and 15 years of age.

For more information telephone Andrew on 01483 234616

The next meeting after February is 6<sup>th</sup> March and thereafter the first Thursday of each month.

Come along and join us and try your hand at a variety of games, be tempted by the Tuck Shop and meet new friends.

*New volunteers are always welcome to help run the club; please speak to Andrew.*

## Christians in Fairlands

You are invited to join us for our monthly informal time of worship  
On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
4.00 pm at  
Fairlands Community Centre

*For further information please contact  
Christopher Peacock on 826532*

## Flower Rota for January

	<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>St. Alban's</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tricia Williams	Ann Tizard
9 <sup>th</sup>	Lent—no flowers	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent	

## The Wednesday Fellowship

*Spiritual Encounters*  
**for every day living**

The Wednesday Fellowship seeks to offer a space where we can make connections between what we do together on a Sunday and the life we live the rest of the week.

It will provide an opportunity where we can:

- \* get to know each other better
- \* make connections between our faith and our daily lives
- \* offer one another prayer and support.

In each quarter we will hear more about the work of the Mothers' Union in linking spirituality and social action, explore with the Meditation Group new techniques of prayer to support us in our daily lives and with the Parish Prayer Forum pray for the needs of our parish and learn more about the work and concerns of members of our congregation.

The next Wednesday Fellowship will take place on **20<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm** when we will be hearing more about the work of the Mothers' Union in our local prisons and praying for all involved in the judicial and criminal system.

The details of each monthly Wednesday Fellowship will be advertised in both Crossway and the Crossway Supplement. A leaflet listing all the dates for 2008 is available from each church and from the Church Office. Each meeting is open to all who wish to attend and individuals are welcome to attend which ever sessions they wish. Further information is available from members of the Clergy Team.

**The Wednesday Fellowship will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 pm in St Mary's Room**

*Spiritual Encounters for everyday living;  
Making connections between Sunday and  
Monday*

## Worplesdon Lunch Club

The Club organises a variety of meetings from lunches in people's homes to coffee mornings and gatherings for afternoon tea, as well as opportunities to eat out. Meetings are informal and friendly, and enable friends old and new to meet up.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February, we meet at Margery Williams' house at 10.30 am for coffee. If you would like to join us, or know more about the club, please contact:

**Barbara Chasemore** 233118  
**Vicki Bateman** 232217

The next concert to be given by The Vivace Chorus is entitled  
**VIENNESE MASTERS**  
and will be performed in a candlelit  
Guildford Cathedral  
on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm.

**Vienna:** a city of culture, which has long been a magnet for musicians. Many composers found work and inspiration there and this concert presents some of the city's most illustrious inhabitants.

Mozart: Mass in C minor  
Ave verum corpus  
Haydn: Insanae et vanae curae  
Bruckner: Ave Maria  
Os justi  
Ecce sacerdos magnus  
Mahler: Ich bin der Welt abhanden  
gekommen

Tickets from Tourist Information: 444334.  
More information on [www.VivaceChorus.org](http://www.VivaceChorus.org)

**The Village Lunch**  
at  
**St Alban's Church Hall,**  
**Wood Street Village**  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January  
12.30 pm

*Meet up with friends old and new.  
Enjoy good food and good company.  
Open to all, wherever you live.*

Please book 5 days before 01483 233091  
Contact Fairwood Helpers for help with  
transport 01483 237619

## Edward Bear Club

Edward looks forward to seeing all his friends again for the first Edward Bear Club of 2008 on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30 pm at St. Mary's.

We last met for our Christmas party when we had a very special visitor—a real Christmas Donkey! Our Christmas donkey came right into church and stayed with us for over an hour (our thanks to Ann Hunt and Ian who accompanied the donkey). We also made good use of the fantastic space in the chancel and for the first time ever, we could sit in a really big circle and all see the pictures in the nativity book.

Edward Bear has lots of exciting things planned for this year, so bring your bear and come and join his club—you can find us at St. Mary's church on the first Wednesday of each month, and all you need to bring is your bear and a grown-up.

