

June 2023

£1.50

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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

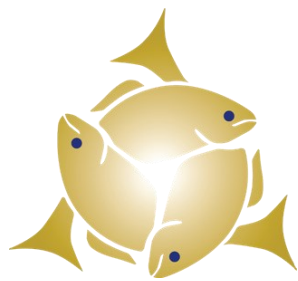


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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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 **July/August 2023** edition

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*Front cover :- Coronation Cake
made by Marie MacDougall*

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Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

How Do You Solve A Problem Like Religion?

In the weeks leading up to the coronation of King Charles III, I was intrigued by the various views expressed in the media about what was, for some, the surprisingly religious nature of the service. In the midst of all the debates, I found myself humming the tune to the song from the film *The Sound of Music*, *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?* Only, the lyrics in my head had become, *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Religion?* This is a question people are asking in Western liberal society today. The idea that we were going to inevitably become a more secular culture, with religion either dying out or being relegated to the private sphere, has proved to be a false assumption. Secularists made much of the fact that in the 2021 census those who describe themselves as Christians are now less than half of the population (46.2% nationally, although in the Stratford area it was still over half, at 58.6%). But what has often been overlooked is that **the majority of the population (63%) do still claim religious affiliation of some kind**. Religious faith is a reality in our communities and is not going away any time soon! This is backed up by a poll that has found that over the last four years, the number of people who believe in a God or some sort of spiritual greater power has been steadily rising, now standing at 52% (source: YouGov. *Brits' beliefs about God*).



What, then should we do about religion? A report called The Bloom Review (*Does government 'do God'?*) published ten days before the Coronation argues that it is important to ensure that those who work in our public services are better able to understand faith and people of faith. Indeed, I would argue that there is an urgent task to try to ensure that *everyone* in our society has a better comprehension of the nature of religious faith. It is especially important that we are able to discern what is good, authentic and healthy religious faith, and to distinguish this from the views of “make-believers”. This is the term Bloom uses to describe those who are often motivated by ego, money, prestige or power and abuse their position to promote themselves or their causes, clothing them with religion to give them divine legitimacy. “Make-believers are a problem,” concludes Bloom, “both for government and for the communities they claim to represent.”

In the song *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?* other nuns pitch in with their own views on their wayward sister, singing “When I’m with her I’m confused...She is gentle! She is wild! She’s a riddle! She’s a child! She’s a headache! She’s an angel!” I think that’s how many people experience religious faith: something confusing, sometimes a good thing (“the vicar did a lovely funeral for nan”) sometimes a headache (“I can’t be part of a religion that has allowed so much abuse”). The bottom line is that religion is here to stay whether we view it as a problem or not. Perhaps part of the call of Christians to be “salt and light” is to help our neighbours to understand better what religious faith of any kind is really like. We may sometimes feel we are trying to describe the indescribable or answer questions to which there is no simple response. But, like the final line of the song which asks “How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?” we are at least inviting others to be open to the life-changing, awe-inspiring presence of the God of love.

Patick

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR HOLY COMMUNION

In our Parish we offer children the opportunity to receive the bread and wine at Holy Communion before they are confirmed. We've been doing this for a few years and I'm pleased to say that after a Covid-size pause, I'm about to start the preparation classes for the next group.

Communion before Confirmation or First Communion, separates receiving communion for the first time and being confirmed (confirming your Christian faith for yourself). It's thought that children will look to be confirmed when they are older, from about the age of sixteen, at a time in their life when they are ready to make a lifelong commitment.

Normally children are aged seven or older to take part in the preparation. I'll meet with all the children being prepared for four sessions to discuss the different aspects of the Eucharist and their own personal journey of faith before the service, which will be on **Sunday 23 July**. Previously we have run the preparation sessions after the 10am Parish Eucharist, but we can see what works best for those who are interested. The sessions will begin mid-June.

If you think your child may be interested, or to find out more details, please let me know by emailing phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Our informal **Time Out Service** this month will be on **Sunday 18 June 4pm** in the Parish Centre. If you think of someone who may be interested, please let them know about this service. At our previous service we prepared for the King's coronation, with a selection of Prayer Stations as part of the service.

The service for Toddlers and their parents **Tots@Trinity** will this month be on **Wednesday 28 June 2pm** in Holy Trinity. We'll be starting to explore some of the stories Jesus told.

