

HOLY TRINITY  
CHURCH  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



# The Shakespeare Service



***Encouraging the God-given  
gifts of others***

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

## WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY

The annual Shakespeare Service is an opportunity for us to give thanks, before God, for the wonderful contribution made by William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon to culture and the arts world-wide. This beautiful church building tells the story of Shakespeare's life, from his baptism to his death, and our celebrations this weekend take us on a journey from his birthplace in Henley Street to his grave here in Holy Trinity. This journey is symbolised by the quill, which left the Birthplace this morning, and will arrive into the church during this service, to be placed on his funeral monument.

We're delighted today to welcome our guest preacher, Alison Shell, who is Professor of English at University College London. She specialises in the study of Renaissance literature and her books include *Shakespeare and Religion*. 2024 marks the 400th anniversary of the death of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, well-known as a literary patron and scholarly benefactor in Shakespeare's time, to whom Shakespeare dedicated his long poems Venus and Adonis and The Rape of Lucrece. Will be reflecting today on how each of us might encourage others to use their God-given gifts.

In 2024 the Shakespeare Club is celebrating the 200th year of its founding and some current members are participating in this service. The early members took determined action which began the transformation of the town into a place of cultural pilgrimage, making it the internationally famous tourist destination that it is today. The Club is also credited with involving the townspeople themselves in the annual celebration of Shakespeare's birthday in the town of his birth.

During the service a collection will be taken for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, a charity which exists to ensure that this wonderful church and its rich heritage are preserved for future generations. Why not become Friend yourself? To find out more visit [shakespeareschurch.co.uk](http://shakespeareschurch.co.uk)



The Rev. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar

***Before the service begins,  
please stand as the Civic Party enters the church,  
led by the Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, Councillor Kate Rolfe.***

*Please sit for the informal welcome given by  
the Vicar, the Rev'd Patrick Taylor.*

**VOLUNTARY *for which we stand***

William Walton

*March and Scherzetto from 'Richard III'*

*The choir and clergy process  
and the Shakespeare Quill is taken to the chancel*

## **THE PLACING OF THE QUILL AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Vicar                    In the name of the Father and of the Son  
                                 and of the Holy Spirit.

***All***                    **Amen.**

Vicar                    As we gather to give thanks before God  
                                 for the life and work of William Shakespeare,  
                                 we place this quill upon his funeral monument.

*The quill is placed in the hand of William Shakespeare  
on his funeral monument by the Captain of School,  
King Edward VI School.*

Vicar                    The quill began its journey at the Birthplace and has now  
                                 arrived here at Shakespeare's burial place.  
                                 As we recall his life from birth to death, so we honour his  
                                 contribution to literature, drama and culture.

Captain of School    Come, let us praise the God of the universe,  
***All***                    **who everywhere works great wonders.**

Captain of School    May God grant us a joyful heart,  
***All***                    **and in our days send lasting peace.**

Captain of School <b>All</b>	Let us now praise famous men and women <b>our ancestors in their generations.</b>
Captain of School <b>All</b>	Some guided the people by their deliberations and by their knowledge of the nation's law, <b>giving instruction from their fund of wisdom.</b>
Captain of School <b>All</b>	Some were composers of music; <b>some were writers of poetry.</b>
Captain of School <b>All</b>	Their bodies were buried in peace <b>but their name lives on generation after generation</b>
Captain of School <b>All</b>	Happy are those who occupy themselves with these things, <b>who lay them to heart and become wise!</b>
Captain of School <b>All</b>	All wisdom comes from the Lord <b>and she is given to those who love her.</b>

*Verses of scripture based on the Book of Ecclesiasticus*

**HYMN**  
NEH 334

Old Hundredth

1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him, and rejoice.

2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make:  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why? the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from us and from the Angel-host  
be praise and glory evermore.

***Please remain standing***

## **COLLECT**

Vicar            Almighty God,  
                    as we gather to recall  
                    the life and death of William Shakespeare,  
                    hear our prayers and strengthen our faith  
                    that all who trust in you  
                    may know their lives to be changed  
                    through your love;  
                    we ask this in the name  
                    of him who overcome death  
                    and opened to us the gate  
                    of everlasting life,  
                    Jesus Christ our Lord

***All***            **Amen**

***Please sit***

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE REMEMBERED Part 1**

*Performed by members of the Royal Shakespeare Company*

### ***Sonnet 79: Whilst I Alone Did Call Upon Thy Aid***

Whilst I alone did call upon thy aid,  
My verse alone had all thy gentle grace;  
But now my gracious numbers are decayed,  
And my sick Muse doth give an other place.

I grant, sweet love, thy lovely argument  
Deserves the travail of a worthier pen;  
Yet what of thee thy poet doth invent  
He robs thee of, and pays it thee again.  
He lends thee virtue, and he stole that word  
From thy behaviour; beauty doth he give,  
And found it in thy cheek: he can afford  
No praise to thee, but what in thee doth live.  
Then thank him not for that which he doth say,  
Since what he owes thee, thou thyself dost pay.

*Performed by Rilwan Abiola Owokoniran*

**Song**            Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

*Sung by Alison Arnopp, piano Bruce O'Neil  
Music: Harvey Brough*

## **READING FROM THE BIBLE**

*Read by Karolyn Brookes, a member of the Shakespeare Club*

A Reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

(1 Corinthians 12. 4-12)

Reader            This is the word of the Lord.  
**All**                **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SHAKESPEARE SERMON**

*Given by Professor Alison Shell, University College London*

## **THE 2024 SHAKESPEARE ANTHEM**

*Commissioned for this service by The Friends of the Music*

Awake, awake, O heart of mine!  
Sing praise to God above;  
Take up the song of endless years,  
And sing redeeming love!  
Redeemed by Him who bore my sins,  
When on the cross He died;  
Redeemed and purchased with his blood,  
Redeemed and sanctified.

