

September 2022

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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON


HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS/ LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine.

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CALLINGS

Soon after this edition of Trinity Times is published we shall know who our new Prime Minister is to be (on 5 September, if all goes to plan). At the time of writing the debate between the two remaining candidates is hotting up. Given the chance, a question I would like to ask them both is this: “why do you want to do this?” I hope their answer might reveal something of what motivates them to take on such a difficult job. To what extent are they wanting to serve the people of this nation or is it more about their own agenda? It might also reveal if they feel a sense of calling to the role. During July we celebrated the many different ways in which God calls us to serve others. We considered being called to ordained ministry (deacons and priests), authorised lay ministry (e.g. Readers and Street Pastors) but also celebrated the many, often unexpected, ways in which ordinary people serve and minister to others through practical care, kindness and generosity.

What struck me most was the huge range of callings that are being lived out amongst our congregations. It’s easy to think that talk of calling and vocation is only concerned with what happens in or through churches, but we should look at it much more broadly. The seventeenth century bishop and spiritual writer Jeremy Taylor (no relation as far as I’m aware!) wrote about this in his book ‘Holy Living’. He makes the point that we can see our occupation as something that serves God: whether a labourer, artist, business person or merchant, all “are doing the work of God. So that no one can complain that their calling takes them off from religion; their calling itself, and their employment in honest trades and offices is a serving of God.’ Four hundred years later, I think this remains as true as ever.



Revd Penny Harrison

By happy coincidence with our recent theme of calling, we’ve been blessed over the last few months to welcome a number of new people to the Ministry Team in the parish. Penny and David Harrison moved to Stratford, following retirement, during the pandemic. Penny was the vicar of Marston Green in Birmingham and David, a Reader (sometimes called ‘Lay Reader’), was a chaplain at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. David is now involved in our Bereavement Support Group



David Harrison

and Penny is helping out in churches in the area who are in need of clergy cover. We have also welcomed another Reader, Paul Gifford and his wife Cindy. Paul comes from an academic background and was until recently on the ministry team in Wellesbourne.



Paul Gifford

A highlight of the summer has been the ordination as priest of Sarah Cushing, and the ordination as deacon of our new curate, Thomas Powell. Sarah will continue to work part time as our Parish Administrator, whilst serving her curacy in the next door parish of St. Andrew’s, Shottery. Thomas is still working full time, but retires from his role as Professor of Strategy at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, at the end of September. Like Sarah, he is a self-supporting and part time curate. He will usually be in the parish on Sundays and one other day a week.

We’re blessed with a hugely talented team in this parish, but please don’t allow yourself to think, “I couldn’t do what they do.” The important question to put to yourself is this: “what is God calling *me* to do and be at this time, and in this place?”

With every blessing

Patrick

Photographs of Sarah and Thomas are at the back of the magazine.

SEPTEMBER, HERE WE GO AGAIN!!

September brings with it the return to school and an opportunity for each of us to recommit ourselves to the work we do either in employment, volunteering or retirement. We'll once again be holding our Blessing of the School and Work bags on 4 September at our 10am Parish Eucharist. All are encouraged to bring either their bag for school or a bag that represents the work they do. As part of the service each of us will be blessed for the work that we do.

We also have the return of our two Toddler Groups. Stay and Play at the Ken Kennett begins again on Tuesday 13 September (9am-10:30am) and Trinity Tots returns on Thursday 15 September (1:30-3pm) in the Parish Centre. Even if you haven't children yourself, please spread the word of these two groups to people with children in your street. It's a great opportunity to meet new people. We know that for those currently coming, because of the isolation of the previous couple of years, the chance to meet and talk to new people has been invaluable. We meet every week during term time, no booking required.

Phil Harper



**Trinity
Tots**

Every Thursday (during Term Time)
1:30pm-3pm
Holy Trinity Parish Centre





**Ken Kennett
Stay & Play**

Every Tuesday (during Term Time)
9am-10:30am
Ken Kennett Centre





Last year's Blessing the Bags service



SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

4 September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Blessing of Bags*

5pm - Taizé

11 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Why do we do that? ~ Penitence and Gloria*

5pm - Holy Communion Traditional

18 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Why do we do that? ~ Liturgical seasons and colours*

5pm - Choral Evensong

25 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Why do we do that? ~ Robes*

5pm - Choral Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

4 September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Morning Worship

18 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

4 September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

11 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

18 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

25 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion ~ *Harvest*



Jubilee Crowns Displayed

Our fabulous Crowns decorated by local schools and community groups to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee have found a new home over the summer. Thanks to Escape Arts they are part of a display in the old Debenhams store, showing different things created by the community to celebrate the Queen's reign.



Great Big Green Week: 22 September – 2 October Talking Climate Justice Event

Join us at 10.30am on 1 October at the Methodist Church Centre, when the Stratford Churches Together 'Eco Chat' group will be hosting an event entitled "Talking Climate Justice", at the end of Stratford's Great Big Green Week.

We are coming together for honest conversations about the inequality of the climate crisis around the **world**. We want to look at the problem, stir up hope and move people to action.

If you thought the drought in this country, this summer was bad, then you need to think about the effect that drought has had across the world, particularly in Africa. The rising incidence of tropical storms also affects the poorer nations, who can't afford to repair the damage. Rising sea levels, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, threaten the existence and lives of low-lying small island nations.

The richest nations have produced the greenhouse gasses that have brought about disastrous climate change in the world, but the poorest countries suffer the most. **That's just not fair!** As Christians we want to care for our neighbours (who in this modern world may be thousands of miles away), but we also want the whole community to address this problem. We are all in this together, we are all responsible!

