

April 2023

£1.50

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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

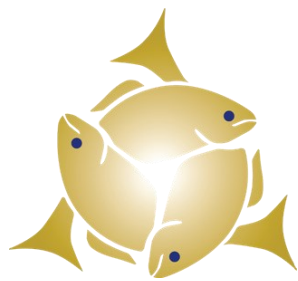


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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Remember we love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below. However, we reserve the right to edit anything that is sent to us and the editor's decision is final.

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 **May 2023** edition

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If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine. Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

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Front cover :- Time for Tea

Holy Trinity Team



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Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

LIVING LITURGICALLY

A time of going without, a time to reflect on past mistakes and choices made, a time to turn to God for support and strength. No, I'm afraid I'm not describing my personal journey through Lent this year, but my attempt to be "a proper grown-up" and buy my first home - with a mortgage and everything.



The beginning of the leaning tower of boxes

As I'm a first-time buyer, living in rented accommodation, and the flat I was buying was empty I was told it would be a straightforward move and should be completed in about twelve weeks maximum. Going against my natural tendencies, I thought I'd better be organised with packing and start sorting through books and DVDs, carefully wrapping Lego models and slowly my lounge, and eventually other parts of my flat, filled with boxes.



Midway through packing

Looking through books for work with

Christmas resources and certainly Lent and Easter ones I felt sure could be packed and would be sitting when needed on shelves in their new home. That all began at the end of July! Of course, the books are now in one of the boxes marked "Books World", I've no idea which one though.



Happy Christmas

After a catalogue of incidents, from requests for a Deed of Variation being sent to the wrong department for two months, a change in mortgage company, and the pièce de résistance coming two weeks before completion, my solicitor informing me that the firm was closing (due to

insolvency) and my case would be passed to another law firm. Or to be more precise, Tuesday they were passing my case on, Wednesday they were going to complete, Thursday they were passing it on again and then taking six days to forward the file. A week before completion I was informed by the new solicitor that there was no way they'd be able to complete on the fixed day and it would take another three to four weeks, creating another spiral of panic as I'd given notice that I'd be out of my current property. I won't even begin to list the harassment I've faced from my current landlady since mistakenly telling her in August that I was planning to move out.



Flat sold

You are probably wondering if there is a point to this, other than me venting and expressing? Well as often is the case for those involved in Ministry, events in your own life help to bring focus to parts of your faith and help to share those insights with others.

I hope that when I read this in Trinity Times, I will be doing so sitting in my new flat, my books and Lego models safely in their new homes. Preparing to journey through Holy Week and then celebrate the new hope and life of Easter.

Cont...

The seasons in the liturgical year, Advent, Christmas, Lent etc are seasons which if we truly engage with not only help us become stronger in our faith, they also help to give us the resilience to deal with issues in our own lives. But our lives don't always naturally fit into the rhythms of the Church year; how often has the Church been celebrating Christmas, but you've felt more like you're living in Lent? Or during the period of Advent, your life is at a point more like Pentecost?

The spiritual training that the Liturgical Seasons give us, if we fully engage in them, can sustain us whatever the world throws at us whenever it happens. As I discovered each setback from solicitors, I often found myself kneeling at the rail in front of the high altar in Holy Trinity, offering it to God reminding myself of the words from psalm 28 "The Lord is my strength and my shield", or humming to myself the worship song *Be Bold, Be Strong*.



I hope you have a wonderful Easter, and can celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection. But also, if Lent in your heart goes on for a little longer, that's okay too. Across the family of the Church, we will all be living in and experiencing different seasons. But whether it is a season of joy or sorrow, we aren't in it alone if we keep God at the centre and are surrounded by the family of the Church.

Every blessing
Phil

Resurrection Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt

Join us after the 10am service on Easter Sunday
for an Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard

For ALL ages

Donations of Easter eggs welcome
These may be brought to the box at the back of church
by Palm Sunday

Please speak to Beckey Barton for more information - 07587 143 374

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



EASTER AND BEYOND FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On **Good Friday 7 April at 9:30am** we will once again be holding the **Journey to the Cross** service in Holy Trinity Church. This was a service we regularly held, before the pandemic, on Good Friday. As



part of the service there are a selection of prayer stations around the church which help people of all ages prayerfully to engage with the events of Holy Week. It has many powerful moments within it, from the sounds of nails being thrown into a metal bin, to the end of the service standing together around the foot of the cross.