First Communion picture



Let The Little Children

Come to me

Matthew 19:14



Prayer Stations at the service



The band in full swing

Praying for King Charles as he takes his throne

Worship Notes June 2023



Sunday 4 June Trinity Sunday.

A special day at Holy Trinity as we mark our Patronal Festival. We shall also be commissioning members of the PCC and our Churchwardens for their ministry and duties in the parish over the coming year at the 10am service.

There is no 5pm service: instead we are joining with Churches Together in Stratford for a United Service at 3pm at the Methodist Church.

Sunday 11 June

We look forward to the Christening of Florence Bridges as part of the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity.

Sunday 18 June

At Holy Trinity we begin a series of services at 10am called "The Bible in Five Acts" with *Act One: Creation and Fall*

St. Helen's will hold its AGM after the 9.30am service.

Time Out informal service takes place in the Parish Centre at 4pm.

Sunday 25 June "The Bible in Five Acts" continues with *Act Two: Exodus and Kingdom*

This year our **Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)** will take place on **Wednesday 7 June, 10am at the Guild Chapel.**



APCM 14 May 2022

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

There were four nominations for Church Wardens to match four positions so Paul Lageu, Sherron Guise, Tim Raistrick and Helen Warrillow were duly elected. Patrick gave a vote of thanks for their work and support in the past year.

Mike Warrillow, the Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year which were supplied on line and in printed copies.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The documents for discussion have been made available for study to the congregation.

The Electoral Register has three hundred and fifty one listed persons.

A new Treasurer is being sought to train during the year, ready to take over next January.

Mike Warrillow was thanked for his considerable work as Treasurer over the last few years.

The new Parish Safeguarding Officer is Lynn Suter, with Paul Suter as Parish Safeguarding Administrator.

There were two nominees for two vacancies on the PCC so Sarah Paine and Lynn Suter were duly elected.

In the next few weeks all those on the Parish Database will receive an email requesting that they confirm their email addresses and their wish to receive the weekly Parish Bulletin.

James Sorel Cameron proposed a vote of thanks to Patrick for his work during the year. Patrick then thanked the Clergy Team, retired clergy and all the staff for their support.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

4 June - Trinity Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist - Patronal Festival

3pm - Churches Together - United Service at Methodist Church

Please note there is no 5pm service at Holy Trinity today.

11 June - Barnabas the Apostle

10am - Parish Eucharist - Christening of Florrie Bridges

5pm - Choral Evensong

18 June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Bible in Five Acts - Act 1: Creation and Fall

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

25 June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Act 2: Exodus and Kingdom

5pm - Choral Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

4 June - Trinity Sunday

9.30 - Morning Praise

18 June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion - AGM

All Saints' Church, Luddington

4 June - Trinity Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

11 June - Barnabas the Apostle

9.30 - Holy Communion

18 June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

25 June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



We were very sad to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Steve Newman in May. He was the editor of Trinity Times for many years and here members of Trinity Players pay tribute to him.

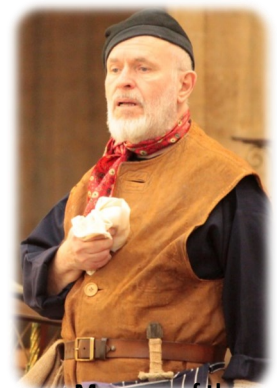


Towards the end of 2008 the Players were rehearsing our first full scale production, *Barchester Towers*. An important question in the Play is, 'Who will be the next Dean of Barchester?' It was an important question for us too as, the Play being full of Victorian clergymen, we didn't have another actor; then Steve and Hilary were discovered at a Welcome lunch. So, Steve joined us as Francis Arabin, who not only became Dean but married the heroine.

Ever self-deprecating, Steve maintained he was a director and writer, not an actor but Colin McDowall remembers that between 1994 and 1996, he, along with Steve and Tim Raistrick were among forty amateur thespians chosen by the RSC as extras for three plays which ran for some two-hundred performances – plenty of time waiting in the wings, for conversation and strong friendship to develop. Typically, Steve wrote a booklet about their experiences.

