

December 2022/January 2023

£1.50

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

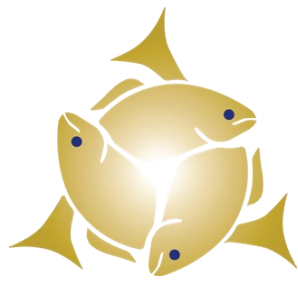


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love





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Remember we love to receive material for articles, including wording, images and photographs which can be sent to the e-mail address below. However, we reserve the right to edit anything that is sent to us and final decisions on content and format are made by the Editorial Team.

Please note that views expressed in Trinity Times are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parochial Church Council.

The next magazine will be the **February 2023** edition
The copy date is 13 January

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.

Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:
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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Sunset over snow

Finding the Doors Closed, Again?

There is a Christmas Carol that is little known but which I love to hear sung. It's called *Here is the little door*, set to music by Herbert Howells. The words invite us to imagine approaching the little door of the stable in which Christ has been born, to 'lift up the latch' and go inside:

*We need not wander more,
but enter with our gift.*

Many people of course never get as far as lifting the latch and entering in, to discover the meaning of God in human form for themselves. Instead, we continue to wander about, sometimes rather aimlessly, trying to make sense of life and the world we experience. Of course it helps if the door is able to be opened once we've lifted the latch. Back in April last year I reflected in this editorial on the significance of the closed North Porch at Holy Trinity church. I recalled how, before Covid, it was open every day and the large arched entrance was a welcoming sight as parishioners and visitors alike walked up the path through the avenue of trees. Seeing it closed during the pandemic, with the inevitable cobwebs and leaves accumulating around the gates, was a sad sight for many of us. For me it came to symbolise the separation that we all experienced through not being able to go into our churches to worship together and enjoy being with one another during those difficult months.

With the worst of the pandemic now behind us, it has been a great delight to see our porch doors open once more. However, we now find that in these winter months we are sometimes having to keep the Holy Trinity doors closed again. It's simply too expensive to heat the church on weekdays at this time of year, when both the visitor numbers and also the temperatures are at their lowest. It costs approximately £100 a day to heat the church at present, but we are anticipating this to double to more than £200 a day soon, due to rising energy costs. With average donations currently standing at just 85p per visitor, we've had to make the difficult choice between using funds that are badly needed elsewhere to keep the church warm (with the associated environmental impact of firing up our huge gas boiler) or asking volunteers to stand in the cold for an extended period of time if the heating is off. So, between now and the middle of February, I'm afraid we will be closed most weekdays. Our experience is not unlike that of many businesses, who are saying that the current difficulties caused by rising costs are a greater challenge than those they faced during the Covid lockdowns.

However, there is a silver lining to all this: from February we will be employing Visitor Welcome Assistants to work alongside our wonderful volunteers who welcome visitors to Holy Trinity. Having paid staff will mean that we can have the doors of the church open every day during the summer and for longer hours at the weekends in winter. This does mean that we will need to charge visitors to see Shakespeare's grave (rather than hoping for a donation) but entry to the church will always be free for visitors and parishioners alike, so that all can come in and receive the gift of the prayerful, holy and beautiful space of the church.

There's also something more to that carol, *Here is the little door*. Once inside the stable, we are invited to 'bend low about His bed' and discover, perhaps to our surprise, that 'for each He has a gift.' We're so occupied with buying and giving gifts at Christmas, we can overlook this offer of a gift for us from God. What might God be wanting to give to you this Christmas? It may not be what you are looking for, so keep an eye out for a blessing that might appear in the least likely or most unexpected place. Perhaps it will be through a relationship you've always found difficult or a situation in which you've decided there is no hope. Whatever your personal gift from God this Christmas will be (and I'm sure there is one for all of us), God's gift to the Church is always hope, whatever the challenges we are facing.

I hope you will be able to 'lift up the latch' of one of our church doors this Christmas, or do so virtually by joining a service online. We look forward to welcoming everyone to share in this wonderful season.

