

February 2023

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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

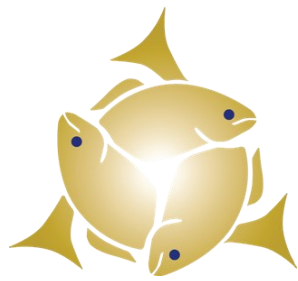


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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Front cover :- *Across the River*—Paul Lageu

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Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



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Children & Families Minister

Deliver Us From Evil by Steve Jarvis

As we approach another season of Lent, we will be reminded on Ash Wednesday that Jesus entered into a period of prayer and study in the wilderness - and one might think that, in this holiest of moments, this still time of quiet and reflection, that Jesus might be protected, isolated from temptation.

In fact, Luke says, Jesus is tempted throughout the forty days in the wilderness; even in prayer and study, maybe even especially in that heightened spiritual state, evil creeps in - the devil tempts him and tries to direct his choices, to manipulate and distort his life and ministry. The devil approaches Jesus in his fasting and famished state and asks him to change stones into bread - a reasonable thing to feed himself, right? There's nothing wrong with a bite to eat, is there? And Jesus replies, quoting Deuteronomy, "One does not live by bread alone" (Deut 8.3). The devil offers him all the kingdoms of the world: They're mine to offer, the devil says, if you'll worship me. And Jesus replies, again referencing Deuteronomy, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only" (Deut 6.13, 10.20).

And finally the devil tests Jesus with the most fantastic thing yet: Throw yourself down, Jesus, because as the Psalm says, the angels will protect you. Jesus again references Deuteronomy, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Deut 6.16). Three times Luke gives us the voice of evil, the devil, whispering in Jesus' ear - in our own ear. How are we tempted? And what can we learn about the nature of evil, the nature of temptation, the nature of sin, in Jesus' own encounter with the devil?

Because you and I know that voice, don't we? We know the voice of temptation. The quiet gnawing that says, "Oh, go on, treat yourself. You deserve it. You're special. You can get away with it". It is a voice much more insidious than any pitchforked cartoonish character we might think of as the devil. For sin is much more insidious than just a list of wrongs - a list of things we mustn't, shouldn't, cannot do. That's one way to understand sin, and it's not wrong - it can be quite useful to have thought through what's right and wrong so that when something comes along that is clearly on that list of "no's" we can automatically reject it out of hand!

Alternatively, we can think of sinfulness to be something that, like the concept of ritual impurity in the Hebrew tradition, is just something that is a part of the world - like something sticky that we need to wash off, or, as some reformation theology has taught, that the world itself is fallen and is, at its core, evil. But that sort of dualistic thinking doesn't seem to square with what we know in scripture, either. God has made the world - even us - and called it good. So, what are we to make of sin, of evil? What's happening in these moments where sin enters in when we are tempted?

The 20th century theologian Paul Tillich rather straightforwardly spoke of sin as that which separates us from God - that thing that draws us away from God's will, from God's loving purpose in creation. That thing, we might say, which takes us out of relationship with God. What are the things that draw us away from an awareness of God's love? From a love for and concern towards our fellow human beings, from creation itself? What are the things that draw us away from God's good purposes in creation?

On first glance, evil looks so un-evil like and attractive, as though greed and lust and pride that has been normalised, will give us everything our hearts can desire. But the world is not the devil's to give! The world, yes, even this broken world, belongs to God, as do we, as do you and I. We are God's. In his book *Made for Goodness*, Archbishop Desmond Tutu says that we are, as the title suggests, not intrinsically evil, but that we are made for goodness, made to be a part of God's ongoing loving creating work. Sin is not only that thing that separates us from God's loving purposes - but sin is an active distortion, a misshaping, a deformation in our very being.

Sin, in short, makes us NOT ourselves - NOT the thing that God has created us to be! Julian of Norwich has another way of saying this - sin is no thing - nothing, in that sin is against thing-ness - against the created order - not that sin isn't real, that it has no effect, but rather that it is absence, no-thing-ness - of the goodness that God intends. For us to choose sin, then, is to choose to live outside the goodness that God has in mind for us, the goodness for which we are created. To sin is to choose an impaired relationship with God.

Deliver Us From Evil by Steve Jarvis cont.

The passages that Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy at the start of Lent, are portions of the law given to Moses, all statements that point Israel back towards the God of their creation and redemption, the God that made them and delivered them out of Egypt. All of these point us back to the greatest commandment, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deut 6.4).

What we are called to this Lent and always, is to discern God's loving presence in the world - and to be a part of that goodness - to live not for ourselves, for our own desires, but for God, within God's loving will, within God's loving creating goodness - to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might. We are made, as Archbishop Tutu says, for goodness. Though our very lives may be deformed by evil and sin, what the devil promises us is but dust. When we see those false promises for what they are, we can't be held captive by them any more - instead we are set free to live for God, to rejoice in his loving presence, to turn our wills towards him and to show his love towards one another.