At the last **Time Out** service we marked the beginning of Lent, including giving people the opportunity to receive a cross on the forehead out of ash. The next of our informal services in the Parish Centre (following the one on 26 March) will be on **Sunday 30 April at 4pm**. We start with



refreshments and sit around tables



singing worship songs and reflecting on a Bible passage, with children helping to explore the theme in a craft or activity. The April service will be continuing the Easter story through Jesus' appearances to his disciples. The next **Tots@Trinity** Service will be on **Wednesday 26 April 2pm in Holy Trinity Church**. This will also remember what came next after Easter Day.

After Easter we will begin to prepare the next group of children to receive Communion before Confirmation, or **First Communion**. It's for children aged about seven years and upwards and once they have been admitted they can begin to receive the bread and wine during Communion. If you think that your child may be interested in taking part, please contact me (phil@stratford-upon-avon.org) or just speak to me.

Finally, it's not too late to donate towards the new **Bible Gift Fund** to pay for Bibles to be given out at Christenings and to the Year 6 leavers at Holy Trinity Primary School. Donations can be made via internet banking. The information you will need is:

To:- Stratford-upon-Avon PCC

Sort code:- 40-43-19

Account number:- 20649430

Reference:- Books + (your surname). That will allow us to claim gift aid if appropriate.

Alternatively, by cheque made out to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC and sent to the Parish Office. Please write on the back of the cheque that it is for the Bible Fund.

**Address given by the Rev. Patrick Taylor at the funeral service in thanksgiving
for the life of Margaret Wilcox on 17th February 2023**

Romans 8. 31-end, John 11. 17-27



A young Margaret Wilcox

As Emma gave the Tribute to her mother earlier in this service, I was reminded how much Margaret's whole life has been such a powerful testimony of faith in Jesus. When I first read the text of that Tribute a few days ago I thought, "Well, I don't really need to preach a sermon after that, because the example of Margaret's life is a sermon in itself!" She's already shown us, in real and practical ways, what the Gospel of Jesus looks like when it's lived out. Surely that's a message more powerful than the mere words of any preacher! But, knowing Graham to be a fine preacher himself, I thought he probably wouldn't let me get away with that, so here are a few words nevertheless.



Margaret, Graham and family

I guess we're all still in some state of shock as Margaret's death was so unexpected. Not least of course for Graham and the family, although, mercifully, they did have some precious time with her when they knew it was time to say goodbye, and as we've heard, there was even the opportunity for the singing of hymns and prayer. I'm sure there have been a few moments when the family have wondered, if the circumstances had been a bit different, maybe she might still be with us. In the story about Lazarus we've just heard from John's Gospel, Martha is having similar thoughts: "Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." So we're in good company when we find ourselves asking those "what if..." questions. They are, after all, a natural part of how we try to come to terms with a traumatic loss or experience. Martha, in the story, consoles herself by focusing on what she does know: "I **know** that [my brother] will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." But the thing is, we're not here today just to comfort one another with what we know, with facts or information. Today isn't just about knowing about resurrection. What we're celebrating, especially as we look back on Margaret's life, is that resurrection is something that is real and present with us now in Jesus.

Cont ...

Address given by the Rev. Patrick Taylor at the funeral service in thanksgiving for the life of Margaret Wilcox on 17th February 2023 cont...

“I am the resurrection and the life” says Jesus. He doesn’t say: “Let me tell you about this thing called resurrection life”. Jesus is the realisation of eternal life in this world. And because Margaret embraced Jesus in her life, we can see plainly how that resurrection life was lived by her, and how she shared it with others. There will always be the “what ifs...” those thoughts we have about how things might have turned out differently, for each of us in our own lives and situations. But notice what happens to Martha in that wonderful story, which ends with the raising of Lazarus: she begins by asking “What if?”; her “What if?” becomes “I know” and her “I know” then becomes “Yes, Lord, I believe”. When we trust in Jesus, as Margaret did, we, too, can make the transition that we see in Martha, so that our “What ifs” can become “I know” and our “I know” then turn into “Yes, Lord, I believe”.