Patrick



SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

27 November - 1st Sunday of Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Jesse Tree. Beginnings: David and Ruth
5pm - Advent Carol Service - *followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

4 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Jesse Tree 2. Keeping Faith. Isaiah and Samuel
5pm - Choral Evensong

11 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Jesse Tree 3. Preparing the Way. John the Baptist
5pm - Christingle

18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Jesse Tree 4. Remembering the Future. Mary and Joseph
5pm - Congregational Evensong

25 December - Christmas Day

8am - Holy Communion
10am - Parish Eucharist

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

4 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am - Morning Praise

18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

6.30pm - Carol Service

25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

27 November - 1st Sunday of Advent

9.30am - Holy Communion

4 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am - Holy Communion

11 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

3.30pm - Christingle

18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

3.30pm - Carol Service

25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am - Holy Communion

Vacancies

Visitor Welcome Assistants (Holy Trinity) - If you are interested in applying, or would like more information, please contact Lola Spetsioti in the Parish Office (lola@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Operations Manager (Temporary Maternity Cover) – We are looking for someone to provide cover in the Parish Office whilst Lola is on maternity leave. If you are interested in applying, or would like more information, then please speak to Patrick or email HR@stratford-upon-avon.org



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 11 December

3.30pm Christingle Service All Saints'
5pm Christingle Service Holy Trinity

Sunday 18 December

3.30pm A Service of Lessons and Carols All Saints'
6.30pm A Service of Lessons and Carols St Helen's

There will not be a 9.30am service in either of the villages on this day

Friday 23 December

7pm A Service of Lessons and Carols* Holy Trinity
This service is not appropriate for very young children.

Saturday 24 Christmas Eve

3.30-6pm Walk-through Carol service Holy Trinity

Turn up at any time and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of carols, candles, Christmas decorations and the crib. Suitable for all ages. Children are encouraged to come dressed as a crib character.

5pm Christingle Service St Helen's
11.30pm Midnight Mass* Holy Trinity

Sunday 25 Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (with carols) Holy Trinity
9.30am Holy Communion St. Helen's
9.30am Holy Communion All Saints'
10am All Age Parish Eucharist Holy Trinity

There will not be a 5pm service at Holy Trinity on Christmas Day.

The above list does not include non-Christmas services.

*Indicates service will be live streamed via Facebook and then a recording later available on Youtube.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

1 January - Naming of Jesus

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Taizé Service

8 January - Epiphany

10am - Parish Eucharist - God revealed

5pm - Choral Evensong

15 January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10am - Parish Eucharist - Called by Name

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

22 January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am - Joint Service at Methodist Church

5pm - Choral Evensong

29 January - Candlemas

10am - Parish Eucharist - A Light for the Nations

5pm - Special Service

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

8 January - Epiphany

9.30am - Morning Praise

22 January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

1 January - Naming of Jesus

9.30am - Holy Communion

8 January - Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

15 January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

22 January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

29 January - Candlemas

9.30am - Holy Communion



CHRISTMAS AND NEW TODDLER SERVICE

In December we are beginning a new monthly **Toddler Service**. The first one will be on **Wednesday 7 December 2pm** in St Peter's Chapel (inside Holy Trinity Church). There will be a Bible story, craft, prayers and songs and of course will have a Christmas theme. It'll be a fun way to ease toddlers into church life and begin them on their Christian journey. Please spread the word to anyone with pre-school children. If anyone is interested in helping with this service, please contact me: (phil@stratford-upon-avon.org or 07791005696).



The build up to Christmas continues with our **Christingle Service**, which is one



The Children's Society

Society, who are in desperate need of our support at the moment. We also need to **make the Christingles** before the service. This will be on **Saturday 10 December 1:30pm** in the Parish Centre, the more people who are able to help the better, and there are always sweets that need taste testing!!

Holy Trinity isn't the only church to have a Christingle. All Saints', Luddington have their service also on Sunday 11 December, but at 3:30pm and St Helen's, Clifford Chambers is on Christmas Eve at 5pm.



Children and Families over the last year.