This Lent, through our chosen book for Lent, and our film-based Lent course, we extend the invitation once again, to spend time in reflection and prayer, in study and in self-examination, to spend time with God. I invite us all to look honestly at the things and the actions that inhibit our relationship with God - those things that are no thing, those things that are false that snare our attention, those things that are dust that we can put down, freed by God's radical love and grace.

All of this reflection and prayer won't mean that we are spared the devil's temptation - maybe even the opposite - but it will mean that we will come to know God more fully and can more readily choose God at every turn. And in that place of loving relationship, we can pray as Jesus himself did: lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Paul Tillich, *A History of Christian Thought*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1967, p 213.

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, *Made for Goodness*, New York: Harper Collins, 2010

Deliver Us From Evil – Exploring “Evil” through film

Over the course of this Lent, we will be offering the opportunity to explore the theme of evil through the medium of film.

Using a selection of films from the past fifty years, we will be exploring the variety of ways evil is presented, and equally, the variety of ways in which humanity is delivered from evil.



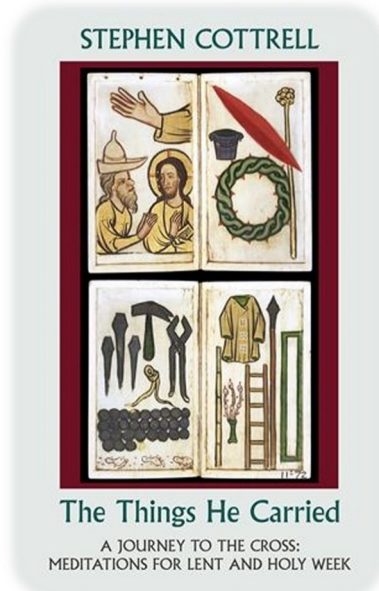
Each week, there will be a short reflection delivered before the “showing” of the film. With some written materials to aid reflection, we will offer a further opportunity via Zoom on the Sunday evening, to reflect further in discussion with others.

Watch this space, and updates in the bulletin for days and times!

Lent Reading

Our Parish Lent Book this year is *The Things He Carried* by Stephen Cottrell, The Archbishop of York. It's not a long read: there are eight short chapters (called 'meditations' in the book) with prompts for reflection at the end of each (these can be done either individually or a part of a home group). The 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity will follow some of the themes from the book on the Sundays in Lent (from 26 February), so if you are reading the book as well, you will be able to travel more deeply into the meaning of the suffering of Christ as we prepare to celebrate with joy the Resurrection at Easter.

The book is widely available online to buy and we will have an inspection copy available in the church shop. For those without the capacity to make online purchases, the shop will be happy to order a copy for you.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3 March

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

"I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH"

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues that they face geographically, politically and socially as well as their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith, just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. Beginning in Samoa, prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa thirty-eight hours later.

Please join us at the **Methodist Church** on **Friday 3 March** at the new time of **10.30am**. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including pre-school children and men, to the service and chatting with you over refreshments.



TODDLER SERVICE AND PANTOMIME FUN

Just before Christmas the first **Tots@Trinity** took place, with a second service in January thinking about the journey of the Wise Men. We followed a star and found Jesus in the crib. The next service is on **Wednesday 15 February, 2pm** in **St Peter's Chapel** (inside Holy Trinity). Please let anyone you know about this service for toddlers. Each time there is a Bible story, craft, songs and prayers.

After a couple of years break the **Holy Trinity School Pantomime** is back setting sail for **Treasure Island**. Not often done as a pantomime, but it's certainly one not to miss. Once again I've had my arm twisted to take part and it would be wonderful if anyone could come along to support the school. The cast is made up of teachers, parents and those associated with the school and all the money raised goes to the Willow Friends – who fundraise for the school. Performances are at Holy Trinity Primary School, 17-19 February (Fri 7pm, Sat 3pm and 7pm, Sun 3pm) tickets only £6 available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/willowsfriends



Phil Harper

PRESENTATION TO GINA LODGE

During our Epiphany Sunday Service, a presentation was made to Gina Lodge, who after nearly thirty years leading our bereavement group is stepping down. She's done an amazing job and supported so many people.



WORSHIP NOTES



Lent begins this month and is a good opportunity to review our spiritual practices. Does the way I pray work and is it a regular pattern? Am I making joining others for worship enough of a priority in my life? What about time to read the bible, and what do I use to help me do that (e.g. bible reading notes, phone app)? If nothing else, perhaps you might commit yourself to reading our parish Lent book this year (see page five) which will also form the basis of the themes of our 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity through Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February - we receive the sign of the cross in ash as a reminder of our dependence on God's grace and need for forgiveness and reconciliation.