Our club is a short but lively time of worship for pre-school children and their parents or carers, with stories, songs and surprises! - followed by all important tea, cake and toys. For more information, contact Michaela on 01483 870939

**You are warmly invited to**  
**Café Fairlands**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February  
at  
**The Fairlands Community Centre**  
2.30—4.30 pm

In conjunction with the visit of  
The Surrey Mobile Library Bus

- \*Come and meet friends old and new over a cup of tea and home-made cake
- \*Browse at the Library
- \*Be tempted by the Fairtrade Stall
- \*Drop in on your way to or from school

If you need help with transport, please  
contact Fairwood Helpers 237619

**Fairlands WI** is very proud of one of its founder members, Enid Collins, who was 102 years old at Christmas. Another member, Mick Wilson, who grew up in the nineteen twenties and thirties in a village in Oxfordshire, has written a book about her childhood. Life was hard but enjoyable. Everyone knew their place in society. She first had cookery lessons at secondary school in Hook Norton and realised that she would like to become a cookery teacher when she grew up. She never dreamed that she really would!

At the December meeting, "Two in Harmony" sang songs from the shows over the last fifty years.

At the January meeting of Fairlands WI, Carol Brown gave an illustrated talk about the British women who worked as couriers in France during the war. Very few got out alive. The well-researched talk was entitled "Spies in Petticoats".

For the monthly competition, members were asked to bring along World War Two memorabilia. The winner was Barbara Quelch who entered a portrait of her father painted by a fellow prisoner of war in Stalag 383. The material on which it was painted was the sacking used for their pillows. The artist was Terry Frost, who has since been knighted.

Two new members were welcomed to the meeting and arrangements were made for members to attend the annual dinner to be held at Worplesdon Place Hotel. A Soup and Ploughman's lunch is also scheduled to take place at Fairlands Community Centre.

On 13th February, Ann Foster will tell us how to "Relax with Reflexology". Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Fairlands Community Centre. Anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome. We meet at 7.45pm. To find out more, call President, Dawn Murrell, on 01483 823557, or Secretary, Angela Linington, on 01483 233967.

Val Dillon

## **Worplesdon WI**

The speaker for our first meeting of 2008, Mr. Goostrey, gave a most interesting talk with slides on "The Real Argentina". His journey began in Buenos Aires and continued north through beautiful countryside, rainforests, snow-capped mountains and arid valleys to the spectacular Iguassu Falls. The slides were superb - a particularly interesting one showed the Tropic of Capricorn. In Buenos Aires we saw the mausoleum of Eva Peron and street entertainers dancing the tango. The Welsh settled in Argentina in 1840 and Welsh is still spoken in this area. Railways were built by the English, but are now virtually non-existent. After such a fascinating talk, we certainly felt we wanted to visit there!

Mrs. Valerie Wild gave the vote of thanks.

Mrs. Valerie Arnold, WI Chairman visited us and told us about the 90th Birthday Celebration on 24th June at Wisley Garden.

After the meeting tea was served, hosted by Barbara Chasemore.

The raffle was won by Mrs. Valerie Arnold and the competition 'A piece of lace' was won by Mrs. Beth Leach.

P.Wheatley

## PCC Jottings

The PCC last met on 12<sup>th</sup> December when members were looking forward to the arrival of Susan and agreed the final works on St Alban's House ready for her arrival.

The meeting agreed the new budget for 2008 and the fees for the coming year. Members were reminded that with the forthcoming drop in income tax there would be a decrease in the income from gift-aided giving. This issue would need to be addressed during the Stewardship Campaign in 2008.

Our Outward Giving for 2007 was approved and details are given elsewhere in Crossway. It was reported that Becky Tinsley who had spoken so eloquently about the Ntarama clinic in Rwanda during St Mary's patronal festival earlier in the year had taken a Worplesdon T-towel with her on the next visit to the clinic and presented it to them. The clinic was deeply moved to think of a church in a different continent expressing care and support for them.

Discussions continue on preparing a major capital fund-raising campaign for the restoration of St Mary's. Currently a survey has been commissioned of the church's stained glass to help up a budget for the total repairs required to the building.

The PCC agreed to explore further working with the Deanery to allocate the parish share. It was hoped that this would lead to greater co-operation between parishes and a wider understanding of each parishes needs.