Phil Harper

of my favourite services of the year, especially the moment when Holy Trinity is lit just by the candles in the Christingles. The service is on **Sunday 11 December 5pm** in Holy Trinity. As well as a wonderful service, there is the opportunity to support the work of The Children's



We will once again have our **Walk-through Carol Service** in Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve 3:30-6pm. Our cut-out nativity figures will be back again. Children are invited to come dressed as a nativity character and have their photo taken amongst the characters.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported our work with



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



Christingle Service
Sun 11th Dec, 5pm
at Holy Trinity Church



Losing Christmas

by Lori Shanebeck

Every year about this time I am quite simply amazed. No, it's not by the decorations going up before Halloween, the fact that I should have made a booking in July if I wanted to eat Christmas dinner at a restaurant, or the email reminding me that it is time to inform my family (in October!) about the annual drawing of names for gifts. I am amazed most every year by how easy it is to lose Christmas among the food, shopping, endless lists, and family dynamics. However, as I was contemplating these thoughts, I realized that this year the list has grown even longer, as I added; a dangerous war, inflation, rising prices everywhere, the specter of astronomical costs to heat our houses, and a seemingly revolving door at Number 10. I'm already ready to throw in the towel and I haven't even gotten to the frightening chaos that is America, my home country. Are you depressed yet? Ready, along with me to just chuck it all, be a Scrooge, stare down Christmas and yell, "Bah Humbug?!" Or....would you like to join me in trying something else? How about we refuse to lose Christmas, even in the midst of the very real worries and cares of living in 2022?

I spent quite a bit of time talking this over with God, and believe he has a much better plan to help us all accomplish what seems at times to be a monumental task. Here it is. Stop. That's right. Stop. Right this minute and right where you are. Take a deep breath and then let it out. Do it again. Then, draw back the curtain of fears, disappointments, and distractions the world wants us to focus on, remember the Christmas story, and reconnect with the wonder of it all. A young couple, a stable, a beautiful baby boy, angels, shepherds. Let go of cynicism and doubt and allow yourself to simply marvel at the words of Luke.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...and everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child."

You know the story. Joseph must go to Bethlehem, an eighty-five mile journey from his home in Nazareth. He has no choice...Caesar has decreed that he be counted so he must go. It doesn't matter that his wife is about to have a baby and would much prefer to have her son at home surrounded by the women of her family. Instead, she rides a donkey (nine months pregnant no less), arriving in Bethlehem late in the evening, in labor, knowing no one, to be greeted with the news that every room in the town has been taken. An innkeeper takes pity on them and says they can have a corner of the stable. He has no idea he has relegated the son of God to being born among animals in a smelly stable and laid in a manger instead of a crib. But the couple are just grateful to have a place.



As the night wears on, pain gives way to wonder as Mary delivers a healthy baby boy. But there is more. God has big plans for this night that include a star and an announcement. The sky is filled with angels, singing no less, as they proclaim the good news to terrified shepherds. The savior of mankind has just been born in Bethlehem, and they are to go and find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, which sends them careening from the hills into the town in search of Jesus. Isn't it a great story??? Just think about it. None of the people were rich, titled, or considered very special. They were regular people going about their lives until God put them in the middle of the greatest story....EVER. Let that sink in for a minute. Take another deep breath. Let it out. It's a wonderful story, but don't take my word for it. Grab your Bible, turn to Luke and read it for yourself. Then sit for a moment, just a moment and think about the fact that God did all of that for you. Yes, you... and me...and the rest of mankind. He gave us Jesus and made sure the story of his birth was written down so that in the mess and chaos that is life in a fallen world, we could read it and have hope.

Cont...

I am aware that the world is scary right now. However, I also know that the God who orchestrated that night in Bethlehem is neither scared nor confused, but in charge. So, instead of losing Christmas among the wrapping paper, lists and concerns about the state of the world, I'm going to try to spend a little more time contemplating the sheer wonder of the Christmas story, listen to Handel and Bach's glorious music, and stop scrolling through my Newsfeed. Instead, I will meditate these words:

*The Light has come and the darkness can Never be the same.
The Light has shone and the darkness ran Never to return.
Your Word Made Flesh, Your Glory revealed;
Its entrance gave great light.
The sound of joy fills the earth and sky and the bells peal forth
their hallelujah!*



The Bible Society by Gillian Nunn

I would like to thank all the people from the Guild Chapel congregation who supported my 'coffee morning' on Wednesday 2 November while we had coffee in The Town House after the service. I was able to send a cheque for £50 to the Bible Society for Bibles, in their own language, for refugees. However I found that several people had never heard of the Bible Society.