10am Holy Communion (Guild Chapel)
7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Finally, a reminder:

Our Prayer Ministry Team offers personal prayer for anyone who asks for it (either for yourself or someone known to you) every Sunday during the distribution of Communion at the 10am Parish Eucharist. Just make your way to St. Peter's Chapel, which is on the right hand side as you look up Holy Trinity church, and a couple of members of the team will be there for you.

Patrick



Christmas card sent to the vicar from Tom and Verity Clare, working for our partners CMS, in Uganda.



Patrick Taylor and David White at Christmas.

Dear Patrick & all at Holy Trinity,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS !!!
(from Ama, Uganda!)

Thank you so much for all your generous support this year - both financially & in prayer - it has been such a blessing to us.

We hope & pray that you will enjoy a special Christmas this year, full of the joy, peace & Jesus' presence.

Love,
Ama
Tom
Verity
Eva
Eva



SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

5 February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Why do we do that? Penitence and Gloria
5pm - Taizé

12 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Why do we do that? Liturgical Seasons and Colours
5pm - Choral Evensong

19 February - Sunday before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Why do we do that? Processing, bowing and the Dismissal
5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

26 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Choral Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

5 February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Morning Praise

19 February - Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

5 February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

12 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

19 February - Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

26 February - 26 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

PCC REPORT by Jane Armitage



The meeting opened with a prayer by Marie McDougal.

Some outstanding items from previous meetings were reviewed.

David Neale has been appointed as Clerk of Works.

St Helen's - Pat Woolvin gave a report of the development and activities in Clifford Chambers. This covered the change to two services a month, easing the pressure on volunteers and this coupled with the introduction of the Phoenix Group and more modern music has improved numbers. There is a community soup luncheon on Fridays, the church now has seven bellringers and the churchyard has been tidied. Finances are still not strong but the Friends of St Helen's has some funds available, partially earmarked for work on the war memorial .

All Saints' - Jane Beeley gave a report stating the services are reasonably well attended, as are community social events, in conjunction with the village hall. There has been no progress on toilet facilities and more communion assistants need to be trained.

The financial situation and the budget for 2023 were presented by Mike Warrillow and actively discussed by the Council. Finances have been helped by receipt of some legacies. The proceeds of the shop and assistance for outreach were also discussed.

A new toddler service was being trialled on 7 December.

Richard Hartley is leading the fund raising for the necessary organ refurbishment and has developed a programme. The PCC thanked him for his work.

It was agreed to develop a new Safeguarding Policy for the parish, and to supplement this with an updated Action Plan, both to be presented and agreed at the January meeting. Some work has been done on updating records and the necessary paperwork and procedures for juveniles.

Holy Trinity has been awarded Silver status for its Eco work and a plaque has been ordered.

Mark Sayers has stood down from Standing Committee and Anthony Woollard elected in his place.

The Strategy Group will discuss the situation regarding the appointment of an Organist.

The new Parish Information System is nearly complete and notification given to Church Desk. The necessary training will be given as it develops.

The employee handbook was last revised in 2017, a new version based on a Diocesan template will be ready for January.

The Tables of Light by Lori Shanebeck

I was running late for my shift to volunteer at the Christmas walk through. It had been a busy day of work and Christmas preparations, and now volunteering. As I walked quickly through the darkening streets I wondered why I had been so crazy to say I'd do this after spending a day on my feet. As I walked, my inner dialogue consisted of complaining about having to stand for more hours when all I wanted was a cup of tea and some quiet. I turned the corner that led to the church, still whinging on, when I saw the queue stretching from the west doors down the path nearly to the gate. As I looked to the left I saw people streaming through the North gate. There were people everywhere; families, singles, couples, the old and young. Everyone was talking, laughing, and waiting to have their turn to experience what has become the annual Christmas Eve walk through. Flashing my volunteer badge, while murmuring "Excuse me" I made my way through the crush of people to the great door. As I entered what I saw and heard took my breath away; a beautifully lit church full of softly glowing candles decorated with lovely seasonal greenery, the organ and choir providing glorious music, and people, so many people. They seemed to be everywhere; slowly moving down the center aisle, sitting in pews with heads bowed or quietly talking, listening to the choir, or taking selfies standing in the manger scene set up in the coffee corner.