All parishes have also been circulated with a questionnaire to help reflected on their carbon footprint and to take steps to reduce it. It was agreed that all PCC vision groups should be asked to reflect on this issue so that together we can address these important environmental issues.

### Other important dates for February

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Sunday Club planning meeting
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Edward Bear Club
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Housegroup at 44 Fairlands Avenue
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Parish Youth Group at St Alban's
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Growing Leaders at St Mary's
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Fairwood helpers Committee
	8.00pm	WSV Association at St Alban's
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Youth PCC at the Rectory
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Wedding at St Mary's
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Woking Church Recording Group at St Mary's
	11.00am	Primrose House Communion
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Pastoral Group at the Rectory

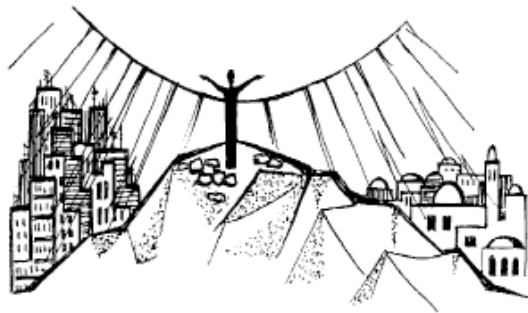
### Fairwood Helpers

Serving Fairlands, FLG area, Wood Street Village and Worplesdon-Perry Hill  
Available for help with transport to the doctors or hospital, filling in forms, collecting prescriptions, shopping, odd jobs, visiting, etc.

**Telephone 01483 237619**  
**Mon-Fri 10.00am-12noon**



Registered Charity no.1093535



# The Parish of Worplesdon Keeping a good and holy Lent

## The Way that you live

We invite you once again to join us in keeping Lent as a special time in your relationship with God; a time to reflect and to grow.

This Lent we invite each of you to reflect on *the Way that you live*. Christianity is not just something for church on Sunday but rather should be the life force which infuses and shapes every aspect of our lives.

When St Columba sent his monks out from Iona to convert the peoples of northern Europe, his instructions to them were very simple: Go and settle in a community and let them see the way you live. No door-to-door evangelism, no preaching on street corners; Columba felt that their lifestyles would speak for itself – and it did.

Here in the parish of Worplesdon do we feel that our lifestyles will draw people to God? Does the way we live hide or reveal the love of God?

During this Lent we will be reflecting on the way we live our lives in relation to God, our neighbour and the world about us? Do we live the Resurrection life now?

*Please consider how you can make this Lent a special time for your relationship with God. Full details of our Lent programme are given in the booklet **The Way that you live**, which is available from both our churches.*

Lent is a time for clarity, as when the bare boughs of winter show us the shape of the tree in austere beauty. Let us clear away the clutter of our lives in order to see the underlying pattern

Ash Wednesday

6<sup>th</sup> February 207

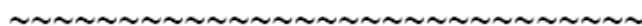
11.00am at St Alban's Church

Holy Communion with hymns  
with Liturgy of Penance

8.00pm at St Mary's Church

Sung Eucharist  
with Liturgy of Penance

The special services on this day mark the beginning of Lent. The services include the ancient Christian practice of the Imposition of Ashes. This moving act of Penitence reminds us of our own mortality



## The Bishop's Lent Call 2008

This Lent Bishop Christopher is calling on all the people of the churches of the diocese to pray, to fast and to give. In this biblical way he hopes we will come close to Jesus and close to the suffering world for which he died. He invites us

- To pray each day for closer communion with Jesus as he looks with compassion on our world.
- To sacrificially give up one meal a week – perhaps on Fridays.
- To give what we save by fasting to international and local Christian outreach.

This year he invites support for the Amos Trust promoting peace and justice in places such as South Africa and in Palestine and for the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation supporting the vulnerable and excluded in the diocese. *Further information about Bishop's Lent Call will be included in our parish Lent booklet **The Way that you live**.*

# The Parish of Worplesdon

## The Way that you live



### The Way that you live...

#### ...in relationship with God

During Lent you are invited to read **True Resurrection** by **H A Williams**. This book records for us the experience of the ultimate Christian Triumph: the divine transformation of despair into glory, of bankruptcy into limitless riches, of true wilderness into true resurrection. Theology for Williams is not an academic study but a process of self-discovery. H.A. Williams was dean of Trinity College, Cambridge and later a member of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

We are invited to read one chapter each week in Lent. Then each Tuesday evening in Lent at 8pm there will be an opportunity to meet with others at St Mary's to discuss this modern classic of spirituality.

