A helping hand for the local community

Holy Trinity Clapham has been looking at where they should invest their resources and time to support vulnerable families in the community.

Government limits to the total benefit that most nonworking families can claim, has affected many with high housing costs and/or many children. Consequently, the need is even greater for those out of employment to get back into the workplace.

However, for those who have had a break from the job market to bring up children and have not kept their skills

updated, getting back to work is not easy and can be a daunting task.

Holy Trinity has set up a new 'drop-in' venture in the Connect Café called Helping

Open on Thursdays between 10:30 am and 2 pm it is equipped with computers, a printer, a play area for young children and educational toys. Especially for parents who are on benefits or are unemployed it offers advice and support with job search and CV writing. The families can also attend "Family Friday" where

parents with their children's homework and share a family meal together.

The children are then invited into the 7-11 year old's Friday club 'Blaze', leaving the parents free to interact over coffee and play board games with the younger children.

Any parish interested in further information is welcome to contact Diana Grano, Community Missioner at Holy Trinity Clapham Tel 020 7627 0941, E-mail life@holytrinityclapham.org



How to make a Bishop's Lady Chapel completes day - tell him he looks 27! Betchworth re-ordering

Bishop Michael visited St James's School. Bermondsey, on 20 April to dedicate four new classrooms. to meet the children, and to speak at Assembly.

Sir Simon Hughes, Chair of Governors, and other governors were there as in each of the new classrooms the Bishop prayed a prayer of blessing and all the children said a loud 'Amen'. Each time he prayed: 'may he send his holy angels to watch over you.'

One of the Reception class children asked Bishop Michael how old he was.

The Bishop confided that he had just had his 58th birthday. 'You don't look that old' said one of them.

'You look 27' said one of the others, making the Bishop's



This long awaited event came true on Friday 1 April. During that week an expert team delivered and installed the new glass screen to complete the multipurpose vestry space in the South Chancel and the final tile was fitted and sealed in the new WC in church.

These were the two final elements of a comprehensive scheme to transform St Michael's Church, Betchworth, following the replacement of the old organ. The etched and carved glass screen was designed by contemporary glass artist Mel Howse. It conveys imagery of the Archangel Michael with a chorus of angels' trumpets stretching away into infinity.

More mundane but no less appreciated, there is now a WC in the space formerly occupied



by the choir vestry.

Hilary Ely writes; "Each generation has left its mark on the beauty of our church building, and this is our contribution for the 21st century. All the work has been made possible by the immense generosity and hard work of many friends and supporters of St Michael's Church. Much of this generosity is recorded in a Benefactors Book in the church".



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