So, we give thanks to God today for Margaret’s “life of tremendous faith” as Graham put it to me, and we are, each of us, invited to respond to the offer Jesus makes to us today to share in his resurrection life: not just to know, but to believe and to live. Then we will share, with Margaret, that confidence St. Paul shows us in our first reading from Romans: that there is nothing in this world or in all of creation that can prevent us from sharing in the resurrection life. This is the life we can begin to glimpse today; and it’s the eternal life into which Margaret has been welcomed by her Saviour, and which we, too, look forward to sharing with her and all the saints.

Amen

From Diane Armstrong - Visitor Welcome Assistant

I was guiding a group of French teenagers around the church and they had a teacher doing the translation. The teacher showed me the worksheets the children had to fill in. The first question was a row of five blank boxes. They had to fill in the names and dates of the Shakespeare family graves. The second question was a picture of our statue of William holding his quill, so I told them a little about that. At this point, I felt this chat was going well, that was until I saw the third question: it was a picture of Judi Dench. The teacher asked me to tell the children who this is and show them her picture and memorial in the church. I took a deep breath and said that this was a picture of Judi Dench who was a famous British actress. She was often in Stratford, playing leading parts in Shakespeare's plays at the RSC. When she was in Stratford, I explained that she often did charity things in church to raise money for us and I described her as a patron. By this time many of the students had googled Judi Dench, and really wanted to talk about James Bond. So, there I was standing at the chancel in our lovely church talking through an interpreter about James Bond to a bunch of French students who had suddenly become alert and interested. I didn't like to point out that memorials are for people who have died and Judi is very much alive.

This role as a visitor welcome assistant is certainly going to be interesting and varied.

Diane Armstrong

SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon



2 April - Palm Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday with Procession of Palms
5pm - Taizé

9 April - Easter Day

8am - Holy Communion in the Chancel
10am - Parish Eucharist for Easter Day
5pm - Festal Choral Evensong

16 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

23 April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

11.15 - Shakespeare Service
5pm - Parish Eucharist

30 April - 4th Sunday of Easter

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Abundant life*
5pm - Evensong with Ministry of Healing

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

2 April - Palm Sunday

9.30 - Morning Praise

9 April - Easter Day

9.30 - Holy Communion

16 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

2 April - Palm Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

9 April - Easter Day

9.30 - Holy Communion

16 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30 - Holy Communion

23 April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30 - Holy Communion

30 April - 4th Sunday of Easter

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

Monday 3 April

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 4 April

7.30pm Holy Communion

Wednesday 5 April

10.00am - Guild Chapel Holy Communion

7.30pm Witnesses - Passion Play

Maundy Thursday 6 April

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by the Watch
Concluding with Compline at 11.45pm

Good Friday 7 April

8am Morning Prayer for Good Friday

9.30am Journey to the Cross - (All Age Service)

10.30am Walk of Witness

12-1.30pm Church open for private prayer - Stations of the Cross outside

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) 8 April

8.30pm Easter Vigil including lighting the Easter fire and Paschal Candles for the parish
and First Holy Communion of Easter.
Followed by refreshments.

Easter Day 9 April

8am Holy Communion in Chancel

10am Parish Eucharist

5pm - Festal Choral Evensong



St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

Good Friday 7 April

2.30pm Good Friday Reflection

Easter Day 9 April

9.30am Holy Communion

All Saints' Church, Luddington

Good Friday 7 April

9.30am Good Friday Reflection

Easter Day 9 April

9.30am - Holy Communion

Village Services for Good Friday



Making Stratford Greener -“It’s really hard”

At March’s eco-chat about twenty people welcomed Town Councillor Jenny Fradgley. We were encouraged to hear how committed Stratford Town Council is to working towards achieving Net Zero in the areas over which it has control.

A current initiative is encouraging people to create “mini-meadows” of wildflowers on unused patches of council land. As well as building up corridors of native wildflowers which will support biodiversity of pollinating insects, this will encourage the formation of concerned community groups. As Holy Trinity Churchyard is maintained jointly with the Town Council, would it be possible for us to create mini-meadows in appropriate places there? They would be seen and appreciated by members of the public, and the church would be visible as concerned about the ecology. Suitable patches must be registered with the council by 31 March.

Other initiatives by the Town Council are a plan to work towards making the Town Hall net zero (tricky with a grade 2 listed building), regularly checking the ethical status of their investments, creating more and better cycle tracks in the town, and making climate-based strategic partnerships with local bodies such as the Town Trust, RSC and others.