In 1800 a fifteen year old Welsh girl, Mary Jones, walked twenty-six miles from her home in Llanfihangel-y-Pennart to Bala to buy a Bible in Welsh. It had taken her six years to save the 3/6d for it – a lot of money in those days. In Bala she met Revd Thomas Charles who found her a place to stay for the night. She then walked the twenty-six miles home, but she was now carrying three Bibles in Welsh!

Her story spread around the local churches and the Revd Joseph Hughes was inspired to consider the need for Welsh speakers, and those of other languages, to be able to get reasonably priced, or free, Bibles in their own language. He suggested this at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society on 7 December 1802 and subsequently the new Society was born in 1804. William Wilberforce was a founding member and an inspiration at the start of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

This is now the Bible Society. It has been supported by George III and Elizabeth II. There are now about one hundred and fifty local Bible Societies around the world, including China, all printing Bibles in their own languages and often in other languages as well.

They publish and sell Bibles, study notes, commentaries and other Christian literature, for adults and children.

There is a Mary Jones Centre in Bala –open on the summer – with a museum, shop and children's activities.





Here is another good old quote, this time from one of Robert Louis Stephenson's poems for children.

The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

Obviously intended to counteract kids' grumpiness and dissatisfactions. But possibly a dangerous philosophy.

Back in the 1960s, when we were told that we "never had it so good", some Christian voices were asking rather strongly why we should assume that "things" made people happy? These were the days when the Church was becoming more aware of the appalling inequalities in the post-war world, and slogans were coined such as "Live more simply – so that others may simply live". Some people certainly had less than they needed, but others of us had far, far more.

It is now clear that this is not just a problem of inequality, but of the burden on Creation which the better-off were beginning to destroy by their excessive consumption of "things". Questions about "the limits to growth" were beginning to be asked by economists of that period, long before the climate emergency had figured on our radar in the way it does today. Now, perhaps, we are in a new kind of war, on several fronts, affecting all humanity, which may demand the leadership of a Churchill and the sort of sacrifices which so many made in the 1940s.

These are sobering thoughts as we approach Christmas, when consumption can go crazy. We have been conditioned over centuries to believe that "things" are indeed good, and good to give. At this time of year I always remember John Betjeman's famous poem on Christmas, comparing the gift of God's Son with the fripperies of our party-going consumption and our gifts to each other. To be sure, he doesn't devalue these latter things entirely. I love his remark about "hideous socks, so kindly meant" – the inappropriate and wasteful gift which can yet in its way possibly be a sort of sacrament of love.



But it is clear that those insights of sixty years ago are more relevant than ever. And in a winter which will be very hard indeed for many, the temptation is to consume and to give whatever we can – to prove to ourselves and others that we are still able to do that, and to dull the pain of the shutters on spending which for many people are coming down at other times. But how far does this really add to human happiness, let alone the health of Creation of which we are all stewards?

The most precious gift we humans can offer to others is surely Time. And for many people, especially with all the busyness of Christmas, Time – to share, to listen, to love – is in short supply. But perhaps we ought to be more ready to pencil it into our to-do lists.

There are other ways in which we can resist the siren call of "things". Whatever you think of the new council scheme of rubbish collection, it is really distressing that some public bins are obviously being used as points for fly-tipping of general waste, with black bags piling up. If the council is trying to nudge us to produce less non-recyclable waste, we ought to respond to the nudge.

We consume too much, we waste too much, we recycle too little, and many of us do not exactly "live simply so that others might simply live". This is surely the best time to make new resolutions about caring for the creation and the environment around us.



TRINITY LADIES

On behalf of the Committee I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

On 21 December we will hold our Carol Service followed by mince pies/cakes and, as usual, tea. This is one of the highlights of our year so I do hope that as many of you as possible will come and join us. I am happy to announce that the Revd Steve Jarvis will lead the service for us this year. Please can you bring mince pies, cakes or other Christmas delights and of course nice raffle prizes. We will also be decorating the tables with pretty table cloths and Christmas arrangements, so if you can provide any of these items please bring them with you on the day.

At our first meeting in the New Year we look forward to hearing from David Arnold on 23 January who will be telling us about the Woodlands at Ascot Park.

