

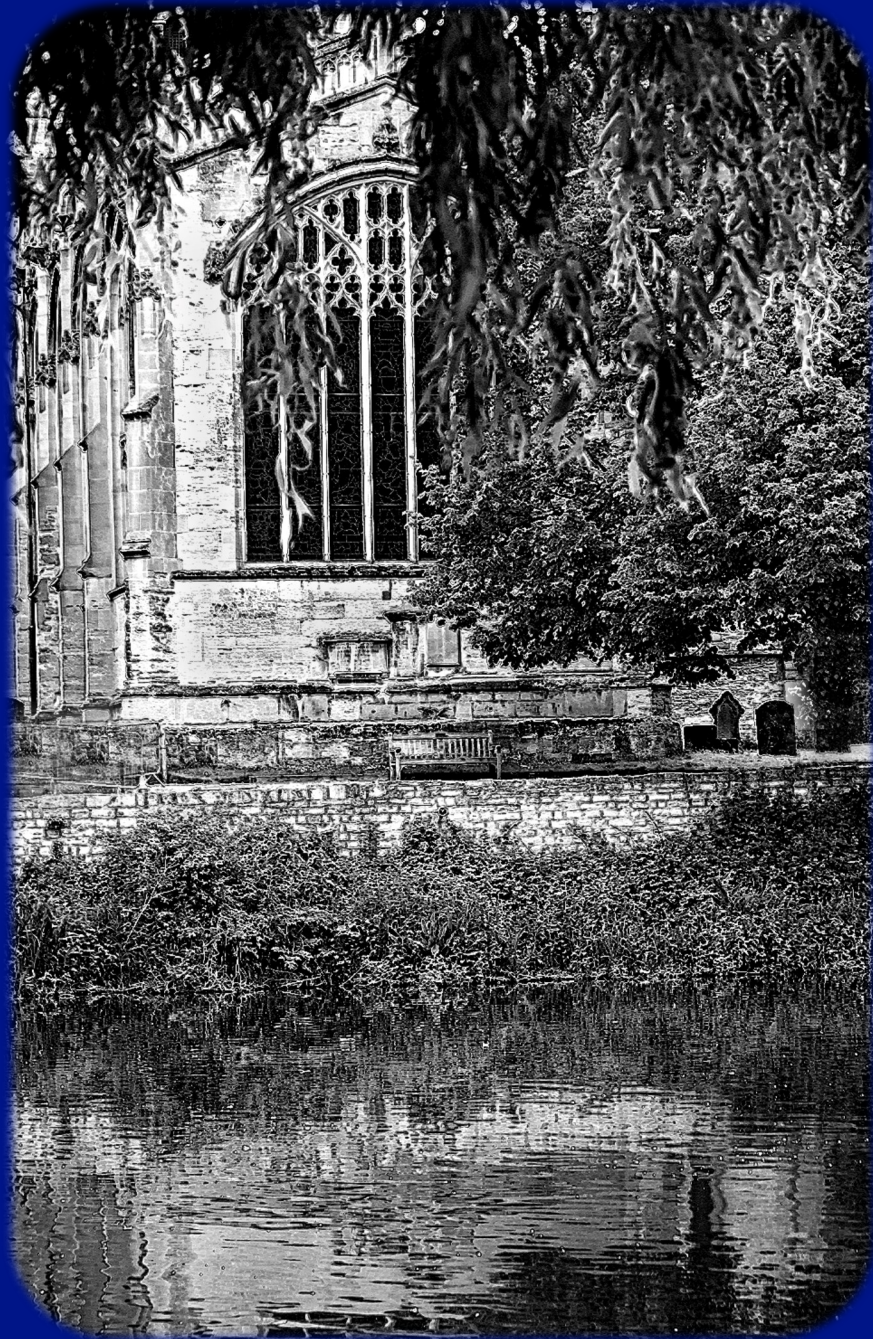
September 2023

**£1.50**

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

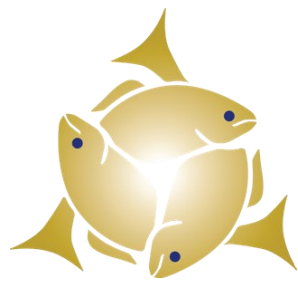


# TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**Editor** - Revd Patrick Taylor

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

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

The next magazine will be the

**October 2023** edition

**The copy date is 15 September**

If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine.

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

**[timestrinity@gmail.com](mailto:timestrinity@gmail.com)**

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**#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia**



*Front cover :- Holy Trinity Church*

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Revd Thomas Powell  
Curate



Revd Emma Harrington  
Curate



Phil Harper  
Children and Families Minister

## Spirit of the Age or the Holy Spirit

I realise it is normal for things to change over time, but just recently it seems that everything I once knew is shifting. The language we use is being challenged so that words I once thought of as inclusive, like mankind, are now seen as excluding women. People become very sensitive about the words you use to describe them, so that he or she is not enough. It must be a nightmare for comedians, as so many things we could laugh at in the past are no longer OK, as they might hurt someone.

Is this just a passing phase or are we being drawn into the “spirit of the age”, something that Christians were warned about in 1 Corinthians 2:6 “We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.”

When Jesus told us to pray to God as our Father, he would have been aware that not all human fathers behave well towards their children, but he wanted us to have a close relationship with God who has the best attributes of a good and loving father.