The meeting broke into groups of about five, each tasked with making a comment to the council, asking a question, making a suggestion, and finally each person resolving to do something extra towards making changes in our society’s response to the climate emergency.

Comments to the Council were largely congratulatory and encouraging, but with the proviso to remember that it **IS** an emergency with no time to spare.

There were questions about the influence of the council in reducing car use in the town, and how it can exert influence on planning and energy-creation decisions which are beyond its powers. Also the use of empty buildings in the town.

Suggestions, which were noted by Jenny, included

- *putting pressure on the District Council to publish details of the eco-costs of buildings;
- *creating detailed performance criteria for cleaning and maintaining public places;
- *publishing a timed action plan for the Town Hall adaptations;
- *having a campaign to relieve climate anxiety in young people;
- *taking initiatives to improve public education and information about the climate emergency;
- *and particularly finding ways to respond more quickly than the present cumbersome systems allow. After all **IT IS AN EMERGENCY!**

As well as giving us information about how Stratford Town Council is addressing the climate issue, Jenny asked for our support. It is hard work, and one of the things that makes it hard to push for policy changes is public apathy and expecting someone else to do things. We all have a part to play. My personal new resolve was to look at planning applications on the SDC website, and ask questions about eco-aspects of the plans. What will you do?

Tricia Hall-Matthews



Trinity Players invites you to

Witnesses



The Easter Story in Words and Music

The Chancel of Holy Trinity

7:30pm Weds 5th April

Admission free

Retiring Collection for
The Bible Gift Fund providing Bibles
for children as they leave Holy Trinity
Primary School

He is Risen

As we approach Easter, we would like to fill our beautiful church with Easter Lilies to celebrate our Lord's rising from the dead.

If you would like to donate towards the Lilies in memory of a loved one, or just feel that you would like to, the Flower Team would be extremely grateful. Please leave your donation by Tuesday 4 April.

Donations can be made either by cheque and posted into the Parish Centre, marked Easter Lilies, with your dedication (if required), or by direct bank payment to:

Account Name: Stratford-upon-Avon PCC

Sort Code: 404319

Account No.: 20649430

Reference: EL(and your Surname)

If you are donating by direct bank payment, in memory of a Loved One, can you please email the Loved One's details to

office@stratford-upon-avon.org



Churchwardens past and present

John Sullivan, Colin Gott, Raymond Simpson-Smith, Charles Wilson, Norman Kitcher, John Cheal
Felicity Howlett, Mike Warrillow, Hilda Craig, Glenda Boyd-Williams, Ronnie Mulryne, Chris Kennedy, Bill Hicks, John Cohen, Jane Hornby, Tim Raistrick
Jim Dawes, Kath Parrington, John Joyce, Phil Hart, Malcolm Armsden, Alan Iles

Holy Trinity Church 800th Anniversary Service - Trinity Sunday 2010

John Sullivan funeral service on Wednesday 1 March 2023 memories by Tim Raistrick

I count myself lucky that I knew John. That luck began almost fifty years ago when I became a pupil at King Edward VI School. Changing from primary to secondary school can be unsettling for many, moving from the top form to the junior one and having to adapt to different traditions and expectations. John Sullivan was my first form master and clearly understood what challenges the boys may have been experiencing. In the classroom he taught me chemistry and again this empathy shone through as a teacher who would stretch the most able but support those who were not natural chemists.

He was both firm and affable. He would share in in-jokes but stand no nonsense, using his loud voice to issue rebukes but only when necessary. You always felt with "Sully" that he was fair. I was struck at his funeral how his son Jem referred to his father in ways that echo my own feelings for him as a teacher. Clearly in the classroom he was as he was at home, and he was all the better a teacher for that. Jem said: "He loved his boys. He was strict but honest and fair minded, no grudge was ever held and no matter what challenges or conflicts arose, they were openly addressed. And tomorrow was always another day – a fresh chance, a clean sheet." How true.

Cont...

John was blessed with his long and happy marriage to Margaret, with their sons Jem and Tim and their families. His personal life was strengthened through his Christian faith, quietly strong.

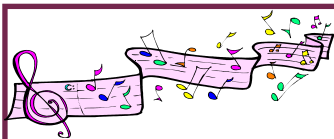
School life was clearly a vocation rather than a job for John. He immersed himself in so many facets of the school outside the classroom - setting up and running the scout troop for twenty-six years, coaching rugby and present at countless events like plays and concerts. It was thus no surprise to see him eventually become Deputy Headmaster of the School or that, long after he had retired, he was still volunteering to show new pupils and their parents around and making them feel welcome, as he had me.