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

Gina Lodge (01789 204 850)

Chair

Trinity Times Subscriptions for 2023

The annual subscription for a printed copy of Trinity Times is due in January. The price for 2023 will be the same as 2022 i.e. £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 Newsletter and Church website, free of charge. A pdf version can also be sent via email if you do not receive the Newsletter (please send your email address to: pauillageu@hotmail.co.uk).

For those subscribers living outside the Stratford town boundary, they can either collect their copies in church, after a Sunday service. 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).

Paul Lageu

Trinity Times Editorial Team





*May the peace and hope
of*

Christ's birth

be with you now and always

*We wish everyone at Holy Trinity, All Saints' and St Helen's
a very peaceful Christmas and a joyful New year.*

With love this Christmas time from:-

Revd Kay and Roy Dyer. Liz Roome. George Reah. Lilian and Graham Hopkins. Margaret Edwards.

Brenda and Paul Lageu. Mary Wells. Patrick, Laura, Ed and Bea Taylor. Anne Blair. Mary Phillips.

Ron and Faith Piper. Gina and Roy Lodge. Ann Elizabeth McNeill. John and Tricia Hall-Matthews.

Chris and Hazel Tattersall. David Wilson. The Cottrell Family. Paul and Lynn Suter. Wendy Bowie.

Jane and Andrew Martin. Judy and Paul Standing. Helen and Mike Warrillow. Joan Forbes. Ruth Davis.

Sian Wade. Gillian Nunn. Ann Morgan. Jill and Colin McDowall. Sandra and Lindsay MacDonald.

Judith and Norman Dorricott. Eve Archer. Stella Webley. Jenny Rowland. Phil Harper. Gill Price.

Graham and Margaret Wilcox. Rodney and Carole Askew. Diane and Alan Patterson. Pat Jackson.

Keith and Tina Hillyard.

**TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU;
HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

LUKE 2:11

The people listed above all participated in our Christmas Card Amnesty and donated to the charities that we are supporting this year.

FROM THE REGISTERS - NOVEMBER

CHRISTENINGS

27 November Elizabeth Beeley

WEDDINGS

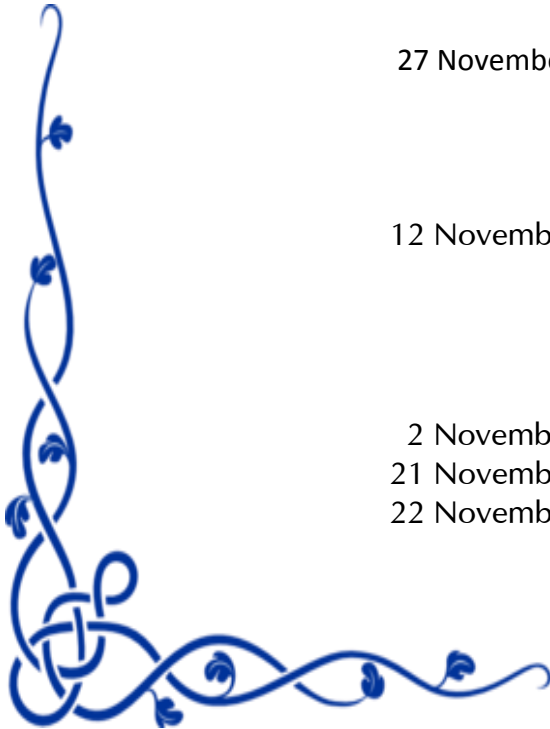
12 November Steven Giles and Alice Hunter

FUNERALS

2 November John Vyvyan Vaughan Lewis

21 November John William White

22 November Peter Derek Wild "Pete"



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 4 December. 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.

As the first Wednesday in January is within the Christmas period we have decided **NOT to hold a meeting in January**. We will start the New Year on Wednesday 1 February.

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.

Gina Lodge
Bereavement Co-ordinator

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“The Winter’s Tale” by William Shakespeare

performed by the Trinity Players

Ursula Russell does not do things by halves! *The Winter’s Tale* has a cast of twenty-four characters played by eighteen actors, set in two different countries and a story that is both comedy and tragedy whilst having to battle against members of the cast falling prey to Covid. Re-writes and editing of scenes were taken up to the curtain of the first night! Seated in the audience on the premier night the buzz of excitement was in the air, and as the lights came up the happy court of Leontes, King of Sicilia was revealed. The audience, enthralled with the story unfolding of a soon to be troubled King, were unaware of the mammoth task that had led to the opening night.

