

October 2023

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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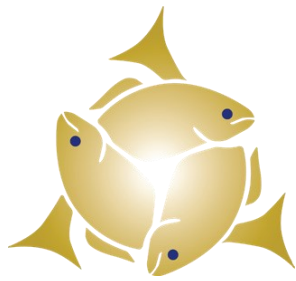


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



Editor - Revd Patrick Taylor

Design Editor - Felicity Howlett

Features Editor - Judith Dorricott

Associate Editor - Anthony Woollard

Subscriptions & Distribution - Paul Lageu and

Carole Askew

Advertising - tba

PCC Representative - Jane Armitage

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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

November 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.

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timestrinity@gmail.com

For any questions regarding the distribution of

Trinity Times please contact:

Paul Lageu [07434 328 484] or

paulageu@hotmail.co.uk

#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



*Front cover:- Harvest flowers at St Helen's Church
Clifford Chambers*

Holy Trinity Team



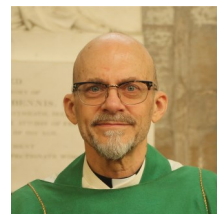
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Revd Thomas Powell
Curate



Revd Emma Harrington
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

HARVEST TIME AGAIN

I find Harvest a fascinating festival as it seems to be constantly evolving. The origins in our country come from a time when the whole community would have been involved in



How Harvest used to be done.

harvesting the crops. People's livelihoods for the year would be made or lost at this time. But as the world evolved to machine harvesting, the festival became more focused on the produce grown in a back garden or allotment. Leading to our modern harvest festival, that idea seems to be the antithesis of the original festival, asking people to bring in tins and packets for the Food Bank, and to avoid fresh produce. Yet the heart of the festival has remained the same: to give thanks to God for the food we

have. It may have been grown, harvested, processed and packaged by someone else but we are still thankful that the food is there for us to buy.

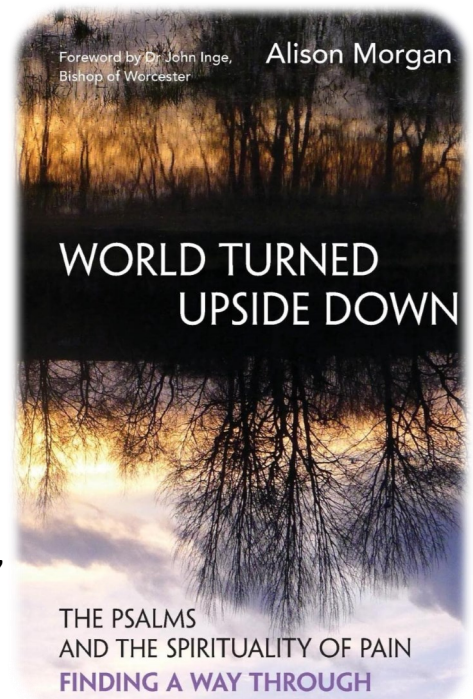
I think there is something more to Harvest. As we move away from personal engagement with the natural world and producing the food, I find the re-engagement with parts of the harvest traditions fascinating. Lammas (when the first wheat cut is made into a loaf to be used in Holy Communion) seems to have become more popular as a festival. The Stratford Town Trust hold a Lammas Day celebration at the Guild Chapel. In Christian circles, as people develop more expressions of worship in nature, people are re-engaging with the Celtic Spirituality focusing on the solstices and other times in the year.

It seems that the further our lives move away from nature the more our hearts and minds long to reconnect. As the climate emergency develops, we become more aware of not just what we have to lose, but that creation is more than food, water and air – our basic survival. But that in creation is where we are at home and can be closer to our creator.

I was recently at a Festival of Prayer at my old Almer Mater, Ripon Theological College, near Oxford, or at least my Almer Mater by proxy having lived there for two years when my Dad was training to be a Vicar. One of the sessions I attended was led by Alison Morgan called "Taking the Psalms out of doors". As part of her talk, she described how God can speak to us through his creation, a language often explored in the Psalms. Her book *World Turned Upside Down* is worth a read. It made me aware that the less time we spend in creation, the further we become from God.

"World Turned Upside Down"
By Alison Morgan

Cont...



I'm currently exploring starting an expression of Forest Church in Holy Trinity churchyard. I've been reading about different forms of outside worship and the overarching theme is that this is not something new but returning to our roots. One person highlights that when people talk about the 'Wow' moments and feeling closest to God, their description often isn't from sitting in a church building, but out in nature as the sun breaks through the trees



The Wow moment.

on a cold frosty morning, or the view from the top of a hill with the whole world seemingly spread out in front.

Harvest is more than giving thanks, it is a reminder of nature and most importantly nature we were created to be amongst. As is written in Paul's Epistle to the Romans "Ever since God created the world, his invisible

qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made." (Romans 1.20). If we do not notice the things God has made, we are not likely to notice God either.