### The Way that you live...

#### ...in relationship with others

At each of the Wednesday morning Eucharist at St Alban's during Lent there will be a short address reflecting on different aspects of human relationships. In particular we shall be reflecting on some of those feelings that can damage or mar our relationships with others.

- 13<sup>th</sup> February - Anger
- 20<sup>th</sup> February - Jealousy
- 27<sup>th</sup> February - Mistrust
- 5<sup>th</sup> March - Judgementalism
- 12<sup>th</sup> March - Guilt

### The Way that you live...

#### ...in relationship with creation

On Sunday evenings in Lent at our 6pm service at St Mary's we will be reflecting on our relationship with God's creation. As people of faith, charged with being stewards of God's creation, how do we respond to the challenges facing our planet. Each week we will look at a different issue linked to global warming.

- 10<sup>th</sup> February - Use of Transport
- 17<sup>th</sup> February - Use of Water
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - Use of Energy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Reducing Waste
- 9<sup>th</sup> March - Shopping thoughtfully
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - Maintaining biodiversity

### The Way that you live...

#### ...in a spirit of thankfulness

*If you can turn on a tap at home and pour yourself a glass of clean water, you're among the most privileged 15% of the people in the world.*

Not denying the many pressures of modern living nor the tragedies that can befall us, we nevertheless remain very fortunate and privileged to be living where and when we do. Many in our world live very different lives without many of the benefits, which we take for granted. Lent is a good time for taking stock and recognising the many blessings of life. In our Lent booklet ***The Way that you live*** we will be including a special Christian Aid leaflet to help you count your blessings this Lent.

Pick up your ***The Way that you live*** booklet from church and join us in keep a good and holy Lent that we may grow in our relationship with God, other people and with creation.

## Parish of Worplesdon Outward-Giving 2007

Its estimated outward giving in 2007 will be £12,100. In 2001 the Witness Vision Group proposed that this be split 50:50 between home and abroad causes and this has been repeated this year with the following allocation:

<b>Overseas Giving</b>	<i>2007</i>
CMS – Ruth Sayers	£1500
Christ for All - Azariah	£1500
Ntarama Centre Rwanda	£1000
African Children's Choir	£1000
Community of St Mary Tanzania	£500
Church of Myanmar (Burma) Assoc	£550
<b>Home Giving - Local support</b>	
Guildford Cathedral	£200
St Luke's Hospital for Clergy	£100
Guildford Diocesan Guild of Bells	£50
Worplesdon and Wood Street Schools	£300
Worplesdon & Wood Street Pre-School	£200
Perry Hill Youth Club	£300
Good News Book Van	£100
Good News in Guildford - School Relational Workers	£320
<b>Home Giving - Organisation support</b>	
Children's Society	£560
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice	£560
Guildford Community Family Trust	£560
Guildford No 5 Project	£560
Relate West Surrey	£560
Mothers' Union & Women's Refuge	£560
Talk	£560
YMCA Guildford	£560

### **The Children's Society**

In the week before Christmas we had two carol-singing evenings in the village and raised £614.70 for the Society. Our thanks go to our generous hosts who organised the carol parties and to their friends, as well as the choirs and their Director of Music, Nigel Evans-Thompson. Donations continued to come in until the end of January.

We work with children on the margins of society, including runaways, young carers and those in trouble with the law. Founded on Christian values, the Children's Society works with and for children, putting their needs at the heart of everything we do.

At the beginning of every year we open our home-savings boxes, count the contents and return them re-labelled to their owners for use in the coming year. Could you please return your box as soon as possible, to St. Alban's or St. Mary's' Church, or to the Parish Office. If you would like your box to be collected please call Diana Adlington on 237439. Thank you.