Since the first walk through in 2020, the goal has been to tell the Christmas story through pictures, song, and words as people make their way to the high altar. As I walked to take my place in the center passageway I saw the great chandelier with its beautiful candles, but as I drew closer it was the votive candles on tables in front of the choir vestry that caught my attention. There they sat, beautiful tables of light casting a warm glow over everyone who walked by. And at those tables the queue sputtered to a halt; because so many were stopping to light candles of their own. Mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, the young and old all slowed down and reached for one candle or even five. Carefully they bent over to light it, reverently place it onto the trays filled with sand, then stand up straight to gaze at the tiny lights as many of their lips moved in prayer. Grandparents who were no longer with us were remembered, a wayward child prayed for, a hardened heart softened for the first time in a long while. So many lingered, often moving to stand on the edge so others could add their candles. Some were so lost in their thoughts they forgot the people waiting behind them seemingly overwhelmed by the moment. Many turned toward the high altar wiping tears from their eyes, but not before they quietly took out their phones to snap a picture of the prayer in the plastic frame sitting on the table. It is a simple prayer meant to provide help for those who are grieving, cannot find the words, have never prayed, or have not prayed in a very long time.



As a volunteer, it was my job to keep the candles replenished, take away the ones that had burned out, and try to prevent people from setting themselves on fire. However, I was completely unprepared for and humbled by what I experienced as I stood behind what I now call the tables of light. So many faces etched with grief, pain, fear, sadness, and worry eased for a few moments by the simple act of lighting a candle and setting it gently on some sand in a tray. As I watched this routine repeated over and over, I realized God was giving me a Christmas Eve gift; the privilege of watching the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts of the people passing in front of me. There at the tables of light tears were shed, grief expressed, and tenderness shown. For just a few moments the lines of worry eased, and burdens seemed to be carried more lightly. It became very clear that God was at work in a queue of people walking through a church on Christmas Eve, and it brought tears to my eyes.

Who knew that an event begun two years ago would grow from a few hundred to nearly fifteen hundred attendees? How could we who worked that first year during the depths of a frightening pandemic begin to understand how a somewhat crazy idea born out of the desperate need to offer some way for the community to come to church at Christmas would turn into what we experienced this year? The answer is always the same. God did.

Cont...

I have thought about those tables of light many times since Christmas Eve. The people, the tears, the sense that God was so alive throughout the entire church. I, like many others, have wondered at times if all of the work is quite worth it. The answer to that question was a resounding yes as I saw the faces of people, transformed by simply walking through a church on Christmas Eve, lighting a candle or two, and hearing the story of a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem who brought the light of hope to a dark world. What a gift to give, what a privilege to serve, and how like God to use our ideas so well, then allow us to actually see the results of our efforts in real time, but only if we are willing to look. I am so glad that I did.



Christmas Wreath Making with Sally Welch Flowers

Started New Year 2023 with a big, 'Thank You' to the Social Events Team and particularly Christine Cottrell and Marie McDougall for organising the Christmas Wreath Making session with Sally Welch at the beginning of December 2022. My friend, Lesley and I really enjoyed the whole session – much appreciated.

A decorated Wreath, on the front door, is a traditional and special part of Christmas for me. Not only for the symbolism of Christ and eternal life, but also the joy of the tradition of the evergreen: a beautiful part of the natural world and strength that can exist, even in harsh winters. I've never actually made a full wreath myself though, so this was a new opportunity. I certainly learned and gained an appreciation of a lot of the skills involved.

At the beginning, it was very helpful that the base of the wreath had already been put together for us all. This gave a moist base, to help with the foliage that would be used, to last throughout Christmas. It was also particularly good that we had a clear demonstration of the fixing in place of the foliage and the direction that we should follow. This gave it a depth and fullness, which was great to see coming into place. Then, afterwards, when most of us had done the base foliage, there was another demonstration of how decorative pieces could be added to the wreath.

Sally had some creative and festive ideas that were beautiful and so useful to see. It made us think of how different decorative ideas might be included. There was also a choice, from another table in the room, of baubles and ribbons to add to the total effect of the wreath and a wonderful side of the whole session was to see and share some ideas with others taking part.

Must admit though, very grateful for the rescue of my attempt to create a fabulous bow for the wreath! Delighted with how my wreath turned out, especially with how natural it looked.

Finally, 'Thank You' to the Refreshment Team as well. The drinks and nibbles provided were all part of the great atmosphere of the whole wreath making session.

Hope there will be another session next year – for me, a lovely activity in Advent this year.

Louise Beeson



Louise Beeson's
wreath



Marie McDougall's
wreath



Nigel Raistrick's
wreath

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

The start of the process



Making Wreaths



Marie McDougall

PanCake PaRTY

Come and join the fun and games on Shrove Tuesday

with crepes and waffles made for us by

LILYS WAFFLES & CREPES

FROM 5-7PM ON TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE

Please sign up by 10th February
using the link on the e-bulletin,
the QR code,
or the sign up sheet in church

(Cost £6.50 per person age 3 or over)



SOCIAL
EVENTS

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

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON





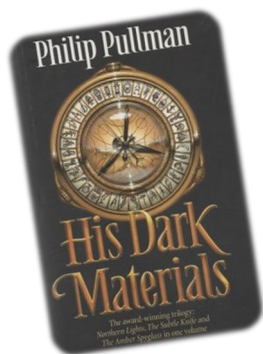
What a Christmas season it has been! With our release from Covid restrictions (though the disease is still with us), we have celebrated with a new enthusiasm, even in the face of a cost of living crisis and other massive challenges. But we have also been given an exceptional amount to think about, as regards the relevance of the Christian story in our allegedly secular society.