This event will be part of thousands of climate justice conversations happening across Britain and Ireland.

The event will last about one and a half hours. There will be videos to watch, information boards to read and a chance to air YOUR views about Climate Justice. Our discussions will be facilitated by Sue Richardson, a former Theological Adviser to Christian Aid. She will make you think!

For further information contact Peter Horrocks:

Email: peterhorrocks@doctors.net.uk

Mobile : 07934 109179

Worship Notes - September



4 September Holy Trinity

10am Parish Eucharist with the Blessing of Bags

As the new school term begins, we invite those at school to bring their book bag or rucksack to be blessed. Any adults who have a bag or case of some kind associated with their work are also invited to bring it in so that we can ask for God's blessing for you in your work.

September teaching series

at the 10am Parish Eucharist: Why do we do that?

Through the rest of September we will be considering the things we do in our worship and asking: why do we do that?

11 Sept **Why do we always say sorry to God and sing the Gloria?**

18 Sept **Why do we have different seasons and colours and what do they mean?**

25 Sept **Why do the choir, servers and clergy wear robes?**

The series will continue in October as we ask questions about why we have bible readings, processions and look at the purpose and meaning of the items on the altar at Holy Communion.

Harvest Festival Services

At this time of year we thank God for the provision of our food, pray for those who work to make it available to us and reflect on our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation, especially in the light of the climate change crisis. The dates of our Harvest Festival services in the parish are as follows:-

All Saints' Luddington 25 Sept

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 2 Oct

Holy Trinity 9 October

Donations for Stratford Food Bank of non-perishable items will be received at these services. Please see the weekly bulletin for further details nearer the time.

Trial change to pattern of services at St. Helen's

Following a review of attendance patterns, the St. Helen's team have decided to trial having two services per month, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, rather than four. This will also help to relieve some of the pressure on the set up team.

Up to date details of services at all the churches in the parish are published in the weekly bulletin which is sent by email. If you wish to sign up to receive this, please go to

<https://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/sign-up-for-our-news>

Patrick

PCC AWAY DAY 11 JUNE 2022



Jane Armitage

On Saturday 11 June members of the PCC met at Redhill Christian Centre for an Away Day, making an opportunity to develop as a team, get to know one another a bit better and consider our priorities as a parish over the next five years. The meeting commenced with a celebration of the Eucharist, followed by coffee; we then reviewed the

Five Year Plan, under the headings of Worshipping God, Making Disciples, Outreach and Engagement, Welcome and Care, Buildings and Environment and Financial Stability. We

divided into groups of three and explored each area item by item to establish a plan of what should happen and when.

The groups then reported back and a list of alterations were drawn up to compile a new Plan, to be presented to the parish in September.

In the afternoon we discussed the parish activities and groups that we felt it would be useful to know more about and drew up a list for Standing Committee to schedule presentations

during the coming year's PCC meetings.

To complete the day we reviewed the Code of Conduct for PCC members and drew up a final draft version, to be presented to the PCC at its meeting in July.

The members enjoyed their day and having time to meet each other in a more relaxed environment and felt that we had achieved the purposes of the day.



WORSHIP GROUP AT ST HELEN'S

There has been a joyous note running through St Helen's Church recently thanks to two very different musical initiatives.

You may have already seen an article in Trinity Times about the Clifford Chimers who, under the expert guidance of Mark Sayers, have been learning how to ring the six bells of St Helen's since last autumn. They are progressing well and all seven ringers have achieved their level one certificate. They are also gaining additional experience by ringing at other church towers, having visited Leek Wootton, Barford and Honiley this summer.

While the bells are ringing out on most Sundays, once a month you will also find the sound of uplifting and modern hymns reverberating around St Helen's thanks to the Phoenix Group.

The band was originally formed in 2012 to provide music at Holy Trinity's all-age services at the Rosebird Community Centre. When Covid struck, the services finished and they did not resume when restrictions lifted.

St Helen's had been keen to introduce a different style of church music for some time so when they heard that the band might be available they were quick to make contact.

The line-up has changed several times over the years, but three early members – Nick Phillips, Pete Cubitt and David Southeard – are still playing with the band. Caroline Farris is now the piano/keyboard player and Rebecca White has recently joined them as another vocalist. Sam Bridges, who was a founder member of the band, occasionally deputises for Caroline on piano.

"We were delighted when we were invited to play on the second Sunday of the month at Morning Worship at St Helen's," said David. "It is a small but friendly congregation and we have been made to feel very welcome. St Helen's is keen to embrace church music in the modern idiom and the style of the band particularly lends itself to this more intimate setting. As we were making a fresh start we decided to give the band a new name and Nick came up with the idea of The Phoenix Band.

"Although not professional musicians, we have a wide range of experience in playing in a variety of church and secular settings. We enjoy making music together and have developed that synergy which comes from playing together for so long. However, we are keen to emphasize that what we do is not a performance, but an important aspect of our Christian service and worship."

The Phoenix Group can also be seen and heard at Holy Trinity from time to time on the third Sunday of the month.

Sally Abell



If anyone has a keyboard that is gathering dust and is no longer wanted, would you be prepared to donate it to St Helen's? The band is currently using a vintage keyboard (circa 1970s) which is operational but not ideal. Please contact sallyabell@btinternet.com

PCC MEETING 19 JULY 2022



The meeting opened with prayers, lead by Patrick Taylor.