I am sure that in staff meetings he was a good listener, not saying too much but when he did speak saying things that were sensible and listened to by others. This was certainly how he was as churchwarden here at Holy Trinity, as I witnessed when I first joined the PCC in the 1980s.

Since his death, after a sadly long period of declining health, I have seen comments on social media and had conversations at his wake with boys from every decade of his thirty-eight year career. Of his time at the school and from those who knew him at church, his family and friends all say much the same about John. He was much loved and respected, and will be much missed.



John Sullivan



SOUNDBITES

Wednesday 19 April - RBC Violin and Piano

Wednesday 26 April - RBC Flute Duo

Sandwiches and drinks available to purchase from 12.15pm

Recital starts at 1pm

Window on the World



Death seems to be all around us. The editorial team discussed whether we should include in this edition so many obituaries – but we concluded that, perhaps especially at this season of the year, it would be wrong not to commemorate all those whom we have loved and lost recently.

Death looks like the ultimate failure, following on as it usually does from the failure of our bodies and often our minds. As we approach Good Friday we are surely reminded that death need not be a failure but can be a triumph – and yet, in the eyes of the world, our Lord failed dramatically in his mission, and the Cross confirmed that. Whether it is seen as purely a failure or not, death is universal, and we must struggle to believe that it is indeed never the end of the story.

Many readers will remember our former Director of Music, Peter Summers, and some may remember his dog Lucy. When Lucy died, over twenty years ago, our then Associate Vicar Michael Goater, also fondly remembered by many, penned a little poem.

Among the many mansions of the City,
Where there is room for all.
The Master Builder added, in his pity,
A kennel, an aviary, and a stall.
And there, among the Lords of Heaven,
Is one beneath whose wings,
Behind the sounding harps and candles seven,
Draws all loved, created things.
And there the little ghosts that walk beside us
Untiring from the past
May, at some golden glittering corner, find us
And know it's heaven at last.

That poem was sent to me when our own beloved dog Aphra was put to sleep early in February. It will seem sentimental to some, certainly when compared to the triumphant message of Resurrection. Yet perhaps we should remember that the promise of redemption is said to apply to **all creation**. At the springtime of the year, in the lengthening days of Lent, we have a small foretaste of this. The message of Easter is, as my former tutor David Jenkins famously said (though often misquoted), is far more than “a conjuring trick with bones”. It is cosmic, beyond our imagination. And it includes all those whom we have loved and lost – and perhaps that does even include our pets.



MEET PENNY AND DAVID HARRISON

PRIEST AND READER

by Judith Dorricott

David and Penny Harrison met in Scotland, worked in Wales and England and finally, after a few career and location changes, settled in Stratford-upon-Avon for a well-deserved retirement. But they find they are still working hard!

Let's go back to the beginning. Both Penny and David grew up in churchgoing families, and faith has been a fundamental part of their lives together. Their faith has been a strong guiding principle in their family and work lives.

At St. Andrew's University, Penny, reading history, met David, who was studying biochemistry. After graduation David embarked on a career in forensic science, and they soon moved to Chepstow where he was employed by the Home Office. Penny, meanwhile, was working in stockbroking in Bristol. Their two children Mark and Caroline were born and they 'adopted' Dan into their extended family. Now, after many house moves, they count their blessings that their adult children and their four grandchildren all live in this area.

In the early 1990s, David and Penny moved to Birmingham where David worked in administration at Birmingham University. During this time, David completed a theological training course to become a church Reader. He is licensed to preach, to lead services and to take funerals, and, since their arrival in Stratford, David takes an active part in the ministry responsibilities at Holy Trinity Church.