First, there were the 2021 Census results which appeared to demonstrate that “we are no longer a Christian nation” - and certainly not an Anglican one, with committed members of the Church of England constituting an even tinier minority than before. Then began the debates about the forthcoming Coronation and how far such a ceremony, in such a secular nation, should be Anglican, Christian, or even religious in any sense. And Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* - which among other things is a devastating fictional attack on “organised religion” - returned to our TV screens.

And yet, thousands of people crowded into our churches; I have rarely experienced anything quite like the queues for our own walk-through carol service. No doubt their motivations were mixed (an entertainment? a way of keeping the kids quiet? or nostalgia and a search for much-needed roots?), but they came in numbers unprecedented for many years. And our new King in his first Christmas address made many references to the part played by faith traditions (not just Anglican or Christian) in working for the common good.

A visitor from Mars might be forgiven for finding all of this a little confusing!

But, with Epiphany and Candlemas over, our thoughts rapidly turn to Lent, beginning on 22 February. The plans for Lent are sketched out elsewhere in this edition, and I need not add to them here. But this is a crucial time for thinking about how our faith and our churches contribute in the ongoing struggle between good and evil, and it is hoped to study together some “modern parables” to assist us in that.



Philip Pullman's view of religion is worth pondering (read the books in the *His Dark Materials* series, or catch up with the TV series on iPlayer if you can). He sees it as a purely authoritarian system, seeking out disobedience to the rules, and mercilessly suppressing it. That may well be how some view “organised religion”, and why they reject it in the name of authentic freedom and fulness of life. Alas, they have often had a case. Sometimes religion can be on the side of the kingdom of evil - repressive and life-denying - rather than on the side of what Pullman prefers to call the Republic of Heaven.

But the objective which this parish has set for its mission is “Lives changed through God's LOVE”. Love - as portrayed in St Paul's passage in 1 Corinthians 13 - does not coerce or suppress, though it may turn out to pose deep challenges. We are called to show that love, and to build up a common life which will attract and change others in ways which we cannot imagine.

Our faith is about life - all of life, in all creation - and not ultimately about sin and death, real though those are. Even Pullman (and King Charles) would approve of the fact that - as reported elsewhere in this edition - our parish has recently won an award for our response to the climate crisis and our care of all life.

So, to those who see religion as death-dealing (especially maybe in Lent) we respond with the Jewish toast *l'chayim* - to life!

ECO CHURCH: SILVER AWARD!

In November 2023 the PCC applied for, and received, a Silver Award from the national organisation Eco Church for the efforts which we are making towards caring for Creation and combating climate change.

There are three levels of the Eco Church Awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Many thousands of churches, of all denominations, are now enrolled in this programme. In order to win one, the church has to complete a long questionnaire about our actions in five areas: worship and teaching, buildings, land, public engagement and personal lifestyles. So far, only a small number of churches have reached the upper levels, but the number is growing.

The PCC pledged two years ago to aim for “net zero carbon emissions” by 2030, one of the most important actions that can be taken. We have already largely achieved that through buying our electricity and even (so far as possible at present) our gas from renewable sources rather than using fossil fuels. We have improved insulation in the Parish Centre, and plan to experiment with new and more efficient approaches to heating in church. Projects are afoot to make the churchyard more friendly to wildlife, and some of these – and other projects as well – will be developed in conjunction with Holy Trinity School.

Not just Holy Trinity but our village churches have contributions to make in such areas too. All Saints Luddington, with its all-electric heating from renewable sources, is already about as “green” as can be. St Helen’s Clifford Chambers is looking towards possible similar changes in its heating system, and the congregation is involved in other green initiatives in the village.

In terms of educating ourselves and the wider public, initiatives range from the “eco tips” in our weekly bulletin to the monthly ecumenical Eco Chat sessions, to which some of our team members, such as Sam Jupe and Kevin Bond, have contributed significantly.

The attainment of a Gold award, such as our Methodist neighbours (and for example St Andrew’s Rugby) have gained, may prove beyond us because of such factors as the nature of our historic building and the sheer complexity of our mission and our activities. But the Church at national level is continuing to encourage progress in all parishes and issue guidance as to how it might be achieved, and the PCC’s Eco Church team will continue to look for opportunities to make the care of creation even more central in our life and witness.

A fuller account of our progress is to be found on the recently revised Eco Church page on our website (www.stratford-upon-avon.org).