We briefly reviewed outstanding items:

- electrical works still awaiting contractor
- the eco project with Holy Trinity school had been received enthusiastically and is on going
- worship opportunities for older children are being developed
- visibility of screens in services is still under review

The Five Year Plan

This has been discussed at the PCC Away Day and passed on to the Strategy Group to prepare a new Leaflet, now drafted for launch on 18 September; this covers the six main headings each, culminating in three points. All Saints' and St Helen's Churches will provide their own similar plans, based on their context.

Safeguarding Presentation

Jane Armitage, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, gave a short presentation on the reasons and requirements of Safeguarding in the Parish and explained how it was interpreted by the Clergy Team, the Parish Administration and the PSO to ensure effective and secure records. Safeguarding training is always available and is ongoing. Jane is willing to discuss this with any member of the congregations and those who lead small teams or groups in the parish should be willing to assist.

A paper was offered on the new Informal Worship option, aiming for an invitational culture, in the Parish Centre. More detailed plans will be drawn up in late September.

A review of disabled facilities and accessibility in Holy Trinity church is proposed.

Financial stability was shown by the year's accounts to date, with a small reduction in stewardship but an increase over budget from visitor donations, although not back to pre-Covid levels.

It was decided that HT would benefit from employing a part time, seasonal Shop Manager, financed by shop takings and that Senior Stewards for external events should be paid an honorarium, paid by the hirer to facilitate the management of these events.

The need for fund raising to cover the organ refurbishment in 2024 was discussed.

A document for the PCC Code of conduct is to be based on the Parish values of Holiness, Humility and Hospitality.

Two new Parish Readers were confirmed as Paul Gifford and David Harrison.

The meeting ended with members joining in the Grace.

Date of next meeting 18 Sept 2022.

FUN DAY

The Ken Kennett Fun Day returned this year on Hodgson Green, in front of the Ken Kennett Centre, where we provided refreshments. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day. The money raised from our stall was donated to the Stepping Stones charity who support and provide meals for the homeless in Stratford.

Phil Harper



It's time for
Coffee Morning
and you're invited



Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living
with cancer.

Place: Holy Trinity Church
Date: Friday 30th September 2022
Time: 11am - 1pm
Contact: pauillageu@hotmail.co.uk
07434 328484

Simply scan this QR code with your phone
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure.
Thank you.



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

The Woolmer Plate, Candelabrum and Memorials



In 1716 Holy Trinity was given the communion plate which it uses on special occasions during the year such as Christmas, Easter and Trinity Sunday. There are two large tankard-shaped flagons, two Georgian-style chalices and two pattens. They are silver gilt hall-marked for that year and bear the engraving "Gloriae Dei opt. max. in usum Eccliae. Paroch. De Stratford super Avon. D.D.D. Josephus Woolmer un fil. Johan Woolmer nuper de Stratford praedict. Defunct Anno Dom 1716" indicating that they were given in memory of Joseph Woolmer who had just died and who was buried in the chancel. On the chalices and one flagon instead of referring to Joseph are the names of his brothers Johan, Edward, Thomas and Benjamin.

Their father Johan, who died at the age of 85 in 1710, had been the last Bailiff and first Mayor of the town in 1675 and subsequently an Alderman. Ten years earlier he had been instructed by the Corporation to help prevent the plague reaching Stratford since they noted "the plague being soe hot in London and spreading into many parts of the cuntry". The town's fair in September

was cancelled and Woolmer wrote to London "to habe it put in the news booke that thereby the cuntry may the better take notice of our resolutions." The family lived in the impressive "Tudor House" (now the "Giggling Squid") on the corner of High Street and Ely Street up until 1720.

In that year Joseph's widow, Sarah, who was also a generous benefactor, gave the church the twenty branch brass candelabrum, originally hanging in the nave but now under the tower.

In 1725 she gave the town £100 for the benefit of six poor boys and six poor girls who had to be "born of honest parents" to provide instruction to "reade a Chapter in the Bible, distinctly say the Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments in the vulgar tongue and be fully instructed in the Church catechisme." As such, they were to be known as "Mrs Woolmer's Charity Children".



Cont

The Woolmer Plate, Candelabrum and Memorials cont.....

There are memorials to members of the Woolmer family in the south aisle and north transept.



Left (in south aisle): "In memory of Mr. Thomas Woolmer, attorney-at-law Town clerk of this Brough for 50 years, a Person Honest, diligent and well skilled in the business of Life generous in his way of Living, Courteous in his conversation (who spoke no evil of other People nor gave others cause to speak evil of him) a trusty Friend, a kind Relation, a useful neighbour, and commendable in all parts of Life He died Decr. Ye 25th 1732 aged 77 years. He left issue only one daughter Katherine, married to William Makepeace Esq. Cowncillr. At Law. The said Katherine possessor of all her father's Virtues, died Decr the 8th 1760 Aged 60 years.

Right (in north transept): "Neare unto this Place lieth the Body of Elizabeth ye wife of Joseph Woolmer who departed this Life ye 30th day of November Ano Dom 1690 Also neare this place lieth the Body of Stephen ye Son of Joseph Woolmer who departed this Life the 18th day of September Ano Dom 1683."

Not shown (badly defaced memorial in north transept): "To ye M[emor]y of Anne ye wife of {Tho.Woolmer} an attorney of this [Borough] who departed this Life October ye third 1704? Mirrou of courtesie addio Till ye last Trump thy Life renew; Belov'd of all; of all bewail'd; O that our Tears might thee have bailed With her also [...] near to this place lies interred the bodyes of Elizabeth, Theodosia and Mary their daughters."