What better way to thank God for the harvest than to spend some time in God's creation and who knows what you may hear.

Blessings

Phil



God in Creation.



Worship Notes



The season of **Harvest Festivals** is upon us. All Saints' enjoyed their festival service on 24 September and there will be special services at **St. Helen's on 1 October at 9.30am and Holy Trinity on 8 October at 10am**. Donations for the Stratford Food Bank will be welcomed at these services - please see the weekly bulletin for details on the sorts of items required. As we bring food and give thanks to God for the food we have to eat, we also consider how we can offer all of our lives to God, our spiritual and physical routines and actions.

We are starting a new series of sermons looking at the basics of the Bible at the 10am Parish Eucharist. The dates and themes are as follows:

15 October **Origins of the Bible** (Preacher: the Rev. Patrick Taylor)

22 October **Translations of the Bible** (Preacher: the Rev. Thomas Powell)

29 October (Bible Sunday) **How to Read the Bible** (Preacher: David Harrison, Reader)

All Souls-tide services

All Souls' Day is 2 November. At **All Saints' on 29 October** there will be a Service for the Departed at 5pm where we will remember those whom we have loved but who have died. A similar service will take place at **Holy Trinity on 5 November at 5pm**. If you are coming to the service at Holy Trinity and would like the name of a loved one read out, please let the Parish Office know in advance.

Patrick

THE MYSTERY PLAYS



Plays were shared between towns and constantly revised; rhyme schemes and metres changing within a cycle. I have worked across all extant Plays to produce a script from Creation to the Nativity which will, I trust, communicate to a modern audience without losing too much of the charm of the originals. Spectacle was a major feature in the Middle Ages and though we do not have the resources backing many modern adaptations, James Willetts is filming *The Creation* and a small team of actors, singers and musicians will bring one of the chief glories of late medieval literature to life in Holy Trinity Church on November 21,22,23,25.

Ursula Russell

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

1 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Healing for the Soul 3: Receiving God's Peace

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

8 October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Harvest Festival

5pm - Choral Evensong

15 October - 19th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Origins of the Bible

5pm - Taize

22 October - 20th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Translations of the Bible

5pm - Choral Evensong

29 October - Bible Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist - How to read the Bible

5pm - Evensong with Ministry of Healing



St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

1 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Harvest Morning Praise

15 October - 19th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

1 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

8 October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

15 October - 19th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

22 October - 20th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

29 October - Bible Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

5pm - Service for the Departed





BEING A BLESSING TO ALL

It was wonderful to begin the new school year once again with our Blessing of the Bags Service. School, work and daily bags were blessed for the work that will be done with them. In the Creative Corner there was a hive of activity making tags to attach to the blessed bags reminding us to “Be loved, be kind, be you.” A message I’m sure will be taken into all the work that will be done in the coming year.

As you’ll have read in my earlier editorial, I’m planning to start a Forest/outdoor church in Holy Trinity churchyard, with the possibility of it being done as part of Stratford Churches Together. If you are interested in being part of an organising team, or would be interested in attending such a service, please get in touch with me



(phil@stratford-upon-avon.org) as it will help to shape what such a service may look like.

I’m continuing to try our monthly Tots@Trinity service for toddlers at the new time of 10:30am, which should avoid nap time. In October our service will be on Wednesday 18th, inside St Peter’s chapel. If you know of a parent with toddler who’d be interested, please let them know. We’re starting at the beginning with some well known stories from the Old Testament.

Phil Harper

Tots@Trinity 

Weds 18th October

10:30am

Holy Trinity Church
(in St Peter’s Chapel)

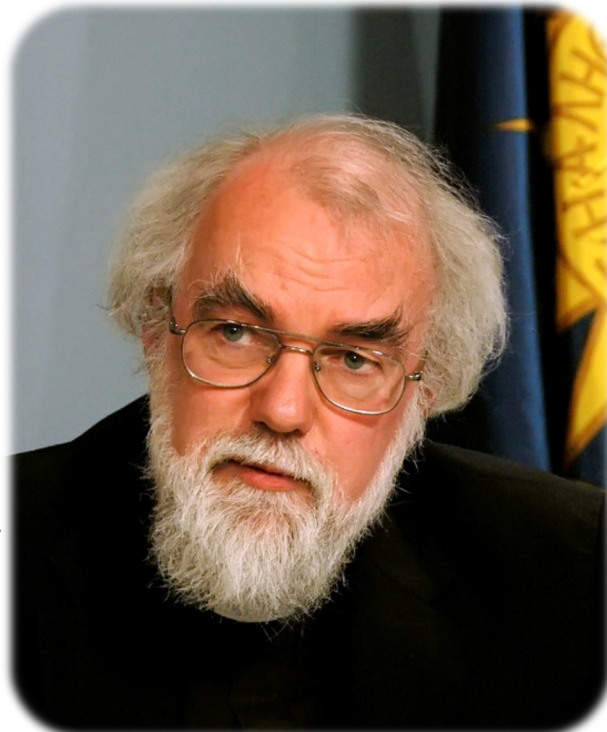
Craft **Prayers**

Bible Story **Songs**




Rowan Williams Lecture

Rowan Williams was the Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002-2012, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge from 2013-2020, and is Baron Williams of Oystermouth. He holds many distinguished honours.