Penny became involved in the Citizens Advice Bureau, first as a volunteer, then, after training, as a paid employee. But for Penny, the call of the church became stronger and stronger, so she studied at Queen's College in Birmingham and was ordained in 2009. After a curacy in Great Barr, Penny became Vicar of St. Leonard's Church in Marston Green for eight years, which they both describe as a really happy time. Penny also became Governor of the local school, so encouraged close ties between the church and the school, instigating popular practices such as stations of the cross and even a church pilgrimage. Meanwhile David left his University post to become a Chaplain at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for eleven years. The Hospital Chaplaincy consists of a team of ten, from all religions, who work together to help patients, whether they have a faith or not. David describes his time there as "fabulous" particularly as they had such good relationships with all their colleagues from every faith, setting a real example of multi-faith friendship. The group of Chaplains often ate together and David has remained good friends with many of them. David has even worked together with a Muslim Iman supporting a family when members of the family practise different religions. The work David undertook with the bereaved in hospital is standing him in very good stead as he has just taken over leadership of the Bereavement Support Team from Gina Lodge.

So, with retirement on the horizon, David and Penny bought a charming house in Stratford, within walking distance of Holy Trinity Church. As keen theatre-goers, they have always loved Stratford, and feel that the town has 'good vibes' as well as being well-situated for travel.

Cont...

But have they retired? Not exactly! David is working back in Birmingham in a leadership role for commissioned pastoral care teams within the Church of England. Penny now works covering clergy absence for the Fosse Deanery, taking services within the area, whenever she is needed.

As well as their work, both David and Penny enjoy travelling and holidays, particularly city breaks, as well as walking and David cycles. Penny even finds time for her many craft hobbies. With their experience and commitment to the church, we are lucky that David and Penny chose Stratford for their retirement.




FROM THE REGISTERS - MARCH 2023

CHRISTENINGS

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS



| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 1 March | John Sullivan |
| 9 March | David Edwards |
| 10 March | Robert Riley |
| 13 March | David Renfrew |
| 25 March | Colleen Vaughan |
| 31 March | David Charles Alcock |

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 5 April. 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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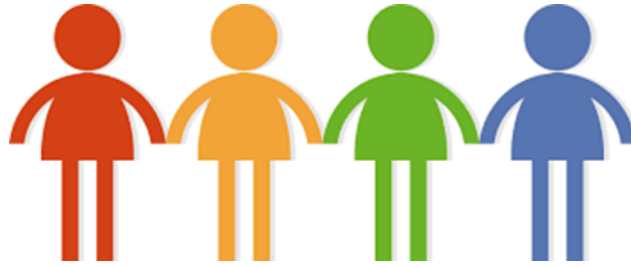
Private Chapel of Rest

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Pre-payment plan available

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34 SHEEP STREET, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, WARWICKSHIRE. CV37 6EE



TRINITY LADIES

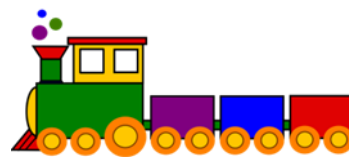
Unfortunately I am having to write my report for the April Trinity Times before we have held our Charity Tea Party in March! I have heard from many of you that you are making cakes and sorting out your pretty table cloths etc. I look forward to being able to tell you how much we made for the Shakespeare Hospice at our April meeting.

On Wednesday 19 April Mr John Butterworth, a journalist, is coming to talk to us on the subject of "Hotels with Famous Guest Lists". I hope that this will be interesting and amusing.

In May we have arranged an hour's cruise with Bancroft Cruises on the river with tea, scones and strawberries. When we had a similar trip a few years ago it was a most enjoyable afternoon. This year the cost is £18 payable to **STRATFORD-UPON-AVON PCC** **NOT Trinity Ladies**. The boat can accommodate thirty-two passengers so, unfortunately, it will have to be "first come first served". Book your place as early as you can if you really want to come with us on this river trip.

Our meetings start at 2 p.m. in the Parish Centre. If you would like to join us please come along; we shall be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair.



Congratulations to our Operations Manager Lola and her husband Tony on the birth of their new son Dimitris Theodoromanolakis, born on 3 March weighing 7lbs 2 oz. In Greek tradition they don't give middle names, but he is named after Lola's father, as it's the custom to name their children after their parents.



PANCAKE PARTY: Shrove Tuesday 21 February

The Pancake Party was one of a number of social events which our excellent Social Committee offer for all in our parish. These are welcome occasions to meet and talk in the parish centre in a leisurely and informal way. There may also be a quiz (there was!) and a competition – we had a finely contested pancake tossing competition, with joint winners who achieved an amazing score!

There was a very good attendance. It was a chance to talk with those we already know, those we may have talked to briefly at worship, and those we have never talked to before. We could build contacts and friendships that can also enhance our worship together. We had family groups, individuals who might otherwise have spent Shrove Tuesday on their own, and a good cross section of the congregation of all ages.