Tim Raistrick

See next page for pictures of the present family.

In 1716, the Woolmer family donated silver gilt flacons, chalices and pattens to Holy Trinity Church. This year, we were very pleased to welcome Tim Woolmer, a direct descendent of the donors, to Holy Trinity Church for the 10am service on Trinity Sunday. Tim was celebrating his 80th birthday and was accompanied by his wife, Beni, and his children Laurie, Kate and Hannah. Tim was delighted to see his ancestors gifts used in the service and be able to see them close up afterwards.



Can the church be the beacon of hope in the climate and ecological crisis?

Lim Ho, Stratford Methodist Church

“Why should Christians care about creation?” This was the title of the talk by Godfrey Armitage, the Coventry Diocese Environment Officer to our July Eco-Chat. Why can't we, the followers of Christ, act urgently to save God's creation damaged by our unsustainable energy consumption? In fact, most of us realise that the suffering caused by widespread wild fires, drought and flooding in recent years is only the foretaste of what will happen if climate change is not stopped drastically.

What can we do? At our joint service on 26 June with the theme ‘**Vision for God's Care of Creation**’ Revd Audrey Simpson, the Methodist minister, pointed out in her sermon that Creation Care is one of the five marks of mission in the Anglican Church as well as a demand in the Methodist Way of Life. Caring for God's creation has always been a Biblical mandate right from Genesis 1.

In order to help churches to take action for creation care, the Eco-Church programme was launched in 2016. By taking up this programme, individual churches can build the theme of creation care in their church life, making their buildings energy efficient and reducing the carbon footprint of the building, improving the biodiversity of their church grounds, working with the local community and supporting global action, as well as changing our life styles to be more sustainable. By working through the Eco-Church programme we can become a beacon of hope in troubled times. Up to now 10% of the churches in England and Wales have taken up this programme - a target originally set for 2025.

Why not take action then? Some of us are overwhelmed by the action we need to take and cannot see how we can save our living planet. Instead of turning to despair, we should turn lament into hope. We believe that God is not only the creator of everything, but also the redeemer and reconciler. With the intellect and knowledge we were given we can find the alternative path for a better future. We Christians should proclaim the love and hope of God in tackling the crises.

We are living in a community eager to save the planet, our common home. **Stratford Climate Action**, a grass roots campaign group established since Stratford Climate Action Day in June 2019, has become the rallying point of climate action in Stratford. They are co-ordinating local climate actions by sending petitions to our local MP and publishing articles in the Herald. Recently, their **Net Zero group** has been recruiting volunteers to start a **Repair Café** in Foundation House. This year during the **Great Big Green Week** (26 September to 2 October) there will be events organised by more than twenty organisations including the RSC, Town Trust, Heart of England Forest, Stratford in Bloom, Rubbish Friends and Stratford Churches Together's Eco-Chat initiative. On Saturday 1 October there will be three events in the Methodist Church Centre. Eco-Chat will hold a “Climate Justice” event in the morning. Stratford in Bloom will have a Greener gardening event in the early afternoon followed by Stratford District Council giving a progress report of their Climate Change Action Plan. Let us take local action for the global challenge.

As Audrey mentioned in her sermon “Discipleship isn't for the faint hearted, it involves tenacity, resolve and commitment. There is a ground swell of Christians who believe the Holy Spirit is leading us to take greater care of creation. The Holy Spirit is calling us to step up and make creation care a priority in our discipleship. What is your response?”

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 7 September. If you think it would help to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time in your life please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2 p.m. We will finish at about 3.30 p.m. Our future meetings will now be on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 2 p.m. There is no need to make an appointment; we will be very pleased to see you.

Gina Lodge

Bereavement Co-ordinator

LET'S MEET LOLA AT LAST

Lola Spetsioti joined the team at Holy Trinity Church in April, but a combination of Covid-19 and her wedding and honeymoon in June meant that only now we can learn about her life.

Lola, an only child, was born in Athens where, at school, she studied both English and French. At University she enrolled in theatre studies, where as well as Ancient Greek drama, dating from 700 BC, she studied European theatre, including Shakespeare of course, and even modern and experimental theatre. With her love of all things theatrical, she came to Warwick University in 2010 to complete a Master's degree in drama and theatre education.

Lola enjoyed her life so much here that she decided to stay and work in England. At that time she was living in Leamington Spa and she became involved with the Greek church in Coventry, which has a strong community and cultural background. As a passionate dancer, Lola started teaching Greek dance as well as the Greek language to young Greek people in the area. At the same time, she became a volunteer guide at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and eventually became involved in the education programme at Hall's Croft, becoming the leader of the visitor welcome team.

This led to a position as Assistant Operations Manager at The Other Place, where Lola's duties included managing the various bookings for the theatre.

Then Covid-19 hit! Most of the RSC staff were put on furlough, and eventually many were made redundant, including Lola. Fortunately Coventry was just about to become the City of Culture for 2021-2022 and Lola's excellent experience led to employment as a visitor experience manager. Her tasks included managing the volunteers for the many events during the year, including concerts, dance performances and exhibitions.



The silver lining to the pandemic was that Lola had met Tony (Antonis in Greek) at the Greek Society in Birmingham. There are hundreds of traditional Greek dances, which are performed for weddings, festivals and religious holidays and Tony joined one of Lola's classes as a student. Tony had come to England to complete his engineering degree and he now works for Jaguar Land Rover, despite having to return to Greece for his required National Service.