For those of you who may not know the story, in brief (if it is possible), King Leontes is suddenly possessed of an unjust jealousy of his heavily pregnant wife and her relationship with his boyhood friend Polixenes, King of Bohemia. His rage and jealousy holds no mercy for his poor wife as he orders her to be sent to prison while Polixenes flees the court to escape his wrath. The King also adds treason to his bewildered Queen Hermione’s supposed crimes, and she is put on trial.

We learn that the Queen, whilst in prison, gives birth to a girl and the King orders his courtier to abandon the child in the desert, but the courtier Antigonus takes the baby to Bohemia and leaves the child with gold coins and prays that she will be found by a kind soul. During the trial, Leontes learns from the god Apollo that the Queen is innocent of all crimes. He is ready to dispute this, but hearing that his beloved son has died of grief and seeing his wife fall dead at the news, the King is left a broken man.

The second half of the play reveals the happy kingdom of Bohemia sixteen years later, where we discover that the baby, named Perdita, has been found by a shepherdess and lives a happy life with her new family. Perdita is falling in love with a shepherd boy who, unbeknown to her, is the son of the King of Bohemia; and when the King find out his son intends to marry her, he is enraged and threatens her family and disowns his son. The son, Florizel and Perdita escape to Sicilia but are hotly pursued by Polixenes.

The court of Sicilia is not as happy as it once was, and the sad lonely King is dependent on Paulina, his late wife’s devoted courtier. The Bohemia characters all descend on the court and after all are reconciled there is one last big surprise. A statue of the late queen Hermione is unveiled in front of all and magically and happily comes to life and as they say (hopefully) all live happily ever after.

The ensemble cast were excellent, and everyone played their part (and parts) with accomplished skill and dedication. Too many to mention everyone in the cast but firstly I must say how wonderful it was to see the younger members of the cast taking on their roles with confidence and skill. Mark Spriggs as Leontes gave a powerful and carefully crafted performance as did Imogen Tong as Hermione and Margot McCleary as Paulina. The stage set in Holy Trinity Church was evocative and dramatic.

As many of the audience members that I spoke to after the play said the performance was “marvellous”, “enthraling” and “a wonderful evening”. Congratulations to everyone that worked, supported and took part in the play.

Now.....what’s next!!!?

Review by Eve Archer

"The Winter's Tale"
by William Shakespeare.

Members of the cast



Winter Fuel Allowance

If you're over 65 you will probably have received or be receiving a winter fuel allowance from the government. It is not means tested so almost everyone receives it, irrespective of their financial situation. It would cost the government more to means test it than it does to just send it to everyone. For a lot of people, including many in our own congregations, this payment is essential if they are to stay warm throughout the winter months. Without it, it can come down to a choice of do I feed myself or do I keep warm?

However, are you one of those people who, when you receive it, thinks it's nice to get something back from the government, but you are well able to pay your fuel bills without it? Although the government has taken steps to cap fuel prices, this winter's bills will still be significantly higher than last year. Would you be interested in donating some or all of it to Citizens Advice South Warwickshire, who can use it to help people who cannot afford their bills?

As CASW Chief Executive, Julie Robinson, writes:

Financial problems already experienced by so many Warwickshire residents are now being compounded by the worst cost-of-living crisis in four decades.

As a result, more people will flock to local Citizens Advice services in increasingly desperate circumstances. Difficulties with benefits, housing and debt are now also set against a backdrop of daily essentials becoming increasingly unaffordable.

With no financial cushion to soften the blow, debts are likely to accrue.

More households will be tipped into fuel poverty, and many will be forced to make huge sacrifices in the weekly food shop. The squeeze is tight and a few nifty lifestyle changes won't make the difference needed.

To help clients through their darkest financial moments, Citizens Advice frontline staff and volunteers are having to think as broadly, thoroughly, and creatively as they can. And the service is delivered with gusto and commitment regardless of whether a client is returning or new.

Education is key; informing clients what to expect from the cost-of-living crisis, energy-saving measures, or local and national support, for example. Fuel poverty means that people are frightened to turn on their heating or to use any electricity or gas at all.