Anthony Woollard





TRINITY LADIES

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15 February at 2pm in the Parish Centre. We will be welcoming Deborah who is coming to talk to us about 'Breast Friends'. This is a subject all women should be aware of so I am sure that this talk will be interesting and informative.

Please make a note in your diary that the World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3 March in the Methodist Church at 10.30am.

Also in March, on 15th, we will be holding a Charity Tea Party in aid of the Shakespeare Hospice. Please bring your cakes and decorative table cloths etc to make the Parish Centre look like a Tea Room. More information about this event will be in the next Trinity Times. Last year we raised £385 for the Fred Winter Centre so let's do our best to raise even more for the Hospice.

Our meeting will start at 2pm as usual and be in the Parish Centre. If you would like to join us please come along and we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair.



A winter's day
walk by the river
looking towards
Holy Trinity
Church.

Photographs by
Judith Dorricott



FROM THE REGISTERS - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

CHRISTENINGS

2023

8 January Ruairi Thomas Kennedy

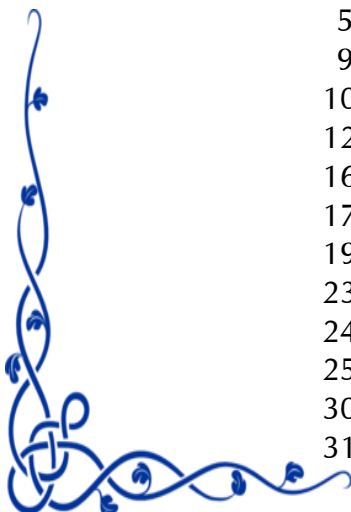
WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

22 November Jessie Eileen Hall
1 December Darren Gilbert
8 December Brian William Adams
16 December Joyce Doreen Winifred MacDonald
20 December Philip Anthony Bartlett

2023

4 January Kenneth Hunter
5 January Alan Wellan
9 January Margaret Hunt
10 January Terrance Kirk
12 January Stephen Mark Radbourne
16 January John Wilks
17 January Carsten Jakobsen
19 January Marjorie Haddon
23 January Nora Ovens - known as "Vicky"
24 January Peter Sprason
25 January Brian Robert Morris
30 January Frederica Janet Reynolds - known as "Fredie"
31 January Christine Baumfield



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 1 February. 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 2pm and we will finish at about 3.30pm.

There is no need to make an appointment; we will be delighted to see you. Come and join us in the lounge area of the Parish Centre.

David Harrison
Bereavement Co-ordinator

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ADVENT CLEAN



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9: 6-8

ST JUST IN ROSELAND CHURCH

Continuing our occasional series on charming churches

If any of our readers are planning a trip to south Cornwall this spring or summer, do consider including a visit to the delightful small church of St Just, outside St Mawes.

Roseland is a coastal promontory surrounded by tidal water and this small stone-built church, with its grounds leading down to the water's edge, was founded about 550 AD and served originally by Celtic clergy. Legend has it that King Arthur, leader of the post-Roman Britons against the Saxon invaders, lived in this area, but although Roman material has been found here, there is no other proof of his presence.

The present church was consecrated in 1261, and, like Holy Trinity Church, the oldest walls are around the chancel and crossing. In the early 15th century, the church was enlarged on its south side with six beautiful stone columns and arches supporting the new extension – the columns give the nave a charming if lop-sided feeling! A hundred years later, a tower was added at the rear of the church.

On your visit, don't forget to look up at the vaulted roof with its wooden beams, and admire the bosses, many of which are medieval.

The churchyard and Memorial Gardens, leading down to the water, are an absolute delight. The beautiful lych-gate has a natural spring next to it (still in use for baptisms) and the many paths meander down through tall trees, ferns and flowering shrubs to the estuary. It's no surprise that many brides choose to arrive at their chosen church by boat!

If you visit an interesting church on your travels this year, do send some photographs and a little description to Trinity Times, on timestrinity@gmail.com



Trinity Times Subscriptions for 2023

The Trinity Times Editorial Team are pleased to announce that from February 2023 (the first issue of the year) we will once again be offering readers the option of a printed copy of Trinity Times. The cost of a subscription for the year will be £10 for 10 issues. A small number of individual copies will also be available for purchase from the Church Shop at £1.50 each. Electronic copies will continue to be available, via the Weekly Bulletin and Church website, free of charge. If you do not receive the Weekly Bulletin, a pdf copy can be sent to you by email:-

(please contact paullageu@hotmail.co.uk).

For subscribers living within the Stratford town boundary, we are intending to deliver magazines to your homes. Those living outside the town can either collect their copies in church, after a Sunday service, or from the shop, when open. Alternatively, they can have them posted to their home address (there is an additional annual charge of £12 for this service, to cover the cost of package and posting).