Lola explained that she and Tony are members of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is part of the Eastern Orthodox Church. She said that, since she came to live in Stratford, she has often dropped into Holy Trinity Church to light a candle, so she feels very comfortable in our church.

Photographs of Lola's lovely wedding in Athens were shown in last month's Trinity Times, and Lola told me that she and Tony had chosen a beautiful venue within a vineyard for their celebrations. Of course there was much Greek dancing and Lola said that the most memorable moment for her was when she arrived at the church with her father, and, as is customary in Greece, Tony was waiting outside the entrance for her, holding a bouquet of flowers.



Cont....

As Coventry's City of Culture year ended, Lola spotted the vacancy for Operations Manager at Holy Trinity Church and it seemed as if the job description matched perfectly with her skills set and her experience. One of her many tasks, now that the pandemic is receding, will be to manage the flow of visitors and the team of volunteers who welcome them. She pays great tribute to her predecessor Andy Winter who installed excellent computer programmes into the Parish office during the pandemic, making her work much easier. Lola's warm personality, vivacity and charm will hold her in good stead as she organizes the many volunteer activities with the church family.

As Shakespeare wrote in Troilus and Cressida "She is a merry Greek indeed".
(1, ii,116)

Judith Dorricott

Eco-chat in September

In her sermon at our joint service with the Methodists in June, Minister Audrey passionately argued for Christians to acknowledge our responsibility to care for Creation - our planet earth - in response to God's love for us. Good stewardship of earth's resources and care for its people is not primarily a political, economic or secular issue. It is a spiritual one!



The recent debilitating extremely hot weather, and the concomitant fires in London, have brought sharp focus onto the issue of the climate emergency - despite the apparent disinterest of some prominent politicians. The penny is beginning to drop that, if left unchecked, climate change will have devastating effects on the lives of people all over the world, including in our own country. This affects us all, and we all need to pay attention to what can be done to mitigate the situation.

The Eco-chat meeting in September will be led by Godfrey Armitage - Coventry Diocesan Environmental Officer - who will make a presentation and lead a discussion on "What does aiming for Net Zero Carbon mean for us and for our churches?" We are fortunate that he is available to share his knowledge and ideas with us.

The attendance of Anglicans at earlier Eco-chat meetings has been disappointing compared with that of other Stratford churches. I hope that many will come to this one.

Please note that the date is now **Saturday 10 September**, at 10.30 am, and the venue for this meeting is the **URC church in Rother Street** (next to the Playhouse)

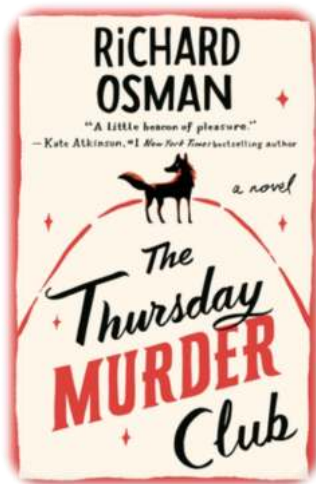
Tricia Hall-Matthews



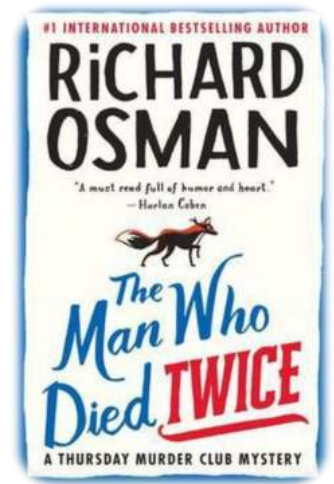
It's official. Our country is growing older. Whether you count from 65 or from much greater ages, there are more and more of us. That raises big financial and practical problems. But it also raises social and psychological ones, especially at a time of so much change.

In our last edition, Phil wrote about being “intergenerational”. It has been a source of debate in how we organise our worship – but it goes much further. The old certainly predominate in our church, and make up an increasing proportion of our town. How do they relate to the world of the young – and vice versa?

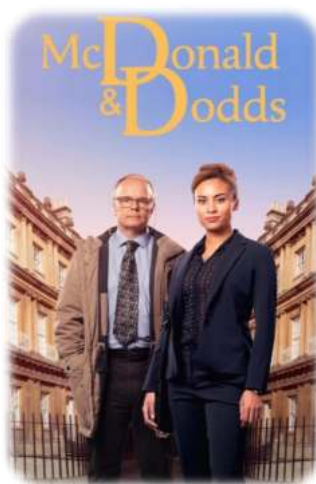
Sometimes we oldies are made to feel like dinosaurs, left behind in a world that is changing so rapidly. Nobody wants the church, or any other community, to become a dinosaur theme park. But it takes two (or increasingly three or four) generations to become “intergenerational”. We must do more to learn from each other.



There is a lesson here in a surprising place – modern detective fiction. Richard Osman's novels are especially interesting. The key “detectives” are four rather diverse elderly people in a retirement village. That is their home base – and, as I read Eve Archer's moving article in our last edition about her sense of “homecoming” in Holy Trinity, I was reminded of the Osman novels and the importance of HOME for all of us, of all ages. (That has been called the most beautiful word in the English language.) But these four dinosaurs do not rest in their home, but get involved in many criminal cases which their younger, apparently brighter friends in the police force fail to solve. Their experience and wisdom often break through where more



“up to date” approaches fail to make an impact.