Redeemed by Him, my Lord and King,  
Who saves me day by day.  
My life and all its ransomed powers  
Could ne'er His love repay.  
And yet His mercy condescends  
My humble gift to own;  
And thro' the riches of His grace,  
He brings me near His throne.

Oh love unchanging, and sublime!  
Not all the hosts above  
Can reach the height or sound the depth  
Of God's eternal love.  
This wondrous love enfolds the world,  
It fills the realms above;  
'Tis boundless as eternity:  
Oh praise the God of love!

Music: Becky McGlade  
Words: Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

## HYMN

### *Please stand*

Angel Voices NEH 336

1 Angel-voices ever singing  
round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee  
and confess thee  
Lord of might.

2 Thou who art beyond the farthest  
mortal eye can scan,  
can it be that thou regardest  
songs of sinful man?  
can we know that thou art near us,  
and wilt hear us?  
yea, we can.

3 Yea, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure  
all combine.

4 In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer  
all unworthily  
hearts and minds and hands and voices  
in our choicest  
psalmody.



5 Honour, glory, might, and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessed Trinity.  
Of the best that thou hast given  
earth and heaven  
render thee.

## PRAYERS

*Led by Maureen Bourniquel, a member of The Shakespeare Club*

*Intercessor* Let us pray

***Please kneel or sit***

*Intercessor* We praise you, O God, the author and giver of all good things, that in your great love you give us so much that enriches our hearts and minds.

*Intercessor* For artists in every age, who by their gifts have given delight and recreation to their fellow men and women, and especially today for William Shakespeare, man of Stratford-upon-Avon, actor, poet and dramatist, baptised and buried in this Church; we give you thanks

***All*** and praise your holy name.

*Intercessor* For literature, music, theatre and dance, which delight and console, disturb and challenge;  
we give you thanks,

***All*** and praise your holy name.

*Intercessor* We pray that we may be enlightened and inspired by the works of our poet. In this town we pray especially for the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, The Shakespeare Institute, The Shakespeare Club, King Edward the Sixth Grammar School, the District and Town Councils, and all who keep alive our memory of the life and works of William Shakespeare.

***All*** Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

*Intercessor* We pray for our world, its 'glory smear'd in dust and blood'. Bring your divine peace and justice to bear on broken nations, and bless our King and The Commonwealth.

**All** Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* And finally we pray for ourselves, that through our dryness, fresh springs of creativity, forgiveness and love might flow.

**All** Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* We gather up all our prayers in the words Jesus taught us, saying together:

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE REMEMBERED Part 2**

*Performed by members of the Royal Shakespeare Company*

**Song**                      When daisies pied and violets blue

*Sung by Alison Arnopp, piano Bruce O'Neil  
Music: Paul Englishby from the 2008 production of Loves Labour's Lost*

### **Sonnet 15: When I Consider Everything That Grows**

When I consider everything that grows  
Holds in perfection but a little moment,  
That this huge stage presenteth nought but shows  
Whereon the stars in secret influence comment;  
When I perceive that men as plants increase,  
Cheered and check'd even by the selfsame sky,  
Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,  
And wear their brave state out of memory;  
Then the conceit of this inconstant stay  
Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,  
Where wasteful Time debateth with Decay  
To change your day of youth to sullied night;  
And all in war with Time for love of you,  
As he takes from you, I engraft you new.

*Performed by Rilwan Abiola Owokoniran*

**HYMN** *during which a collection will be taken. All gifts will go to the Friends of Shakespeare's Church for the urgent maintenance and restoration of this building.*

***Please stand***

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;  
 angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
 kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Refrain:*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
 endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
 lovingly he greet us, scatters fear and gloom;  
 let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
 for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:  
 (Refrain)

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
 life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
 make us more than conquerors through thy deathless  
 love;  
 bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:  
 (Refrain)

***Please remain standing***

## **BLESSING FOR THE EASTER SEASON**

*Vicar* God the Father,  
 by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
 strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life.  
 And the blessing of God almighty, †  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be among you, and remain with you always.

***All*** Amen.

# RECESSIONAL VOLUNTARY

Walton

*March from 'Prelude to Richard III'*

## ***Order of procession out of church***

*Crucifer and Acolytes*

*The Choir*

*The Preacher and Clergy*

*The Beadle*

*The Mace Bearers*

*The Churchwardens*

*The Mayor and Vice Lord Lieutenant*

*The Consort and Sir John Saunders, Consort to the V.L.L.*

*Councillors and Civic Dignitaries*

***Members of the congregation are welcome to stay to listen to the organ voluntary and make their way to the Chancel to see the flowers and quill after the procession has left the Church***

---

## ***Exhibition***

***The Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon  
1824-2024: 200 years of History. An Exhibition in Pictures  
at Stratford-upon-Avon Public Library, 8 - 24 April 2024.  
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm. Sat: 10am - 3pm. Sun: Closed.***

## **Weekly Services at Holy Trinity**

### **Weekday Services**

**Morning Prayer 9.15am**

Monday to Thursday mornings in St Peter's Chapel

**Compline 8.40pm**

Every Friday in the Chancel

## **Sunday Services**

### **Parish Eucharist 10am**

A service for all ages, including activities for children

### **Evening Service 5pm**

Choral Evensong second and fourth Sundays of the month

Holy Communion (Traditional) first Sunday of the month

Taizé style service third Sunday of the month

Printed using CCLI licence no. 4968.