Rowan Williams is one of the greatest spiritual leaders of our time, and happens really to like Shakespeare and Stratford-upon-Avon. He has worshipped at Holy Trinity Church, taken part in services, and contributed to public discussions hosted by The Royal Shakespeare Company. He gave the Shakespeare Sermon in 2006. His play *Shakeshafte*, about Shakespeare and religion, was performed by the Trinity Players. His book, *The Tragic Imagination*, draws on Shakespeare. Since 2014 he has co-led the three-day annual Shakespeare retreat at Cumberland Lodge, in Windsor Great Park (the next of these, based on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, takes place from 2-5 January 2024). Last year he published an article on the theology of *The Merchant of Venice* and took part in public readings of the plays in *Shakespeare's Coming Home!* in the Town Hall. Like Shakespeare, Williams is also a poet. His poem 'Anne Opens the First Folio' was published this spring in *Anne-thology: Poems Re-presenting Anne Shakespeare*.

He returns to Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 12 October to give the Annual Lecture for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, a series which was inaugurated last year. Shakespeare wrote quite a lot about royal authority, what makes a good or a bad ruler. Williams's lecture, 'Good Kings, Bad Kings: Shakespeare on Power and Authority' will look at some of Shakespeare's examples of good and bad governing and ask: what might we learn from him about political ethics?

Tickets are £15.00 and are available via this, or on the night: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofshakespeareschurch> The event starts at 7.30 p.m. (doors open from 7.00 p.m.) and ends at 9.00 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

“You should become a vicar”

These surprising words were said to Emma Harrington, our new curate, by her husband Richard four years ago. Their family was on holiday and they were discussing a career move for her. Emma originally smiled at the idea but the thought stayed with her and she began to contemplate a complete change in her life, which has now brought her to Holy Trinity Church.

But how did Emma progress from a village near Hinckley, Leicestershire to her new position? Emma has always been a committed Christian and was confirmed in her early teens at Leicester Cathedral. After school, Emma studied economics and international politics at Warwick University, where she met Richard, who was studying physics there.

From Warwick, Emma joined Jaguar Land Rover on their graduate scheme, where she spent many years in the marketing and sales departments. She worked happily at JLR for fifteen years, with her job offering her the added excitement of travelling round the world for the firm. Emma then moved to the charity REALL, based in Coventry, where she was responsible for communications and business development. Again this involved a great deal of travel to Africa and Asia as the charity concentrates on helping to provide affordable housing to people in developing countries.

Once Emma had decided to explore the possibility of curacy, she left REALL, and started the discernment process to enter the church. While this was happening she worked for the diocese of Coventry, became a voluntary hospital chaplain and then trained part-time at St. Mellitus College in Leicester.

Emma’s first placement in training was at St. Peter’s Church in Hillfields, where she stayed for two years until she was ordained deacon in Coventry Cathedral this summer. Emma describes the parish as a ‘melting pot’ in this vibrant but deprived area, with many immigrants and asylum seekers. St. Peter’s Church offers services in different languages including Spanish and even Farsi, and provides a community kitchen feeding over one hundred of its poorer parishioners each week.

Once ordained, Emma joined the clergy at Holy Trinity Church where she has been impressed by the warmth and hospitality shown to her. As full time ministers are recommended to live within their parish, this meant a move from Coventry to Stratford for the family but Richard and Lauren travel to King Henry VIII School in Coventry every day. Emma really enjoys the bustle of our church and appreciates that there needs to be a balance between the church and tourism. She reminds me that tourists have spiritual needs as well as members of the congregation.

While in Stratford, Emma hopes to learn as much as possible about the running of a church and she loves the variety of work here, saying that, as a member of the clergy, it is a privilege to walk with people both through the special moments and difficult times in their lives. Being available to give support is an important part of a priest’s role and in Stratford, Emma feels, poverty and struggles can be hidden so it is difficult to notice who is ill, lonely or depressed.

Cont...

"You should become a vicar" cont...

Choral music is a great love of Emma's but she enjoys all types of music, particularly sharing her daughter's current love of Taylor Swift!

Emma certainly had a baptism of fire on her arrival here in July, as she was closely involved in Bishop John Stroyan's farewell eucharist, held at Holy Trinity Church. She says that she was honoured to be asked to be his deacon for the service, but it was a great responsibility as the occasion was extremely well-attended with over four hundred people in church, plus refreshments being provided afterwards. I suggested to Emma that this occasion could be seen as a dress-rehearsal for the many well-attended services the church offers over Christmas.