If you would like to subscribe for a printed copy of the magazine, you can pay via online banking to:

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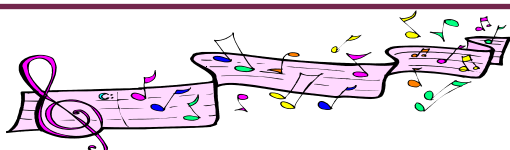
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If you do not have online access, you can send a cheque (made payable to 'Stratford-upon-Avon PCC') or cash to:- Trinity Times Subscriptions, Holy Trinity Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG. Please ensure that you include details of your name, address and phone number.

Paul Lageu

Trinity Times Editorial Team



SOUNDBITES

Wednesday 1 February - Douglas Keilitz, organ

Wednesday 8 February - Maria Linares Molero, Classical Piano, RBC

Wednesday 15 February - RBC String Quartet

Wednesday 22 February - RBC Guitar Trio

Epiphany Party: Bring and Share Supper with Beetle Drive

My Dad and I really love playing games; my earliest memories are of various holidays playing cards or board games, so when we knew that Holy Trinity was having a beetle drive on Saturday January 7, we were happy to join in.

We received a warm welcome from Jan and Rosie on the door and Chris and her team were as busy as ever making sure all the catering ran smoothly.

Even though my Dad is ninety-one and struggles with hearing and seeing, Phil's overhead slides made the rules easy to see and understand. I also know that, although my Dad might miss lots of the conversation, he really enjoyed the fun atmosphere of playing the game. The beetle drive was a great way to meet new people and reconnect with old friends as the game is designed for the winners to move tables. If you are a little bit shy about chatting to people, you have a ready made conversation about the game.

The food people brought was wonderful and I must say the two soups were lovely. I had to try both: it would have been rude not to! I am not owning up to how many puddings I had.

I hope the thirty or so people that were at the event had as good a time as we did.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make these fun events possible.

Claire Clack



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - 2022



Many thanks to Judith Dorricott and her team for making the church look so beautiful.



CHRISTMAS WALK-THROUGH SERVICE



The Chancel



The Nativity at the High Altar



The Votive Candles

Our thanks go to Tony Guy for all the atmospheric lighting in the church over Christmas



The Nave with atmospheric lighting

Photographs by Paul Lageu

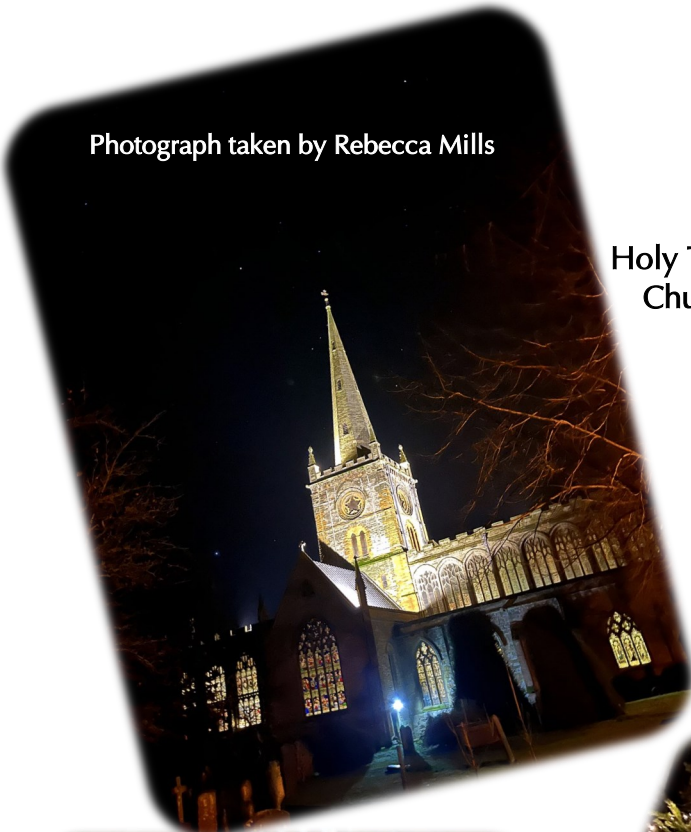


Photographs by Phil Harper



CHRISTMAS

Photograph taken by Rebecca Mills



Holy Trinity Church



Advent Candles



Christmas Day Crib



Wise Men and Christmas decorations



The Oldest Identifiable Headstone in Holy Trinity Churchyard

I have sometimes been asked how old are the gravestones in the Holy Trinity graveyard. This sometimes gets asked when explaining to visitors about Judith and Hamnet. Recently, a tour group of students arrived early for their booked tour so the leader sent them off to find the oldest grave (even though she didn't know where it was – but it kept them busy for a while!).