Prior to joining the Players Steve and another local director, ran the Bird of Prey Theatre Company and Pete Cubitt recalls: 'I first met Steve some twenty-five years ago. He introduced himself as a local writer, who had written a play about Walt Whitman, whom I hadn't heard of. He wanted me to play old Walt alongside a young actor, whom I had never met. This was so typical of the genius that was Steve; he believed that we could do it and through his positive gentle direction, brave writing and atmospheric staging, we all achieved something special. And so continued our amazing journey together via Genghis Kahn, the cheeky sergeant in *1914*, and Harrison, second in command to Oliver Cromwell. Val and I sang a duet in *1918* and danced as husband and wife in a Korean radio play, while the old soldier himself watched through tear filled eyes. Steve's plays took us on such emotional roller coasters.

He was also a talented actor and Val and I particularly remember his earthy butcher in *Message of the Cross*, and Chaplinesque Queen's butler in *THE BFG* doubling with harassed father on the phone to President Obama while wearing Hilary's dressing gown and shower cap. Steve was one of the funniest people I have ever met, and we will really miss his stream of surreal humour, the constant theme of our friendship.'



David and Jane Souheard also have reflected on Steve's many talents. 'We came to know Steve well through Trinity Players and through acts of worship. As a writer he always had an interesting perspective on a subject and as a director we found him thoughtful, encouraging, creative and good humoured. David enjoyed directing him in the part of Tom Snout, Wall in the Mechanical's Play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was always fun to act alongside Steve; like many of us, he wasn't great at remembering lines. But he always came up with something, even if it wasn't the line you were expecting!

Cont..

Ursula Russell remembers his stage sets, beautifully dressed by Hilary, and still marvels at photos of *Much Ado About Nothing* for which Steve borrowed a garden of trees and shrubs from Stratford Garden Centre. He was that blessing to any drama group: someone who was as valuable on-stage as back-stage.

David and Jane will always be grateful to Steve for his sensitivity and expertise in editing and publishing a book of poetry in memory of Jane's mother. From scraps of paper and many photographs emerged a beautiful book and a fitting tribute.'

In his time with the Players, Steve published *Walking with Words*, a selection of Pete Cubitt's poems and a trilogy of novels and poetry by Dallin Chapman. In fact, there was always something new and original in the pipeline. Before he left Stratford, Steve was experimenting with opera, performed during a meal at the Dirty Duck.

Steve's was a life well-lived, a modest, multi-talented man who believed in ordinary people and gave them the chance to do extraordinary things. His creative contribution to Stratford upon Avon and Holy Trinity Church is remembered and appreciated by all his friends in Trinity Players.

STEVE IN SOME OF HIS MANY ROLES

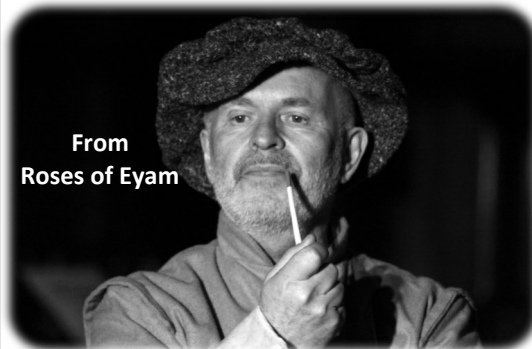


From
James and the Giant Peach

From
Unhand Me Squire



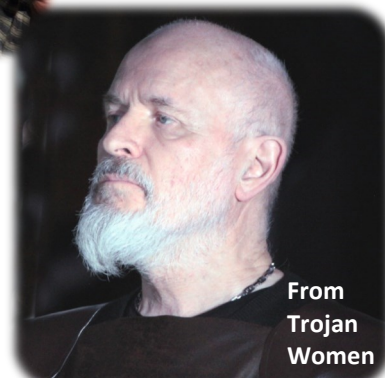
From
Andromeda



From
Roses of Eyam



From
Yes, Prime Minister



From
Trojan
Women

The Shakespeare Sermon, 23 April 2023

by Paul Edmondson

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Zephaniah 3:14-21.

‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

We’re gathered this morning from near and far to give thanks to God for the genius of William Shakespeare, for his life in this town, and for all that he has come to mean and continues to mean to many different cultures, ages, and life experiences.



We’re gathered here today, mindful that this year marks two quarter-centenaries. It’s the 400th anniversary of the publication of most of Shakespeare, in a volume now known as the First Folio, and, importantly for us this morning, it is the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare’s wife, Anne,

who outlived him by seven years, a widow in Shakespeare’s large, family home, New Place. They had their own New Place pew in this church, on the south side, close to the pulpit, which used to be just in front of that central arch.

‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

Those words from the prophet Zephaniah look forward to a renewal of being, of becoming, a renewal of culture, a renewal of home, a homecoming after the exile and enslavement of the Jewish people. From our Christian perspective Zephaniah’s words sing of the joy of Easter, of new life, liberation, and of the promise of life after death through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who reassures us of God’s love for us, and who calls us home. Anne Shakespeare’s epitaph sets forth the hope of Easter, too. It is thought to have been written by her daughters, Susanna and Judith, and is a poem in Latin: ‘O Christ, come quickly, that my mother, even though shut in the tomb may rise again and seek the stars!’ This was the faith of the Shakespeare family; Easter was their inheritance, and ours. We are going to hear those words sung in a moment, the world premiere of our Shakespeare Birthday anthem, composed by Ariana Pethard of King Edward’s Sixth School, ‘Shakespeare’s School.’

Anne Shakespeare, Shakespeare’s wife, the mother of their three children, Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith, was the anchor in Shakespeare’s life. By the age of thirty-three Shakespeare had been able to establish himself and his family in the largest house in the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, New Place, virtually next door to the school he had attended and the guild hall from which the town was run. Anne Shakespeare was very much the mistress of New Place, and a prominent woman about the town. Although Shakespeare was often in London, he needed his mainstay, his wife. He wanted his family home, New Place – with between twenty and thirty rooms – a place of retreat, a writer’s house, an escape from the plague outbreaks in London, and when the theatres were closed, a place in which to dream. Anne’s quarter-centenary is also being marked by a collection of poems which re-imagine her. *Anne-thology: Poems Re-presenting Anne Shakespeare* published by Broken Sleep Books includes sixty-seven new poems, one for each year of her life. Anne was financially able, oversaw and ran the household, made sure the children were being properly brought up while their father was away, and – importantly – gave Shakespeare her love. He commuted between Stratford-upon-Avon and London, a three-day journey on horseback. Anne was an important part of his homecoming.

‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

Love is rather like homecoming, isn't it? Love calls us back to a place which feels familiar, a place that touches our inner-most self, a place of hope, a place of strength, a place from which we know we will be able to cope. For many years, Shakespeare has been part of my own sense of homecoming, one of the resources, along with my Christian faith, from which I can draw strength. I first came to Stratford-upon-Avon on a school-trip to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We were all thrilled with it. The following week, I brought my mother and my sister to Stratford-upon-Avon. We visited the Birthplace. It felt like a homecoming. Stratford-upon-Avon has now been the place I call home for twenty-eight years.

The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

Shakespeare, one of the greatest of love poets, sets forth many expressions of love – in his plays, yes – and most especially in many of his sonnets, which set forth love's endeavour through expressing love's power as well as love's pain. Each sonnet – because of the inevitability of its form – is like a mini-homecoming. We know it will end with a rhyming couplet. Famously we find the name of Shakespeare himself in some of the sonnets. Sonnet 134 ends with the phrase ‘for my name is Will.’ Sonnet 145 contains a reference to Anne Shakespeare's maiden-name, which transforms the phrase ‘I hate’ – the focus of the poem – in to ‘hate away’, or ‘Hathaway’. Anne turns a sonnet of despondency and imagined rejection into a love poem. She calls Shakespeare home, back to a place of loving, an ever-familiar, and ever-new place.

Think of your own homes for a moment. Think of the many moods of love that run through an ordinary, working week, love's power and pain. Think of the laughter, the appreciation of food and of each other; think of the trying to make ends meet – financially, emotionally – think of the sulks, the daily rejections, the squabbles, the vying for position. Think of the tears, think of what endures and survives the tears. The Shakespeares knew all of that, too, because to relate to each other whatever we face and however we are feeling is simply to be human. But to love and to go on loving, is to be open to the divine, open to God. One of the reasons why Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* is so popular is because it presents an ordinary family story – albeit the Shakespeare family's – about the death of a child, Hamnet Shakespeare, who died aged eleven, and makes that story extraordinary with intimations of immortality.

‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

In his portrayals of human feelings and emotions, Shakespeare can remind us of *our* immortality. It was my privilege to take part in a special on-line gathering back in February called Shakespeare Shelter. Around fifty Shakespeare scholars from around the world met in solidarity with Shakespearians in Ukraine. We listened to their experiences of war; we heard about how they draw strength and support from Shakespeare, from readings and performances – all of which expressed a yearning for peace and freedom. – and we made donations. We have two Shakespearians from Ukraine here this morning. Professors Natalya Torkut and Maya Harbuzyuk. We thank you and bless you. We pray for peace. Thank you for coming ‘home’, to Stratford-upon-Avon, to toast the Immortal Memory of William Shakespeare, who is one of your ways of coping. And on St George's Day, who is your patron saint, too: *Slava Ukrayayni! Heroiam Slava! ‘Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!’*

‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

Love, as we have just acknowledged, is many-mooded, multi-faceted. Sonnet 116 that we heard a moment ago mentions a ‘marriage of true minds’, Anne and William’s perhaps. The sonnet says that love can look ‘on tempests and is never shaken’ and that love does not alter over time. In fact, our earthly loves do change. The best of marriages, partnerships and relationships grow and evolve. They might become stronger, or they might become weaker, and fall apart. In contrast to Sonnet 116 we also heard the jokey and realistic Sonnet 138:

When my love swears that she is made of truth
I do believe her, though I know she lies.

This sonnet ends with the couple acknowledging that there are enabling fictions on both sides of the relationship, even at the point when they both climb into bed:

Therefore I lie with her, and she with me,
And in our faults by lies we flattered be.

Love expresses itself in many ways and each way declares to us that it is important for us to love as we can, not as we can’t. Somehow I find it easy to imagine that that Anne wrote poetry about William, too.

We cannot know the quality of William and Anne Shakespeare’s love. His bequeathing her the ‘second-best bed’ was both a legal shorthand to ensure that she inherited and maintained her full rights as a widow, *and* an automatic souvenir of their love. The ‘second-best bed’ was the marriage bed, the place of love-making and conception. So let us suppose that their relationship of what Sonnet 116 calls ‘true minds’- and which is imagined as physically embodied in Sonnet 138 – could indeed admit impediments and imperfections, and that throughout their thirty-four-year marriage, Anne was part of what Shakespeare called home, and the part of him that called *him* home.

The Christian message is that God loves us however we are able to love, and that God’s love for us – which will always be greater than we can understand – is always there for us, calling us home. Love, both divine, and imperfectly human, is where we find our homecoming.

Articulated by Shakespeare through some of the greatest poetry ever written, the love that surrounds us – both divine and human – is worth celebrating every day of our lives. That is why I am able to say that Shakespeare is part of my ‘second scripture’ because his works form part of how I try understand who I am and how I try to understand the world about me. But even Shakespeare’s great expressions of love are only refractions of a much greater light. The Christian faith calls us to live out our life as though we are living out the greatest of all love poems, and one which feels like home: ‘The Lord your God will renew you in his love [...] at that time I will bring you home.’

Alleluia, and thank you – for Anne and William Shakespeare.

Amen.

Paul Edmondson

**Professor Michael Dobson and
Rev Paul Edmondson with the
Ukrainian visitors at the end of the
Shakespeare Service.**

Photograph by George Reah



SHAKESPEARE SERVICE 23 APRIL 2023

Photographs by George Reah



Ariana Pethard, KES pupil and composer of 2023 Shakespeare Anthem [words from Anne Hathaway's epitaph].



Alex Gaumond



Obioma Ugoala singing "Sigh No More Ladies"



Rose Riley reading a selection from 'Hamnet'

THE GRAVE OF
ANNE
THE WIFE OF
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
1556 - 1623

THE GRAVE
OF THE POET
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
1564-1616

Window on the World



A few weeks ago, the news was full of the relationship between Government Ministers and their civil servants. As someone with a Whitehall background, I found the whole episode – of alleged bullying and lack of co-operation – quite upsetting.

This is not a political point; I remember one or two Ministers of a different party who had similar problems! But it raises some big issues.

Our Government is elected by us. Civil servants – whose political neutrality has been guaranteed, since Victorian times, by the appointments process – are therefore duty bound to serve the Government by carrying out Ministers' proposals, which of course may change dramatically if a different party is elected. But they also have a duty to "test to destruction" those proposals. And most Ministers recognise this - or they used to. I remember one with whom I worked in the 1980s, who was notoriously dogmatic – but, if he was advised that a proposal was unworkable, or cut across other policies, or maybe even was not consistent with the rule of law, he listened. And sometimes he changed his mind (I vividly recall one case in which I helped him to change it!) He was a very strong-minded person indeed, but he was no bully. And his civil servants respected him, and, I believe, gave of their best.