Judith Dorricott



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Valued Volunteer



My name is Felicity Howlett and I have had many volunteering roles at Holy Trinity Church.

I was born in Kenya, East Africa. My father had no religion at all and my mother was a Buddhist so I grew up not having any real religion. I went to a convent school and so some of their beliefs rubbed off on me. I left Nairobi when I was nineteen in a heat wave and arrived in this country in a blizzard! By the time my mother had taken me to Marks and Spencer I looked like Mrs Michelin Man!

I went to Teacher Training College in Cheltenham, and eventually married a man in the air force. It was whilst I was married that I read a book called *“Nine O’clock in the Morning”* and from then on became a Christian. We moved around a lot, got divorced and I finally ended up teaching in Norfolk. From there I eventually made my way to Stratford and have lived here (with only one blip) ever since.

I first went to Holy Trinity Church because it was so open and friendly. The lovely Jan Craven told me about their house group where I met Andrea Blood and from then on I stayed with the church.

At Holy Trinity I have been a church warden, a sidesperson, helped set up the Hospitality Teas with Ursula Russell (before we had the lovely kitchen so things were a little more fraught), helped with the Baptisms, been a service reader and reader of the King James Bible, set up the Knit and Natter group and the Walkabout Nativity with Andrea, done displays at the back of the church, given tours around the church and lastly have been the design editor for the magazine.

We are now looking for someone to take over from me as I am stepping down. The task needs someone who is able to make the magazine look good. Setting pages to look balanced and interesting or adding some photographs to make the magazine look attractive. No particular computer skills are needed as training can be given. I knew nothing about it when I took it on. I told the church I would be happy to do it but did not even have Publisher! Andy Winter got the programme for me and put it onto my computer (I have made a back up flash drive) and Phil Harper took time out of his busy schedule to give me all the training I needed. So, it is just a question of being sent the stuff and organising it into the magazine.

I hope that this has given you an idea of who I am and what my volunteering roles have been in the church. If you can come forward as design editor (or the magazine will fold after the November and December/January issues) then please see Patrick. Do not worry if you feel that you know nothing. I felt exactly the same but after being taught how to do it I have really enjoyed my time on the magazine.



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AT ST HELEN'S

Sunday 10 September saw a special afternoon service in St Helen's, Clifford Chambers, led by Patrick and in thanksgiving for Clifford Chambers Charities. It was wonderful to see the Church so full with families young and old, including two very new Clifford residents, Wilfred and Douglas both born within the last few weeks. We were also joined by the Phoenix band who are now a welcome regular feature at St Helen's on the 1st Sunday of each month.

As Patrick had described in the order of service, between the 15th and 16th centuries several small charities were established by individual benefactors within the parish. Then in the late 1960s they were brought together with one board of Trustees and became known as the Clifford Chambers Charities. Historically the charities have supported individual welfare and education needs as they arise, and during the last fifty years or so have purchased and maintained Alms houses within the village.

Latterly the Charities have also been able to support outside organisations that have been, or could be, beneficial to residents of Clifford Chambers. During the service we heard from Alannah Bayliss of the Eco Workshop, based just across the River Stour in Clifford Chambers. The Eco Workshop provide work-based activities for adults with learning disabilities and autism. And we also heard from Debbie Woodliffe about the valuable impact that the Pavilion at Meon Vale is having on the lives of the people that they have been supporting over the past few years. Both Debbie and Alannah were able to describe how assistance from the charities has been utilised in support of their various activities.

Following the service, we all made our way to the Jubilee Hall for fabulous tea and cakes as organised by the Trustees and village bakers. A fitting end to a special village service.

Ann Simmons



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at our Bring and Share
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EVENTS**

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**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH**
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



FROM THE REGISTERS - August/September 2023

CHRISTENINGS

27 August William Smith
24 September Nicholas Carter
Roux Barnes
Macy Parker

WEDDINGS

2 September Alexander Harman and Emily Abbott
Christopher Alcock and Charlotte Gorst
8 September Nick Loquens and Stephanie Tiedeken
30 September Gearoid O'Connor and Emma Grubb

FUNERALS

2 September Sylvia and Tony Young
14 September Beryl Frances May Pumprey
21 September Lilian Lafia Crossley
25 September Rita Somanathan



Save The Dates

Saturday Sept 23rd
Holy Trinity Community Fete 12-4.30pm

Sunday Oct 8th
Harvest Festival: Bring and Share Lunch

Saturday Nov 25th
Christmas Wreath Making



**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH**
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



CHOIR COURSE IN BATH

On Monday 21 August, with bags packed and guitar in hand we both headed separately to Bath to attend the RSCM's annual choir course at Kingswood boarding school. Rife with rehearsals, workshops, and plenty of opportunities to venture into the vibrant city, we had a very tight schedule to keep us busy but we had an incredible time.