There was an excellent range of pancakes and waffles, cooked on site to order. *Lily's Waffles and Crepes*, who have a restaurant on Rother Street, served us very well.

Pam and Brian Russell



Making the pancakes - Lily's Waffles and Crepes



Marie MacDougall's granddaughter Scarlett



Time to enjoy



Pancake tossing competition Scarlett and Libby



Sue Bond with Grandson George



Brian and Pam



Matilda making pancakes

LETTER FROM MAYOR OF STRATFORD 1943

Here is a letter from the Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon and an article from The Stratford-upon-Avon Herald June / July 1943. These I unearthed whilst having a tidy up. They are about myself and my twin sister. We were the first ones to be born in Stratford-upon-Avon as it played its part in fundraising for Wings for Victory.

The photograph shows my Father in his uniform as a Leading Fireman in the National Fire Service based in Stratford upon Avon. My father told me of fires he attended, particularly of crashed bombers on training flights from RAF Wellesbourne Mountford. Many of the killed personnel are buried in the War Graves section in Stratford upon Avon Cemetery. I always feel moved when visiting these graves because many buried there came from abroad like Members of the Royal Canadian Airforce whose parents probably were not able to visit their son's grave.

Roy Dyer

Roy and his twin sister, Valerie, will be eighty on 22 June 2023



*Mayor's Parlour,
Town Hall,
Stratford-upon-Avon.*

10th July, 1943.

Dear Roy and Valerie,

Congratulations on your safe arrival into this troubled world, and upon the date you decided making your first appearance!

The week you selected was a very busy one in Stratford-upon-Avon, when everyone in the town was working particularly hard to lend the Government the vast total sum of £320,000 with which to purchase a large number of Service aircraft to help bring about a speedy victory over our adversaries.

It is particularly gratifying to record that your father and mother have answered the call of our statesmen to increase production at all costs, and they are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

You will find enclosed two Gift Vouchers with which to start your Savings Account.

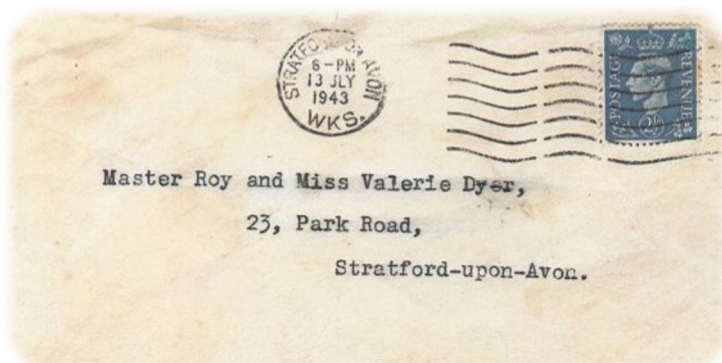
With very best wishes from the Mayoress and me for a happy, successful and useful life,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Alfred Dyer

MAYOR.



ew-street.

**STORK WINS
"THE DOUBLE"**

WHEN the Wings for Victory committee at Stratford-on-Avon offered prizes of Savings Certificates for the first baby born during the Wings for Victory Week, it was announced that there would be a double prize for twins.

Twins—a boy and a girl—have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dyer, of Park-road, and the Mayor is to present them with a certificate each.



TRINITY PLAYERS

WITNESSES Wednesday 5 April at 7.30pm

We invite you to join us in the Chancel for a more intimate version of our customary Easter Play. Each Witness will share their own memories, some recent, some decades later, of Jesus' last days. The Programme, including Poems and Music, will last for approximately one hour after which wine and soft drinks will be available and we encourage you to stay to talk about it with us and with Patrick, our Vicar.

COFFEE, CAKE & SHAKESPEARE – Friday 21 April at 10.30am



We look forward to seeing you at our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday with a programme of speeches, scenes, songs and sonnets written by or inspired by Shakespeare followed by a ceremonial cutting of the Birthday cake and a welcome cup of coffee.

Admission free though a contribution to refreshments is very much appreciated.