These ideals, of political neutrality and co-operation, were maybe easier in the days when all politicians, and all civil servants, were upper-middle-class white males who had been to the same schools and universities – and therefore shared much the same assumptions about values, even if they disagreed about particular policies. Today, our society, and the machinery of government, is much more diverse. As I said in my last column in a different context, diversity can be a most enriching thing. But it comes with a cost. It needs real effort to make any society work when shared assumptions and values are so much less in evidence.

All this may seem pretty irrelevant to most of my readers. But the same issues can arise in any organisation – a workplace, a club, or even the Church – where there are "leaders" and those who have to carry out their decisions. All those who have power face the same temptations in using it, and may say or do things which could be seen as bullying or at least insensitive. All who have to carry out their instructions may be tempted to give less than their best in implementing visions and policies with which they do not fully agree. True leadership involves, not forcing people to do your will, but imparting a vision and getting people to share it.

We are all sinful human beings, and attempts to live up to such an ideal will often fail. There seems to be an increasing need for things like codes of conduct and systems of appeal (even in the Church) to remind all of us of what used to be called "civilised" values. Sometimes, disciplinary action may be needed, and that is particularly hard for Christians who are taught about the primacy of forgiveness. But, even if such things happen, we still belong together. St Paul's vision of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) points to a community in which those who exercise leadership in particular areas, with very different gifts, and those who work with or under them, can learn to stay and grow together. We surely need to pray that such a vision will spread more widely in our machinery of government and in the whole of our society.

FROM THE REGISTERS - MAY 2023

CHRISTENINGS

14 May Ruby Bradshaw

WEDDINGS

13 May Darren Evans and Victoria Harrison
26 May Samuel Hall and Alexandria Mooney

FUNERALS

3 May Veronica Maureen Thorniley
3 May Denis Wager
9 May Derrick Payne
9 May Maureen Patricia Bourne
10 May Catherine Margaret Argyle [known as Margaret]
24 May Stella Carter



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 7 June. 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 shall 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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John and Tricia Hall-Matthews celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 20 April with a renewal of vows in St Peter's chapel.



TRINITY LADIES

In June we will be having a talk about the work of the Coventry City Mission. This organisation works with the poor and those in need in Coventry. At this present time with the cost of living being so high their work is more important than ever. We had a talk about their work a few years ago and it was extremely interesting to hear how much the people of Coventry value their work. Please come and support this very worthy organisation. If any gentlemen would like to come and hear this talk they will be very welcome.

In July we are giving ourselves a treat. We have arranged for Mr Barry Jukes, a well known local singer, to come and entertain us before we enjoy a strawberry and cream tea together. There will not be a charge for this event but if when you come in and put your £1 in the pot you could put a bit more in this would help to pay for the strawberries etc. I do hope that as many of you as possible will come to this tea party.

We will have a break in August and meet again in September and Tina Allen, our speakers' Secretary, has a very interesting programme arranged for us. As from September our group will be called *Trinity Fellowship* and we hope that gentlemen will feel welcome to join us with our new inclusive name.

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

Gina Lodge
Chair.

RINGING FOR THE CORONATION

It was an honour and a privilege for the bellringers from Holy Trinity and St Helen's to ring on Saturday 6 May to commemorate the Coronation at Westminster Abbey of their majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

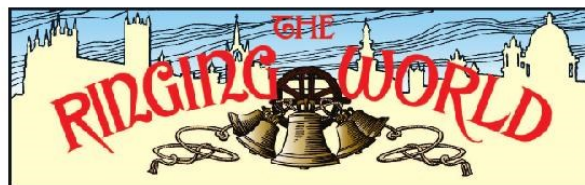
A moment in history and something that ringers across the country participated in, alongside all the newly taught ringers who have been committed to practising week by week in villages and towns across the UK to be ready for the big day as part of the 'Ring of the King' initiative. A great achievement!

And with one voice, we acclaim, "God Save the King".



Bellringers from Holy Trinity Church

Photograph by Charles Wilson



Coventry Diocesan Guild

On Saturday, 6 May 2023

HolyTrinity Stratford Upon Avon

240 Call Changes

Call changes on 10 Bells including Kings and Queens

Charles Wilson	Malcolm Peters
Jennifer Winslow	Mark Sayers
Vicky McCarthy	Jane Wright
Alan Petterson	Bill Wright
Jo Langford	Richard Eden
Marion Mitchell	Andrew Martin
Rhod Mitchell	Philip Woolvin

Rung to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation

Ringling for the King at St Helen's

The village heard some joyful bell ringing at St Helen's on Coronation morning when the Clifford Ringers joined the national 'Ring for the King' initiative. It was followed by a massive 'whoop' in the tower from the ringers following their tidy 'peal' and clean finish!