On our arrival, we were signed into our houses for the week, this was done by our school year groups. Then we met our house parents, tutors and captains, as well as finding our way to our rooms and meeting our roommate for the week, before saying goodbye to our parents. Beth was put into the Chorister girls house, which was made up of girls from age eight to fourteen and Charlotte was part of the upper-voices Scholars, as she had just completed year twelve at college.

Although it was hectic, we enjoyed the variety of opportunities and the time we got to spend with the other people on the course, both making music and socialising. It was amazing to meet people our age who also enjoyed the tradition of choral music.

Aside from the business of everyday life on the course, there were opportunities for solos, trios, and to be part of the small consort group. Charlotte auditioned to be a part of this group as well as for a solo, which she got to sing with two of the other Scholars, in '*All My Trials*', arranged by Bob Chilcot. There was also the chance for any voice type (soprano, alto, tenor, or bass) to act as cantor for any responses. This included Compline and any plainsong or service responses.

One of the highlights of the week was the informal concert on Friday, where the staff and all attendees could take part – a lot of people performed relatively classical pieces on piano, cello, violin, trumpet and voice, but Charlotte performed a pop song called "Hot Mess" by Dodie, which she sang and played guitar for. She also did the same for another song she sang with her roommate, with some awesome harmonies (Charlotte: If I do say so myself). After each piece was performed, there was a fantastic show of support for each other, everyone cheering and clapping in an overwhelming sense of community and friendship. There were even some people who had their phone torches on during the performances, acting as stars in the sky or as if they were at a big Ariana concert. One of Bethany's favourite performances; other than Charlotte's, was an a cappella rendition of Postman Pat, performed by the four house captains, which was hilarious and brought her and her roommate to tears, in a good way!

Charlotte's thoughts on her time on the course: As far as my overall experience goes, I learnt a lot about how 'on-the-ball' we all had to be during every single event of the day. I did my best to stay on time for everything but sometimes it was just difficult to predict how long it would take my roommate and me to get everywhere. Speaking of my roommate, I spent a lot of time hanging around with her as I found everything easier to deal with once I had a friend nearby. As we were assigned to the same room, we quickly got to know each other, and it was easier for both of us to find our way around everything going on. I also learnt a lot about how quickly you needed to 'get' things.

Cont...

Sight-reading (reading and singing notes for the first time of seeing them) really isn't one of my strong-points, and I think everyone applied the same formula of listening to what everyone else was singing and following the notes on the page as best we could. However, we were given more space than in full rehearsals to work on notes in house rehearsals. So, it was a real learning experience for me in the way that full concentration had to be applied a large amount of the time (this was more difficult with less sleep). I also learned how important it was to "be a leader", singing out so that other people follow you instead of following other people – although it is still important to listen to everyone else and blend with the sound.

It was a bit difficult to talk to my peers at first, but I soon found out that everyone was basically in the same boat and was nice about it. For example, if you needed a pencil, someone was happy to lend one to you. And if you were missing a piece of music, someone would share with you. All you had to do was ask and no one got particularly angry or annoyed at you. I would say one of the biggest takeaways for me from this experience was the generosity, kindness, and hilarity of everyone (because, let's be honest, who doesn't love a good laugh?). Another example of how fun everyone was to be around, whenever someone went up in front of the rest of the choir to demonstrate something, like conducting in 2/4 rhythm as part of an exercise (I did this), everyone erupted into applause and supportive cheers.

Thank you, Bethany, for putting up with me for a week in Bath.

Bethany's thoughts on her time on the course: This course was amazing, I've made so many friends, that I've kept in contact with and had some incredible experiences. Firstly, I got to sing in beautiful Bath Abbey, with just over 100 other choristers from across the UK. We also sang services in the school's chapel, the Scholars sang a service in St. Stevens, Bath, which the Choristers attended and the Course annual Concert, made up of a selection of pieces from the week, was held in Christ Church, Bath.

Secondly, I got to meet the composer Jack Oades, who was commissioned to write an anthem for the course, by the Prayer Book Society, on behalf of the RSCM, to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, The anthem was, *O Lord, we Beseech Thee*. Jack also came in to do a workshop on composing and Q and A session, where we learnt a lot about his non-traditional background into choral music and that he also composes for video games. In fact, this anthem was built on the foundations of a haunted mansion game, that was never completed, which you can hear at the start of the piece. It's a fun piece to sing, the way that parts, including the organ all overlay and fit together, creates a captivating sound.

I've learnt to be more confident in my voice, as well as how much my mouth shape and posture effect my voice, sorry it took so long Rebecca!

Cont...