Some years ago, Valerie Thompson carried out a survey of all the headstones in the churchyard. There is a book in church containing pictures of all the headstones and a detailed plan of where they are. A very useful reference if someone is try to trace ancestors' graves.

I thought you might be interested in reading what Valerie discovered, in relation to the oldest identifiable headstone:

'Below is a picture of the oldest identifiable stone – 1682, and is quite easy to spot if you walk from the main gate, left, towards the river. The inscription is no longer as clear as this would suggest, but the date can just about be made out -

H 129 Here lieth the body of Mary the wife of James Southam who departed this life the 10 of September ano dom 1682

Also here lieth the body of Mary the daughter of James Southam who departed this life the 21 day of November 1682

A daughter of Abraham here doth lye
Returned to the dust
Whose life was hid in Christ with God
In whom was all her trust
Who wisely wrought while it was day
And in her spirit did watch and pray
To hear God's word attentive was her ear
Her humble heart was full of holy fear

(Both died in 1682, and this is the oldest identified headstone in the churchyard)

Paul Lageu
December 2022

With grateful thanks to Valerie Thompson



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Warwickshire

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Warwickshire
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15 December 2022

Dear Mike

Ref: Donation to Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

I wanted to write and thank you and your congregation for the very generous collection totalling £1,975 which will be donated to our Hardship Funds for clients.

In this Christmas season, when our thoughts so often turn to the plight of others, it is wonderful to celebrate the generosity, so please share my sincere thanks for this money, which our volunteer Grants Team will utilise effectively to support urgent and much needed support to the most vulnerable in our community.

Our volunteers work closely with clients to help resolve as many advice issues as possible so we can move them into a more resilient position, but this Winter is proving very difficult for so many, and every bit of additional support we receive enables us to do this work for more clients.

I send my sincere best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas to you, and a better New Year for all of us.

Julie Robinson
Chief Officer
Citizens Advice South Warwickshire



Visitor's question: "How do you clean the clerestory windows?"

A very tall vicar with a very long-handled soft brush!

*What a shame that these trees
get so cold in the winter.*

Walk-through quote
of the day:-

*Will I be able to light
a volatile candle?*

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Clifford Chambers Ringers celebrate their first anniversary by Charles Wilson

The new team of ringers from Clifford Chambers have recently celebrated their first anniversary. Although many of them signed up to learn, Covid got in the way, and therefore teaching the new band was only possible during the last twelve months. We have been delighted to support them during their training and well done on a great achievement!



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 Penny Harrison	01789 266 316
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

Readers

Paul Gifford
David Harrison

Staff

Operations Manager:	Liz Marshall	01789 266 316	operations@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	tba	
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	Caroline Thomas	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	07826 574 854 or ega1912@yahoo.uk

Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396

Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110
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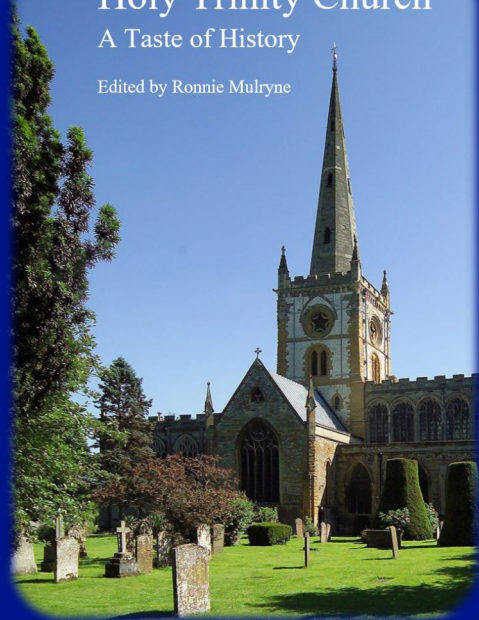


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Holy Trinity Church

A Taste of History

Edited by Ronnie Mulryne



Lindsay MacDonald has produced a digital edition of the book *Holy Trinity Church: A taste of history*. This is a PDF version of the second edition published in print in 2019. It is available for free download from: <https://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/files/A-Taste-of-History.pdf>

It is the companion volume of the subsequent book *Exploring Shakespeare's Church*, a digital edition of which is also available for free download from: <https://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/files/Exploring-Shakespeares-Church.pdf>

Tenpin Bowling 15 November 2022

by Paul Curran

On Tuesday, 15 November, a group from Holy Trinity descended upon the Ten Pin Bowling Alley in Leamington Spa, an evening arranged by the Social Team.

The event was a wonderful success, the venue packed out and young and old swept along by the general excitement and good-natured rivalry of the occasion. Strikes galore, often won by the unlikeliest of competitors, contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Let's hope that there is a re-match in the not-too-distant future! Thank you, Beckey, for arranging the teams and thank you, too, to all the bowling participants.