The recent ITV series *MacDonald and Dodds* is similar in some ways. Here “home” is the city of Bath, well known to many of us. Detective Inspector MacDonald is a bright young woman, modern in every possible sense, who has transferred out from the Metropolitan Police. Her sergeant is a much older local man, seemingly slow and traditional in his methods. Guess which of them contributes most to solving the crimes.

We dinosaurs have much to learn from the young, especially in areas such as technology. But the reverse is also true. “The wisdom of the elders” is a phrase little used these days; it sounds as though it came out of the Ark. The traditions in which we are grounded contain much that is out of date or downright wrong and need to be challenged. But they also contain much that is right, and is the basis of the “home”, the society and the concepts by which it lives, that we all share. If dinosaurs and whizz-kids really learned to live and work together, sharing ideas, knowledge and wisdom, we might both be changed, and change is often painful. But the world could be a dramatically better place. And if, as has been said, the Church is meant to be a laboratory for the development of the Kingdom of God, then the Church is where this process ought to start.

THE WINTER'S TALE

By William Shakespeare

For our Autumn production Trinity Players return to Shakespeare with one of his last Plays, *The Winter's Tale*; three plays within a play.

It opens as a Tragedy: unreasonable jealousy leading to a shattered friendship, a loving wife and spritely little boy destroyed, a baby abandoned. Then, after perhaps the best known of all stage directions, 'Exit, pursued by a bear', we are whirled away to bucolic fun and games in Bohemia with scenes of song and dance like a modern musical.

Finally, a magical happy ending: the romance, revelations and reconciliations we expect in Shakespeare's Comedies. But having just lived through two years or more of a pandemic, perhaps we all need a reminder that time heals and Winter over, Spring follows.

Performances will be in Holy Trinity Church on 26,27,28 October at 7.30 pm and on Saturday 29 at 4.30 pm.

Tickets, £15 for Adults and £5 for students, will be on sale in September.



LUDDINGTON WALK

Explore Luddington and All Saints Church
ON SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
AT LUDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Meet at 10am for coffee in Luddington Village Hall before the walk
A choice of longer and shorter walks will be available.

Strong shoes required.

Dogs welcome.

Please sign up by Wednesday 7th September
using the link on the e-bulletin
or the sign up sheet in church



For more information about this event please contact Chris on 01789 204 273



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



TRINITY LADIES

At our meeting in July we all enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by Cllr Kevin Taylor telling us about his Mayoral year. It was most informative as he explained how decisions are made and what influence the Town Council and the District Council have on the development of new shops, hotels etc and particularly on the future of the former BHS and Debenhams. The highlight of his year was of course his wedding in Holy Trinity to Pauline.



Our first meeting in September is on Wednesday 21st when Cyril and Roxanne Bennis will be talking about the Swans of the Avon. At our AGM last November it was decided to make a donation of £25 towards the upkeep of the swans especially as they were suffering from Avian flu at the time.

I do hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and that you will continue to enjoy our meetings. We have a varied selection of speakers and this year I hope we will be able to have a membership card with our programme outlined. I look forward to seeing you all again and hope that you will bring your friends with you in the hope that they will join Trinity Ladies.

Gina Lodge (01789 204 850)

Chair



CHRISTMAS CARD AMNESTY

Although it is still only September, we wanted to remind people about the Christmas Card Amnesty.

Rather than sending cards to members of the congregations, people are invited to make a donation towards our Christmas charities and have their name printed in the December/January edition of Trinity Times. More details in the October edition.



FROM THE REGISTERS - JULY/AUGUST

CHRISTENINGS

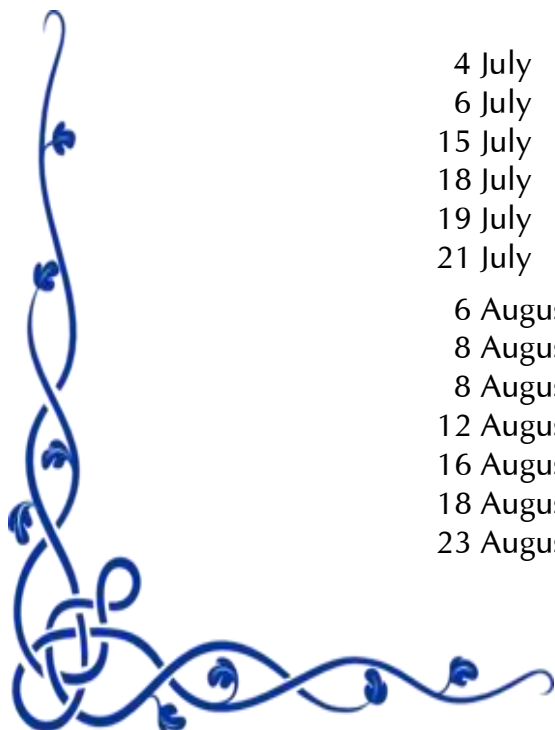
| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 10 July | Megan Rose Kelleher |
| 10 July | Clifford Edwin Day |
| 10 July | Mary Elizabeth Hopcraft |
| 14 July | Antonia Rose Lee |
| 24 July | Ellis Raymond Walker |
| 24 July | Lyra Rosie Ward |
| 24 July | Kieran Keen |
| | Lucas-James Keen |
| | Jake Keen |
| | Isaac Keen |

WEDDINGS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 2 July | Jarred De Tessandier Macquet and Grace Saunderson |
| 16 July | Tobias Lee and Elizabeth Wright |
| 20 August | Jamie Crickmore and Carlene Poole |
| 25 August | Andrew Tracey and Lucy Lee |
| 27 August | Paul Brannagan and Lucy Burman |
| 27 August | Liam Sinnett and Sara Homer |