As well as Music, the course offered opportunities to talk about religion in the context of our society, with the help and guidance of the awesome course Chaplain, Rev. Charlotte (which got very confusing for everyone, especially me!). The Choristers had a liturgy workshop, to discuss what is important in our faith and ask questions, without judgement, whilst also planning a service. I was lucky enough that Rev. Charlotte was staying in my house. So this meant that along with my friends and other girl Choristers, we got to have impromptu discussions in our down time about religion, prayer and everything else in between. It was really interesting to have this time with a member of the clergy, who is young, vibrant, caring and relevant to us. Often ending with the older choristers, having to be sent to bed after lights out because we were so engaged in our discussions.

One of the many highlights of the week was being able to go into Bath, where we were allowed to investigate in groups of three or more. We spent a lot of time in Topping and Company Bookseller, a mind-blowing book shop, at least it was to me. The other standout shop was The Fudge Kitchen, which as well as offering a much-used RSCM discount (the owner being an old RSCM Chorister), made the mouth water, creamy, delicious fudge in front of you, who could resist, not me, much to the delight of my family!

I would like to thank the friends I made on the course, for being there, but especially Charlotte, who put up with **ME** for the week in Bath.

We don't want to bore you with much more, we could go on and on and quite frankly, most of our words could have been cut out. However, what we will say is that we are both very grateful to the Friends of the Music, who funded the course, for the experience of a lifetime - although we hope it will be repeated next year! Especially those of you who came to hear us sing at the Abbey, it meant a lot to see you all there supporting us. Finally, we would like to thank the RSCM and the staff, who spent their holidays, putting an amazing course together.

Thanks for reading this
Charlotte and Bethany



CHOIR TRIP TO BATH

This August, our choristers Bethany Fletcher and Charlotte Mulryne joined a Royal School of Church Music residential study week which culminated in sung Sunday services in Bath Abbey by a choir of over 100 choristers. In addition to supporting their attendance at the course, The Friends of The Music organised a trip to Bath to witness firsthand the work undertaken by our singers and to show our support for Bethany and Charlotte.

So it was that we boarded our chartered coach early on Sunday morning (a special mention has to go to Logan and Kade for getting out of bed to support their choir colleagues!) and arrived in Bath in time for a pre-church coffee before joining the congregation in the Abbey.

The music for Choral Eucharist was very much a French Belle Epoque affair - a Mass setting by Vierne and an anthem during communion *Tantum Ergo* by Deodat de Severac - new music to my ears which was delivered faultlessly by the Scholars of the course.

After a leisurely lunch we returned to attend Choral Evensong

- sung by the choir of more than 100 strong and which featured responses by Clucas (our girls would have been familiar with these as they are included in HT repertoire), Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Statham and an anthem *O Lord We Beseech Thee* by contemporary composer and organist Jack Oades.

Once again, these works were new to me and I particularly enjoyed the Statham canticles - we should try them out at HT!

The standard of singing throughout the day was consistently high - moreover, the faces of the choristers spoke of enjoyment through fellowship as well as musical achievement.

A special "Thank You" must go to Martin Stanley for his meticulous organisation of the day - and a huge "Well Done" to Bethany and Charlotte for their work during the week and for representing Holy Trinity choir at the course. We are very proud of you both!

Malcolm Robinson



Photographs by Malcolm Robinson

Window on the World



When I was young, my grandparents often took me to Evensong, and I remember the impression of a lot of old people singing dreary hymns about death. I hope that none of our services, and specially not our Parish Eucharist, give too much of that impression nowadays – though those of us who help to plan worship are very aware of that danger. But, having said that, I feel called this month (which after all leads up to All Saints and All Souls) to say something about death – the one experience which eventually comes to us all, though I hope it will still be a long way away for most of our readers.

Those of us who are “of a certain age” do think about this quite a lot. Two lines of poetry sum up for me the different ways in which we may approach it. John Keats prayed that he might “cease upon the midnight with no pain” – quietly fade away in peace in his sleep. Dylan Thomas, by contrast, urged his father “Do not go gentle into that good night” – in other words live, and fight, to the very end, and “rage against the dying of the light”. I sympathise with the ideal of Keats, gently merging into Creation and fading away into whatever God has in store for me. But I know others who follow Thomas, and keep going passionately to the very end, refusing to give up the fulness of their lives, almost in denial of their mortality. Most of us have probably known some of each type. Both have their strengths and their weaknesses, and I am not suggesting that there is any “right” or “wrong” here; it depends on our personalities. And we may have much to learn from each other. But any clashes between personality types here could be challenging!

There are various movements concerned with these matters within the wider Church, including a body called Christians on Ageing which I came across by chance, and the Anna Chaplaincies with which our clergy team have connections. Perhaps we should do more to draw on the resources which such organisation offer. Those of us who know that death cannot be all that far away need to help each other more – not with simple Scriptural quotations, or clichés such as “death is nothing at all”, but with honest wrestling.