In amongst all of this, we rely on our local generous funders to support us with Hardship monies, which we can distribute to the people with whom we are working and guide them through what additional help may be available. Applications for Hardship monies are made by caseworkers, based on their assessment of the client's needs, and approved by the CEO. Our grateful thanks go out to everyone who is willing help fund our pot of Hardship monies in these very challenging times.

How to donate

If you would like to help those in fuel poverty by donating part or all of your winter fuel allowance, you can do this by sending the donation via the church. The Treasurer will then combine all the donations (together with any Gift Aid that can be claimed) into a single payment, which makes it easier for Citizens Advice's financial planning.

Payments can be made on line to the following account:

Account name: **Stratford-upon-Avon PCC**

Sort Code: **40-43-19**

Account number: **20649430**

Reference: **Fuel - <Your Name>**

Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque, payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC. Please leave your cheque at the Parish Office in an envelope marked 'Treasurer – Fuel Donation'.

Important Notice:

Please only make a donation if you are sure you can afford it. You MUST NOT make a donation at the expense of your own well-being.



Bishop John of Warwick conducted the Confirmation in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, on 6 November 2022

Photograph by Harry Lomax.

BRING & SHARE SUPPER WITH BEETLE DRIVE



Come and join us to celebrate Epiphany
at our Bring & Share Supper
and a friendly game of Beetle Drive
(never played before? Come and find out!)



5-9PM ON SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY 2023
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE

Please sign up by Saturday 31st December
using the link on the e-bulletin
or the QR code



(Indicate on booking which type of food you intend to bring)

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



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH GIFT SHOP: *Past to Present*

Sophie Mansfield, Shop Manager – with Sue Knott and Gill Smith

Historical background: Tim Raistrick

“Where is Shakespeare’s grave? I must have missed it.”

“What is your opinion of guardian angels?”

“Why do you think God doesn’t always answer my prayers?”

“What does the motto “in recto decus” mean?”

A small sample of the many questions asked of me whilst ensconced behind the counter in Holy Trinity Church’s gift and book shop. The answer to the first is straightforward, the others more difficult given that I am but a humble shopkeeper. I did manage, however, to find a translation of that motto which adorns the Royal Arms of Queen Anne high up on the wall opposite the counter. It means ‘Honour in Doing Right’ which is something to which we might all aspire.

Holy Trinity Church, of course, dates back centuries and although the shop itself has a somewhat shorter history, there appears to have been a fledgling shop in the form of a table with a few items for sale to Church visitors throughout the early 20th century and possibly even earlier.

In 1969, Church Bursar, Bill Hutton-Attenborough, oversaw the development of the gradually expanding sales area into a shop occupying, as it does now, the north-west corner of the Church. In 1984, the Parochial Church Council agreed that this area should be enclosed with the handsome screening we can see today. The interior of the shop was not refitted until 2011, forty-two years later, at the suggestion of Rob Craven, shop manager at the time.

Many stalwart volunteers and a succession of shop managers including most recently the above-mentioned Rob Craven followed by Heather White, my immediate predecessor, have kept the shop going through thick and thin in the meantime.

Stratford-upon-Avon welcomes well over two million visitors every year (*The Research Solution report, 2018*). The recent pandemic brought about a decrease in these figures but Holy Trinity is still one of the most visited parish churches in England.

Fortunately for the Church’s shop, many of these visitors like to take away a memento of their visit and the shop offers a wide selection from fifty pence upwards (but only modestly upwards!). Amusingly, in view of our current range of prices, the Bursar in his annual report of 1973, forty-nine years ago, noted that £1 was the general limit that visitors were prepared to pay for items on sale in the shop!

We don’t only appeal to tourists, however; members of the congregation support the shop too and we very much hope to attract more local residents of all ages with an expanded range of unique and well-priced gifts appealing to as many tastes as possible and balancing religious and Shakespearian interests with the secular. This should enable us to increase revenue for Holy Trinity Church’s good works and overheads, the *raison d’être* of the shop.

With the closure in 2013 of Jubilate, a Christian gift and book store, Holy Trinity Church now houses the only such Christian shop in Stratford and, in addition to the more predictable artefacts, offers an extensive range of exquisite rosaries

and icons too for the Church’s Catholic and Orthodox visitors of which there are many.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas there will be Advent calendars and candles in the shop plus Christmas cards and decorations. We hope to have the support of Trinity Times’ many discerning readers. As another well-known emporium states: ‘Every little helps!’