FUNERALS

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 July | Dorothea White |
| 6 July | Charles Noel Richardson (Charlie) |
| 15 July | Margaret Mabel 'Peggy' Joyce |
| 18 July | Donald Cooke |
| 19 July | Jean English |
| 21 July | Muriel Joyce Reynolds |
| 6 August | Alan Sheppard |
| 8 August | Sylvia Jones |
| 8 August | Muriel Elsie Lawson Luke Saxby |
| 12 August | Margaret Head |
| 16 August | Clifford John Perry |
| 18 August | Hazel Augusta Sheila Roberts |
| 23 August | Richard Boswell |



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OUR HARDWORKING HANDYMEN



Many of us will recognize these three men as they are frequently to be found in church or in the parish office repairing, refurbishing and redecorating.

David Neale, a retired builder, Ian Johnson, who worked in the construction industry, and John Rees, a retired doctor, came together about three years ago after Andy Winter put out a request for help with maintenance.

Over the last few years, their tasks have been many and varied, including putting thirty new legs on the Victorian wooden pews in church, redecorating parts of the hall and offices, putting up extra shelves in the shop and adding wheels to the votive candle stand, as this has to be moved frequently - an improvement much appreciated by the volunteer stewards!

The group, who usually meet on Friday mornings, managed to continue working during the pandemic and their current task is chopping down some of the foliage

behind the parish centre, so that they can paint all the outside wood. Our parish is lucky to have such talented, hardworking and dedicated volunteers.

Judith Dorricott

HARVEST CEILIDH

Featuring The

MALT WHISKERS

ON SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE
WITH JACKET POTATO SUPPER

5-9pm

(Doors open at 4:45pm)

Ticket price £5.50. Under 5's Free.



Please sign up by Sunday 2nd October
using the link on the e-bulletin,
the QR code
or the sign up sheet in church

For more information about this event please contact Chris on 01789 204 273



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



nh
NIKKI HOMES
SALES AND LETTINGS SPECIALISTS

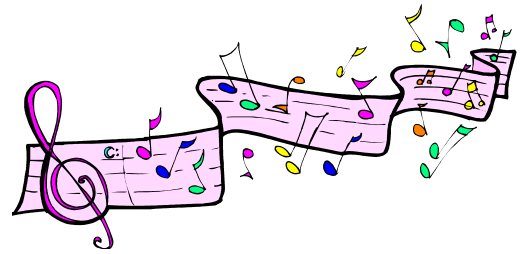


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SOUNDBITES

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 September | tbc - possibly saxophone quartet |
| 14 September | tbc - possibly saxophone quartet |
| 21 September | Baroque Trio |
| 28 September | Palmetto Trio |



The next meeting of the Contemplative Prayer Group will be the first Tuesday in September.

6 September in church.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

The first Tuesday evening of every month



The meetings begin with a relaxing and stilling exercise, and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us when we pray. We start by sharing some

material - usually a bible passage but sometimes a poem or a picture which may be circulated to members in advance. We then have thirty minutes of silence for prayer. We end with a reminder of the material, say the Grace together and quietly disperse.

The time of silence helps to support each of us as we pray, binding us together as a praying community. We offer this as a contribution to the spiritual life of our Church, and take its effects out into the world with us as we leave.

Anyone interested in joining us – or just trying it out – can speak to Jenny Rowland (415548) or Tricia Hall-Matthews (414182), or just turn up at church (go in through the choir vestry) at 7.30pm.

Parish Butterfly Walk

On the sunny but not-too-hot morning of Saturday, 16 July, fifteen people from our parishes, met with local entomologist, Trevor Acreman, in Clifford Chambers to observe butterflies. Trevor explained that we were in standard English countryside which was not of special scientific interest, but that the weather was favourable for butterflies, and he hoped we might see and identify about ten of the sixty + different British species.



The Group

Walking the dusty paths



We walked on extremely dry paths and quickly got to fields, identifying crops of wheat and (uncommon) rye, their colours transmuting from green to gold. The field edges were wide and wild, sporting many flowers. As we ascended a hill we began to “get our eyes in” to spot the movement of many butterflies - and other insects, including a grasshopper and a large cricket, which landed and posed on my pink trousers!

Identification



The butterflies were infuriatingly hard to identify at first, as they fluttered rapidly, constantly changing direction, for ages before alighting and allowing us to see their markings. Trevor’s knowledge and a chart helped us to distinguish between similar species. After a while confident remarks like “there’s another marbled white”, “that’s a skipper” and “has anyone seen a meadow brown?” were to be heard. Satisfyingly, fourteen species had been identified.



Hard to see

The two hour stroll passed quickly and on returning to the village we were offered welcome refreshments in Julie Renfrew’s beautiful garden. Many thanks to her and to Chris Cottrell for arranging this enjoyable, informative and social outing.

Tricia Hall-Matthews

Looking for butterflies



Brown Argus



Can you see the butterfly?

Photographs by
Tricia Hall-Matthews
and Faith Piper

ANOTHER BUMPER SEASON AHEAD

Stratford Choral Society is planning a bumper programme of choral singing for their new season, which begins on Monday 5 September. They will be singing Mendelssohn *Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise)* and Haydn *Theresienmesse*, Handel *Messiah* and in March 2023 Rutter *Gloria*, with Parry and Elgar and other glorious English Music.