Further information on both events from urussell@joyousgard.org.uk or 07887642216

Share the celebration of

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

on Saturday 6th May (timing to be confirmed)
Watch together live on the Big Screen
in Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Join us for a celebratory lunch
(Bring and Share)
and a loyal toast to our new King

EVERYONE WELCOME



SOCIAL
EVENTS

For more information please contact
Chris on 01789 204 273

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON





Holy Trinity Church by Sam Jutel

In 713AD, monks deliberated, long and hard, on the finest of sites, to build a Saxon monastery, alongside the bustling banks of the river Avon, adjacent to the medieval town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Today, Holy Trinity Church dominates that very site. Majestically, she stands. A Testament of Faith. Nowadays, she holds court, revered around the globe.

The Reformation brought with it, soldiers to her door, those set only on pillaging, stripping her bare of gold and silver, smashing her decorative stone carvings, without warning. But neither war, nor famine, nor plague, could ever destroy her true beauty.

Come. Enter. Touch the ring of the sanctuary knocker on the low-framed medieval door in the north porch. Contemplate on the poor souls in medieval times, with their desperate plights, needing solace and refuge for thirty-seven days, when they, too, touched that very knocker.

Inside the church, naves seemingly invite you to sit, without thought of social standing, all denominations or colour; everyone is welcome here.

Come. Enter. Dignitaries, royal families, the homeless, asylum seekers, school children, scholars and tourists from around the world. All are welcome; all can seek solace.

Look up. Perpendicularly, elevated in the high walls, up, near the arched ceilings. Experience the finest stained-glass windows, with colours bursting forth as the sun illuminates, passing overhead, with swirls and flickers of rainbow colours.

Come and rest. Sit. Feel a soothing of your soul; something that transcends our understanding, a feeling of timelessness and eternity. Take your ease. Allow the magnificence of the stained-glass window to activate your senses.

Walk on. The Chancel awaits. Take time to contemplate William Shakespeare's final resting place. Observe the Peace of God; where we all, can remember, possibly, the greatest playwright of all times.



Dove of Peace
Stained glass

Samantha Jutel is a student at Hull University

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save THE DATE

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AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE

FROM 5-9PM
ON SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

(Cost circa £5 - to be confirmed)



SOCIAL
EVENTS

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

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



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 | liz@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 | David Harrison | 01789 612 634 | e-mail preferred - davidianharrison@hotmail.com |
| 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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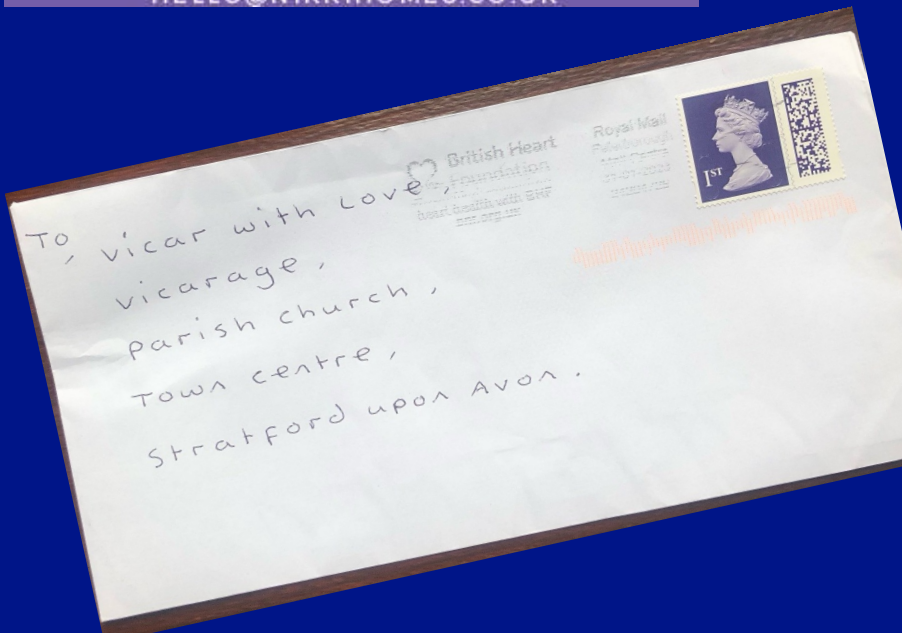


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We were saddened to hear of the death of
David Renfrew

Our thoughts and sympathies are with his
family and friends.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



This is a rather lovely letter I received. I don't know
who the sender is, but the postmark is
Peterborough.
Thank you Jonathan and may God bless you!
Patrick