But such thoughts are not irrelevant for those who are younger. We know that many young people are deeply troubled about their future, with the climate emergency looming over the whole human race, and many other huge uncertainties about education, jobs and so on which must sometimes feel just as threatening as death itself. Amongst our number we have one or two teenagers who are visibly in a tough place, and I suspect that there are far more in younger generations who are facing fears which those of us who are older did not experience in our teens and twenties.

We are one family. We should all be sharing our deepest hopes and fears more than we do. If any young people are reading this, then they should know that they have an enormous amount to give to those who are older – not least a little help with things like modern technology! (Any iPad experts out there?) I like to hope that, despite (or maybe even because of) the fact that we oldies were brought up in such a very different age, we in turn may have some wisdom to offer to them.

Gwyn Williams Bursary Concert

For the past six years we have been presenting concerts for the Gwyn Williams Bursary. All concerts so far have been in Birmingham but we are delighted that this year the concert will be local. It is hoped that we shall have your support for this very worthwhile charity.

The next concert for Gwyn's Bursary for needy young string players will be on 21 October in Holy Trinity Church , Stratford at 7.30 pm. The Sinfonia of Birmingham will be the Orchestra, conducted by international music critic and conductor Christopher Morley, in an attractive programme of music for String orchestra by Britten, Walton, Warlock , Elgar and Ireland.

Leeloo Creed will be the soloist in the Telemann Viola Concerto. Leeloo was one of the first recipients of The Gwyn Williams Bursary, as a viola player in the CBSO Youth Orchestra. As many people will know, Gwyn was Simon Rattle's principal viola in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It will be rewarding to see what Leeloo has achieved through the Bursary support.

Kevin Whately (TV's Lewis), a friend of Gwyn, has agreed to act as narrator for this concert, dependent upon acting commitments. At the time of this notice, he is still free and willing to give his services for Gwyn's Bursary.

Tickets £20 are available from Stephannie Williams(Steve) on 01789 294200 or mob. 07768 266649.

Stephannie Williams and Christopher Morley

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 4 October. 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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TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

As I write this report for the October Trinity Times I would like to be able to report that we have had several men join our group, but as we have not yet held our September meeting I am not able to give you this information. I only hope that by the time I write our report for November I will be in a position to let you know that we have several new members including some men.

The gentlemen of Holy Trinity used to have their own club and a breakfast club about forty years ago, so I sincerely hope that the men who attend our church today will be interested in joining with us once a month.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 October and Sarah Hayes, the Waterways Charity Chaplain, will be coming to tell us about her job and what life is really like living on our canals and rivers. It all looks so pleasant when we see all the boats in the summer going up and down the Avon. Hopefully she will be about to tell us some real life stories and how she is able to tell them about our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our meetings start at 2pm in the Parish Centre. They are always on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. If you would like to join us please come along and we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair.

Felicity Howlett has been doing the job as design editor for Trinity Times for a few years and wishes to stand down from the role. We are looking for someone to take over so that we can continue to produce Trinity Times. The role involves receiving articles submitted for the magazine, formatting them and placing them in the template of the magazine. You do not need to create any content but make all the pieces fit together to produce the finished magazine. Currently the magazine is edited in Microsoft Publisher but full training can be given if you are not used to the programme.

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

Cleaning St Helen's Church

The recent quinquennial inspection of St Helen's did not reveal too much expensive work to be undertaken. However the inspector did draw attention to the dust and cobwebs inside the church. Additionally, we were expecting the imminent arrival of new pew cushions (jointly funded by Julie Renfrew, in memory of her late husband David, and The Friends of St Helen's).

With these two things in mind, on the morning of Friday 1 September, a stalwart team of six equipped with long-handled silicone brushes and tall step-ladders set to work. As a bulb was missing from one of the metal chandeliers in the nave, this seemed like a good opportunity to replace the existing bulbs with LED ones. However, these good intentions resulted in them fusing and the electrician who quickly came to sort it out found that the metal housing of the bulbs was "crumbling" and would have needed replacing before long anyway. The cleaning went very well and at the service the following Sunday the building felt noticeably spic and span.



The Lights at St Helen's

The electrician has managed to make two of the chandeliers safe to use for the time being..... the one nearest the bell tower and the one next to the pulpit. The centre chandelier has been disconnected as he could not get this working at all. So we essentially have two bulbs at the back and two at the front of the church to illuminate the nave area. There is a bit of a dark area in the middle, so we'll just have to encourage people to sit towards the front if they have problems!

There is no danger if the centre chandelier is switched on in error.

The electrician is looking into the options for us. He is hopeful that the wiring going from the ceiling to the chandeliers is going to work well, and that he can find alternative suitable light fittings for the existing chandelier set up. He will then just wire in the new light fittings to the existing wire from the ceiling.

Hopefully the lighting we have will suffice for the next few weeks!