Finally, two tales of happy customers. A charming but rather distraught gentleman told me the other day how difficult it had been to find a gift for his wife, but he went away with two pieces of jewellery for her as the prices were 'so reasonable' (his words), and returned to buy a leather Shakespeare-themed handbag for his daughter, a drama student. Other similarly placed gentlemen, please note!

Gill Smith, another delighted customer, penned the following poem after visiting the treasure trove that is Holy Trinity Church's gift and book shop! Our wonderful volunteer shop team and I thought you might like to read it.

"After a visit to the splendid Holy Trinity Church and Shakespeare's grave with some visiting friends, we decided to pop into the gift shop anticipating a quick and possibly fruitless browse before proceeding to the next venue on our Stratford 'To Do' list. But...

*I wasn't expecting to find such an array
Of unique and intriguing gifts on display.
There are Shakespeare busts and Oakapple mice
And candles and calendars at a reasonable price.
Pendants and bracelets in the latest looks,
Greetings cards, mugs and handsome notebooks.
Vibrant glass hangings to catch the light
And chic gloves and scarves that are sure to delight.
Leather bags, fridge magnets and wallets to clutch
And smooth pocket stones you just want to touch.
Bookmarks and tea towels and trinket trays,
Bibles and crosses and Books of Days.
A gemstone bangle I couldn't resist,
One more present for my Christmas list.
There are lovely things to be found in this store,
I simply can't wait to visit once more."*

With Christmas fast approaching, the shop team and I look forward to your own visit when we hope you will be as pleasantly surprised as Mrs. Smith! A warm welcome awaits you.



Photo by Sophie Mansfield



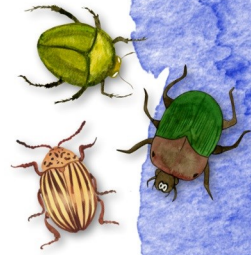
Photo by Sophie Mansfield



SOCIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023



SAT 7TH JANUARY
EPIPHANY PARTY
BRING & SHARE SUPPER
& BEETLE DRIVE



TUES 21ST FEBRUARY
SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE NIGHT



SATURDAY 6TH MAY
CORONATION EVENT



SAT 10TH JUNE
SKITTLES & BBQ



SUNDAY 16TH JULY
PARISH PICNIC



SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
TREASURE HUNT &
AFTERNOON TEA



7TH/8TH OCTOBER
HARVEST CELEBRATION

For more information about our social events please contact Chris on 01789 204 273



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES, 13 JANUARY, AT
 HOLY TRINITY, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON AND ST HELEN'S, CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



Photographs from
 Stratford-upon-Avon
 by Harry Lomax



Revd Patrick Taylor and
 Revd Mike Stewart, who is the Chaplain
 to the Royal British Legion and Curate at
 St. Andrew's Shuttery.



Photographs from
 St Helen's by Pat Woolvin

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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 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:	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	Kevin Taylor	01789 266 316
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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There are no Soundbites in December or January.
 They start again in February.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH on 17 DECEMBER

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents Handel's Messiah on **Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford. Music Director Oliver Neal Parker will conduct the Choir, professional soloists - Fleur Moore -Bridger soprano, Liz Irvine alto, Matthew Keighley tenor, Eugene Dillon Hooper bass - and the Regency Sinfonia. Douglas Keilitz will play the continuo. The Choral Society was first formed in 1836 and shares with the Huddersfield Choral Society the accolade of being the oldest choral society in the country.

For many Handel's Messiah heralds the start of the Christmas season, with its familiar, evocative, splendid music, which choirs love to sing. It received its first performance in Dublin in 1742. Its enduring importance means that it has rarely been out of the Choral repertoire and it has been performed over the centuries in a variety of styles and editions

Tickets for Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's 17 December Messiah concert, £20 (adults) or £10 (students) from **choir members**, website www.stratfordchoral.org.uk, phone 01789 750704 or at the door on the night if seats available. Up to two children under 16 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult.

Further Information: Carol Jackson on 01386 841440.



The Social Team organised an evening of bowling on Tuesday 15 November. A good time was had by all.