This is a great opportunity to sing so many great choral works with an orchestra and professional soloists in one season. So those of you who have had sneaking ambitions to perform such works, now is your chance to do so! Be assured that under the professional baton of Oliver Neal Parker and in the friendly, hardworking atmosphere of this longstanding choral society you will have a thoroughly rewarding experience. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7.30pm, starting on 5 September 2022. For further details on the programme and how to join, contact the Membership Secretary at:

stratford.choral@gmail.com

or go to www.stratfordchoral.org.uk and click Join Us.

Further information from Carol Jackson, Membership Sec, 01386 841 440.



Stratford SCAN is a group for older people in Stratford upon Avon. SCAN gives people a chance to socialise and also to learn about services and support available as well as how to access it.

At the June meeting of Stratford SCAN we heard from a local social worker who explained about care packages, domiciliary care and also dispelled some myths.

We were also joined by a representative from Warwickshire Vision Support who told us all about the services the charity offers in helping those with impaired vision.

Stratford SCAN would love to have some **new members** and invites anyone to attend a meeting. You will receive a warm welcome and a cuppa.

Future Stratford SCAN meeting dates for 2022 are Monday 1 August, Monday 3 October and Monday 5 December. Meetings take place in the Methodist Church. Refreshments are served from 10am and the meeting starts at 10.30.

Stratford SCAN are also looking for a Chair person and committee members to help lead and develop the group.

For further information contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108.



Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 27th September 2022

3 pm

Arden House, Rowley Crescent,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6UT

Come and enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea with
Sandwiches, Cakes and other treats
£10 a ticket

Please purchase from Jackie Wightman
jswightman@sky.com before 20.9.22.

Proceeds in aid of



Ukrainian Refugees

Refugees from Ukraine are now arriving in Stratford. *Welcome Here*, the local refugee support group, is hosting drop-in socials twice a week for refugees and the hosts they are staying with. The drop-ins are on Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 and Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00 at Stratford Quaker Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, Stratford CV37 6XT. People can drop in any time for tea, coffee and biscuits and a chat.



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PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town

Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Vicar | The Revd Patrick Taylor | 01789 508 155 | vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Associate Vicar | The Revd Steve Jarvis | 01789 296 590 | steve@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Associate Priest | The Revd Kay Dyer | 07857 821 168 | kay@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Curate | The Revd Thomas Powell | 01789 266 316 | thomas@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Children & Families Minister | Phil Harper | 07791 005 696 | phil@stratford-upon-avon.org |

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| The Revd John Hall-Matthews | 01789 414 182 |
| The Revd Diane Patterson | 01789 266 453 |
| The Revd Jenny Rowland | 01789 415 548 |
| The Venerable Brian Russell | 01789 266 316 |
| The Revd Graham Wilcox | 01789 551 759 |
| The Revd Penny Harrison | 01789 266 316 |

Readers

Paul Gifford
David Harrison

Staff

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Operations Manager: | Lola Spetsioti | 01789 266 316 | lola@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Parish Administrator: | Sarah Cushing | 01789 266 316 | sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Director of Music: | Douglas Keilitz | | douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org |

Church Wardens

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Paul Lageu | 07434 328 484 | Tim Raistrick | 01789 509 885 |
| Helen Warrillow | 01789 298 928 | Sherron Guise | 07855 248 610 |

Village Contacts

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| All Saints', Luddington | Jane Beeley | 01789 269 618 |
| St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers | Pat Woolvin | 07989 318 965 |

Other Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Head Server | Chris Cornford | 01789 295 066 |
| Bell Ringers | Charles Wilson | 01789 295 467 |
| Bereavement Support Team | Gina Lodge | 01789 204 850 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Jane Armitage | 01789 297 652 |
| Trinity Ladies | Gina Lodge | 01789 204 850 |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Tim Raistrick | 01789 509 885 |
| Friends of Shakespeare's Church | Alan Haigh | 01789 290 128 |
| Friends of St Helen's Church | Angela Wylam | 01789 268 156 |
| Holy Trinity in the Community | Steve Jarvis | 01789 266 316 |
| Lay Chaplains | Keith Payne | 01789 266 316 |
| PCC Secretary | Elizabeth Roome | 01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mike Warrillow | 01789 298 928 |
| Friends of the Music | Josephine Walker | 01789 266 316 |
| Home Communion | Steve Jarvis | 01789 266 316 |
| Stewardship Officer | Chris Kennedy | 01789 299 785 |
| Trinity Players | Ursula Russell | 01789 204 923 |
| Trinity Tots | Phil Harper | 07791 005 696 |
| Pastoral Contacts | Parish Office | 01789 266 316 or office@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Welcome Team | Eve Archer | |
| Sunday Coffee organisers | Tina Hillyard | 01789 551 739 |
| | Diane Edwards | 01789 296 396 |
| Churchyard Maintenance | | |
| Volunteer Team | Lindsay MacDonald | 01789 293 110 |



Our new curate, the Rev. Thomas Powell, was ordained deacon by Bishop Christopher at Coventry Cathedral on 3 July in the afternoon. Patrick was there as his Training Incumbent to support him.

Photograph courtesy of Patrick Taylor



Our Parish Administrator, the Rev. Sarah Cushing, was ordained priest in Coventry Cathedral on 3 July (in the morning). Our Operations Manager, Lola, was there to support her.

Sarah and Lola

Photograph by Harry Lomax



Sarah with her family

- Son - James
- Brother - Simon
- Nephew - Dean
- Great Nephew - Callum



Sarah with Bishop Christopher and her son James

Photographs courtesy of Sarah Cushing