Stratford-upon-Avon Bellringers Outing – August 2023

The Holy Trinity bellringers were joined by ringers from both Clifford Chambers and Alveston for their 2023 outing to the Vale of the Red Horse on Thursday 24 August. Three churches were visited which kept the twenty two ringers present busy, and lunch was enjoyed at the Castle Inn on Edgehill.

The first tower of the day was St Peter and St Paul, Butlers Marston, where there are six bells (tenor bell 14cwts) rung from a ground floor chamber in the 15th century west tower. The Nave dates from the 12th century but has a much later 17th century roof. The Chancel seems to have been rebuilt later as well, although the church still retains its 15th century font and a pulpit of 1632.



Group photo at St Peter and St Paul Butlers Marston

The second bells of the day were at St Peter's Church, Radway. The tower contains a peal of six bells with a tenor of 5cwts, rung from ground floor level. The original five bells were cast in 1868 by Robert Stainbank of London. A new treble bell was cast in 2019 by John Taylor of Loughborough, the firm who cast our own bells at Holy Trinity, and in memory of Sue Marshall from Kineton.

The walls of the church are of local Edge Hill stone: some of it may be re-used material but the only ancient carved or moulded stones are two gargoyles reset in the west face of the tower. In the chancel against the north wall are the remains of a stone recumbent effigy of a priest in mass vestments, probably of the 15th century. The head is missing and the feet are rested on a dog.

Lunch was eaten at the Castle Inn, Edgehill, from where breathtaking views across the Avon valley were enjoyed. The octagonal tower was started in 1742 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill and was opened on 3 September, 1750, the anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's death. It was built by Sanderson Miller, or Millar, who lived in nearby Radway.

Our final tower was at St Mary the Virgin, Pillerton Hersey, where we enjoyed ringing the five bells (tenor bell 7cwts). There were originally three bells dating between 1602 and 1711, but these were only able to be chimed because of the poor condition of the frame and wheels. A full inspection of the fittings in 2017 identified this, so after much fundraising a new five bell steel frame was eventually installed and an additional fourth bell purchased, The Keltek Trust kindly donated a fifth bell and generously assisted with the hanging costs, so bringing the project to a satisfactory conclusion.

The church is a Grade II* listed building, the earliest parts of which are mid-13th century. This includes the Early English Chancel, which Pevsner and Wedgwood praised as "*uncommonly fine*" which also has a priest's doorway "*of a design which may well be unique*". The Chancel also has a 17th-century hammerbeam roof. In the 19th century the south aisle was rebuilt, and in 1845 a north aisle with a three-bay arcade was added.

Cont...

Stratford-upon-Avon Bellringers Outing – August 2023 cont...

Our day concluded with tea/coffee served with delicious homemade cakes. A fitting end to a wonderful day spent enjoying the beautiful Warwickshire countryside on a perfect summer day!

Grateful thanks to Vicky McCarthy from our ringing team for making all the practical arrangements and to Mark Sayers who kindly looked after the ringing at each tower.

Charles Wilson



The Castle Inn
Edgehill



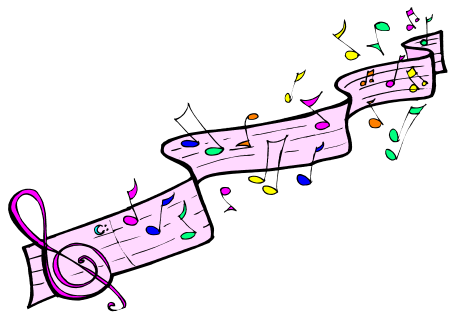
View from the Castle Inn
Edgehill



St Peter's
Radway



St Mary the Virgin
Pillerton Hersey



SOUNDBITES

- 4 October - Maria Linares Molero—classical pianist
- 11 October - Jazz Trio
- 18 October - Ella Cordon Vieito - classical pianist
- 25 October - Maria Tsangaridou - solo pianist

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

CHRISTMAS CARD AMNESTY

Although it is still only October, we wanted to remind people about the Christmas Card Amnesty. Rather than sending cards to members of the congregations, people are invited to make a donation towards our Christmas charities and have their name printed in the December/January edition of Trinity Times. More details in the November edition.





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Fred Winter Centre 41 Guild Street (next door to the library) Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QY

Telephone: 01789 549131.



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
Curate	The Revd Emma Harrington	01789 266 316	emma.harrington@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	07387 971 632	
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 Communions	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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Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Florist Sally Welch

Following the success of last year's Christmas Wreath making, Sally will be leading two sessions, morning and afternoon, in the Parish Centre on Saturday 25 November.

All materials will be provided as well as refreshments on arrival.

The cost will be considerably less than for the equivalent size on sale and was deemed good value for money by those who attended last year.

To reserve a place, stating am/pm session, or for further information, please contact Chris Cottrell on 01789 204273