Some of the team then headed up to St James Snitterfield and rang a similar series of 'changes'. They have developed a useful relationship there, boosting Snitterfield numbers whilst gaining valuable experience.

The St Helen's team is grateful to Mark Sayers of Holy Trinity (and recent Ringing Master of Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers) for his patient teaching that has now lasted eighteen months. It is very unusual to take on seven novices at once (normally it would be just one or two!) but the experience has been positive whilst gradual. Some of the regulars from Holy Trinity have joined in and helped as well. Their repertoire has developed from rounds through simple called changes, and they are currently working on simple 'methods'.

The photo taken at St Helen's tower shows (left to right): Andrew Martin, Sally Abell, Mark Sayers, Linda Casement, Phil Woolvin, Pat Woolvin, Sam Dixon and Michelle Heisch (front).



CORONATION SPECIAL by Graham Wilcox

About seventy of us gathered in the parish centre on 6 May to watch the coronation on a large screen. It was a real festive occasion with people exchanging their impressions of the day and the hall decorated in patriotic and royal bunting which had been made by the children of Holy Trinity primary school. After the service there was a super bring and share lunch with masses of food. It was all much better than sitting at home watching it on our own. Thanks are due to the social team and Chris Cottrell for organising this memorable event on a memorable day.



CROWNING OF THE "BOY KING" OLIVER JUPE

Sunday 7 May 2023



With the mayor of Stratford
Gill Cleeve



Putting on the cloak



Receives orb and sceptre



With Patrick



Sceptre, orb and crown

Photographs by George Reah

FACES IN THE CROWD
Shakespeare Procession on Saturday 22 April 2023



By Harry Lomax



By Harry Lomax



By Harry Lomax



FLORAL TRIBUTES
from Shakespeare Procession Saturday 22 APRIL 2023



By Harry Lomax

By Harry Lomax

SHAKESPEARE SERVICE 23 APRIL 2023

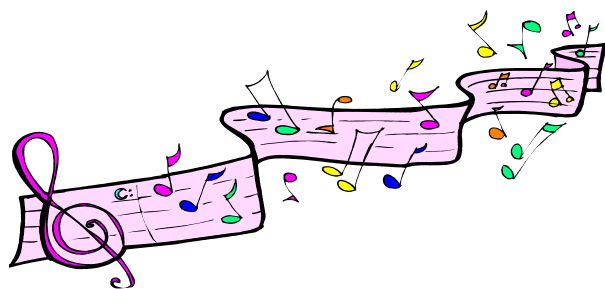
Photographs by Harry Lomax



SOUNDBITES

7 June Amelia Parkin piano
14 June KES year 10 musicians
21 June Simon Watterton piano
28 June RBC voice and piano

Sandwiches and drinks available to purchase from 12.15pm
Recital starts at 1pm



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SKITTLES & BBQ

Come and join the Summer fun
and games for all ages
FROM 5-9PM
ON SATURDAY 10TH JUNE
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE

Please sign up by Monday 5th June
using the link on the e-bulletin
or the QR code

Cost £5
per person

SOCIAL EVENTS

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

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

£5 ticket includes 1 hot dog, 1 burger(veggie option available), plus a choice of salads and desserts. Bring your own drinks. Numbers limited: book early to avoid disappointment

Visitor Welcome Experience

Since February the church has once again been welcoming visitors daily and we have seen many people come to visit our beautiful church building but also attend for a time of quiet reflection and prayer and to see Shakespeare's grave.

Numbers have varied but at weekends and peak holidays numbers can be as high as seven-hundred plus in one day; of which approximately half will pay to walk through to see Shakespeare's grave.

The thirteen Visitor Welcome Assistants are all enjoying their role. They work collaboratively sharing their vast wealth of knowledge and skills to ensure that within each session they strive to create the best experience for all visitors, and they say how wonderful it is to work in a place that is so calm and peaceful.