Shireen Reeds

## Think Global Act Local

*We hope this will become a regular column in the magazine when we can bring to readers attention important social and ethical issues both to help inform readers and to offer suggested actions that some may like to undertake.*

## Total Denial

Living in this parish we have a very limited choice of petrol stations and many of us find ourselves filling up at the Total garage in Stoughton. Many of us will have also been shocked by the images we saw of the Burma (Myanmar) government suppressing the pro-democracy demonstrations led by the Buddhist monks. But how many of us will have realised that there is a link between these two pieces of information?

In 1992 Total signed a contract with the State Company, MOGE (Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise) to exploit and develop the Yadana field in the Gulf of Martaban. Total signed contracts with Burma's military in the early 1990s in order to "secure" the area. The entire pipeline region was militarised. This "contract" changed life dramatically for the people inhabiting what's become known as the pipeline region and led to human-rights atrocities. Today TOTAL's project provides significant annual revenue to Burma's regime - some sources estimate as much as £220 million annually.

Once woman described her experience of living in the pipeline region as follows:

*Till the pipeline came, there were no soldiers in the area where I lived. In our village we were planting rice. When the pipeline arrived, we had to work for the white people more and more. The soldiers were forcing us as slaves. If we refused to work, they said they would kill us. They shot at my husband and he ran away in the jungle. I was waiting for him with my children. A soldier hit me with his gun. I fell, and hit my head, and lost consciousness. When I came to my senses, I saw my baby in the fire. She could not even cry: her body was so burned and all black. She was still alive. I grabbed her and fled to the jungle. We were escaping towards the border. Three days later I reached a camp hospital. My baby was till alive, but the doctor said he could not help. Two days later my baby died.*

Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's democracy leader, currently under house arrest, has said that "TOTAL is the biggest supporter of the military regime in Burma."

To find out more about TOTAL's links with Burma visit either [www.burmacampaign.org.uk](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk) or [www.earthrights.org](http://www.earthrights.org). If you wish to help stop TOTAL from funding the military junta in Burma then use one of the campaign postcards available from either church.

(source Jubilee Action's **just right**, issue 18)

### **Part-time Caretaker**

**(25 hours per week)** needed for Holy Trinity and St. Mary's parish premises, Guildford Town Centre. We are looking for someone who is able to carry out a range of practical tasks and to welcome visitors on behalf of the parish.

Further information and application form from Parish Administrator 01483 567716

## St Valentine's Day

14<sup>th</sup> February

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



## The Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit, Guildford

### An Exhibition of Lenten Art from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art

**Wednesday 6th February 2008 -  
Monday 24th March 2008**  
**9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Saturday; 12.30pm - 4.00pm Sunday**

The Bishop of Guildford and the Dean will be leading their Lent course "The Passion Revealed" based on the paintings, each Wednesday from 13th February - 12th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Cathedral – all welcome to attend. Programme as follows:

#### February

- |      |  |        |
|------|--|--------|
| 13th | The Son of Man is come<br><i>Ralph Bayer</i>                                   | Dean   |
| 20th | Madonna and Child<br><i>Emma Maiden</i><br>The Passion<br><i>Sophie Hacker</i> | Bishop |
| 27th | The Deposition<br><i>Graham Sutherland</i>                                     | Bishop |

#### March

- |      |  |      |
|------|--|------|
| 5th  | The Supper at Emmaus<br><i>Ceri Richards</i> | Dean |
| 12th | Crucifix and Candles<br><i>Patrick Heron</i> | Dean |

For further information or to register a place please contact the Cathedral Office:  
Telephone 01483 547860 / 01483 547881  
Or email  
[reception@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:reception@guildford-cathedral.org) or  
[Alexandra@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:Alexandra@guildford-cathedral.org)

## God in the Arts

*By the Revd. Michael Burgess*

### NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Sometimes the waiting is for good and exciting things: a birthday to arrive or a wedding day to dawn.. At other times the waiting is anxious and worrying: exam results or news of loved ones serving in the forces. The waiting rooms at the doctor or dentist often have that air of anxiety and foreboding. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the newborn child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the newborn babe that



impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open. As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years. And in all of them, whatever the age, the artist looks out from the canvas at us, asking what a 21 year old, a 35 year old, a 53 year old can say to us and teach us. In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step outtogether on a new journey?

*Reprinted by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.*