The depth of their knowledge, not only of Shakespeare but of the church building, often astounds me and during the few quiet periods we have they are often reading up on more factual information to enhance their own learning, that is after sweeping the floor, tidying the pews and undertaking the many more jobs that are always around.

We always strive to promote a positive and warm welcome to all visitors into the church and share how it is a place of worship for the community of Stratford.

I think this is clearly felt by many as we receive so much feedback about how wonderful the church building is, not just about the architecture and history but having a feeling of peace and a sense of God's presence.

Each day we have no idea who will walk through the door –it can range from a school visit with fifty pupils full of excitement and interesting questions, to a homeless person looking for support and guidance. We have also seen many Ukraine families come into church who are overwhelmed when seeing the Ukraine prayer station. Speaking with a mother, through her young teenage daughter translating for her, she shared that her son is still fighting in the war and how precious it was to kneel and pray in the church. Whatever the need the team sensitively offer support and make time for all.

John shared how he loves to show groups of primary children around the church, capturing their imagination. The children absorb the information and then are full of wonderful and interesting questions. He said it is such a rewarding part of the job to see the children engaged and excited about their trip to the church.

Rosie often tells me that every day she learns something new or is asked a question she has to go and find an answer to. Only the other day she was asked why is there a round hole in one the corners of the Misericords? Rosie said she laughed and quickly replied perhaps to hold a bottle of wine, but then went on a hunt to find someone who may know the answer.

The team regularly share between themselves any new information that comes to light, this often coming from visitors who have a wealth of knowledge and anecdotes to share. Their role of the visitor welcome assistants extends to stewarding at funerals, weddings, and school services, this has been a new experience for some, but all recognise the importance and sensitivity required when involved in supporting these occasional offices for the family and friends who attend.

Cont...

Visitor Welcome Experience cont...

The past three months have passed very quickly, but we are constantly reflecting on how we can still further improve the visitor experience, especially around managing large tour groups which can be a challenge and looking at improving communication for those with a different first language to name just a few things.

Before finishing I must mention and thank all the Volunteers, Lay Chaplains and those working in the church shop who bring so much more to enhance the visitor welcome experience and support to the Visitor Welcome Assistants.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to be part of this new venture and I look forward to the busy summer and all that it brings.

Liz Marshall
Operations Manager



Diane, Rosie, Alison and Susan



Jeremy talking to a visitor



Sarah and Pam



The Misericord's Wine-rack!

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NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

Our thanks to all of you who came to see our Easter Play, *Witnesses*, one of the Holy Week Services, and to *Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare*.

Your generous donations at both, enabled us to give £350 to the Bible Gift Fund.

There was such a large audience for *Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare* that some of you who do not find it so easy to hear without amplification, were seated almost at the west door. We apologise for this. Please do come again next year and we will ensure that you are seated at the front where there was plenty of space!

The Holy Trinity Mystery Plays

November 21, 22, 23, 25 Matinée.

Trinity Players will stage a selection of Plays from across the four great cycles of Mystery Plays telling stories from The Creation to The Nativity.

There is nothing mysterious about the Plays. The name comes from the fact that each short play was performed by local merchants or tradesmen from the craft guilds who referred to their specific skill as a 'mystery'

Since one of the four surviving great cycles is from Coventry and was still being performed into the late 1560s, it is likely that the good folk of Stratford would have been well aware of them in Shakespeare's Day. We look forward to seeing you.

Ursula Russell: urussell93@outlook.com



ADVERTISE HERE

This could be your advertisement in Trinity Times

COFFEE, CAKE AND SHAKESPEARE
Friday 21 April 2023



David White bringing birthday cake



Readers from Trinity Players: Mark Spriggs; Margot McCleary; Tim Raistrick; Ursula Russell; Paige Calvert; Ellie Waters.

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.powell@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	Lynn Suter		
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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A lady from Windsor asked me to pass along her thanks to those who pray and are involved with the Prayer Requests. She has visited the church over many years, and left requests during some particularly difficult times. She feels the prayers have been a great help and support to her. She wanted to say thank you.

Pamela Anson

We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Steve Newman, a long term member of our congregation who moved away a little while ago. His funeral is on 21 May at his new home church in Lancashire.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Anyone fancy learning Ceilidh or Scottish Dancing on Thursday evening 7.30pm.
Refreshments mid time.

Contact Sarah on:- 07950 827 753

We are looking for a new design editor for the magazine.

If you are interested please contact Patrick Taylor at :
vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org