We are encouraged to test the things we hear and not to just trust what social media or even some supposedly trustworthy news channels tell us. I think this applies to everyday life and not just to spiritual things. In college, both secular and theological we were told to use at least two sources in our research. Wikipedia was not sufficient on its own as it could be edited by anybody whether qualified in the subject or not.

Matthew 10:16 quotes Jesus as saying, about coming persecutions, “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” We, as current day disciples, need to keep our wits about us so that we can continue to follow Jesus in attractive and authentic ways that will bring others into the safety and security of his love.

The Holy Spirit is our guide and counsellor and was sent by Jesus to be with us throughout whichever age we might be living in. He is constant and reliable, but sometimes it can be hard to discern amongst the noise and clamour of information overload, what is from God and what is worldly wisdom.

Finding a quiet space in which to read your Bible can be of assistance or using a Bible App which reads to you if your sight is failing can help. Fortunately many people have friends or grandchildren who can help them to find something suitable. Joining a Bible Study group has encouraged many people and we continue to look for more home group hosts and leaders. Often these can be different people, as one person has a large home and the gift of hospitality, while another is skilled in discussing the scriptures. If you have been holding back from offering to help with this, please let us know who you are, so that more can be done to help us through this challenging time.

Every blessing,  
Kay – Associate Priest

## Worship Notes



### **Return of the Common Cup at Holy Communion**

From Sunday 10 September we will be reintroducing the Common Cup (ie shared chalices) at Holy Trinity. This will be offered using the high altar rail, as we did before the pandemic. We are aware that there are a number of people who would like to continue to receive by intinction (ie the minister dips the bread in the wine before it is given to the communicant) and so this will continue to be available at all services of Holy Communion, but in the Becket Chapel. **For reasons of hygiene it is very important that those wishing to receive by intinction do not attempt to dip the bread in the wine.** So please only go to the high altar if you are happy to take the chalice or receive in one kind only (ie the bread) or wish to ask for a blessing.

### **10 September Holy Trinity**

#### **10am Parish Eucharist with the Blessing of Bags**

As the new school term begins, we invite those at school to bring their book bag or rucksack to be blessed. Any adults who have a bag or case of some kind associated with their work are also invited to bring it in so that we can ask for God's blessing for you in your work.

#### **New series at the 10am Parish Eucharist: Healing for the Soul**

Across three Sundays we shall be exploring how the work of God's grace brings healing for our souls (and minds and bodies):

#### **17 September Part 1: Seeking Forgiveness**

#### **24 September Part 2: Finding Gratitude**

#### **1 October Part 3: Receiving God's Peace**

At the final service, the ministry of healing will be offered for those who wish to receive it. This consists of the laying on of hands, with prayer for wholeness and healing, and anointing with holy oil on the forehead and palms of the hands, if this is desired.

### **Harvest Festival Services**

The dates of our Harvest Festival services in the parish are as follows:

**All Saints' Luddington** 24 Sept

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 1 Oct

**Holy Trinity** 8 October

Donations for Stratford Food Bank of non-perishable items will be received at these services. Please see the weekly bulletin for further details nearer the time.

### **Time Out and future Informal Services**

Since November last year we have been holding a monthly informal service called "Time Out" in the Parish Centre. Whilst a number of people have valued it, the average attendance has been small (8-10). The music, led by a small band, has been a very important aspect but for various reasons there are no longer any musicians available to play. We also no longer have an adequate number of people to organise and run the service, so we are not planning any future services at this stage.

**Worship Notes cont...**

However, we are looking at the wider picture of what we're doing with regard to developing informal worship in the parish. This includes something new for families and we have also begun discussions about getting going with a "New Worshipping Community" that is part of our Five Year Plan.

We ask your prayers during this time when we discern what God is calling to us do. Although we are a relatively well resourced parish, there is a limit to what can be done (and done well) so we are praying that we will be led to the right next steps, to enable more lives to be changed by God's love.

*Patrick*



Thomas Powell gets ready to celebrate his first holy communion as priest



Thomas Powell



Patrick presents a stole to Thomas

**23 July 2023**



Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke

Richard Cooke and Thomas Powell



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

### Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

#### 3 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Lay Ministry  
5pm - Taize

#### 10 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Blessing bags  
5pm - Choral Evensong

#### 17 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Healing for the Soul 1: Seeking Forgiveness  
5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

#### 24 September - 16th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Healing for the Soul 2: Finding Gratitude  
5pm - Choral Evensong

### St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

#### 3 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Morning Praise

#### 10 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

3.30 - Special Service

#### 17 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



### All Saints' Church, Luddington

#### 3 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

#### 10 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

#### 17 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

#### 24 September - 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Harvest Holy Communion



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UPDATE

**Tots@Trinity**, our service for Toddlers and their carers, returns in September but at a new time of 10:30am. It will still be once a month on Wednesdays, but we're trying a different time to avoid afternoon naps. The service takes place inside St Peter's Chapel (in Holy Trinity Church) and begins to teach children Bible stories whilst it gives little ones the chance to become used to the church building. The first service will be on **Wednesday 20 September at 10:30am**.

As we explore new ways to worship, I've begun looking into making the most of our churchyard and am hoping to start an **Outdoor Church Service**. I've even been testing the amount of shelter under the yew trees during some of the stronger rainstorms and it's surprisingly dry! If this is something which interests you, and you'd like to be involved, please contact [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)



We may be looking towards the start of the new school academic year, but at the end of last term we finished both our Toddler Groups with a party. Any excuse for cake(!!!).

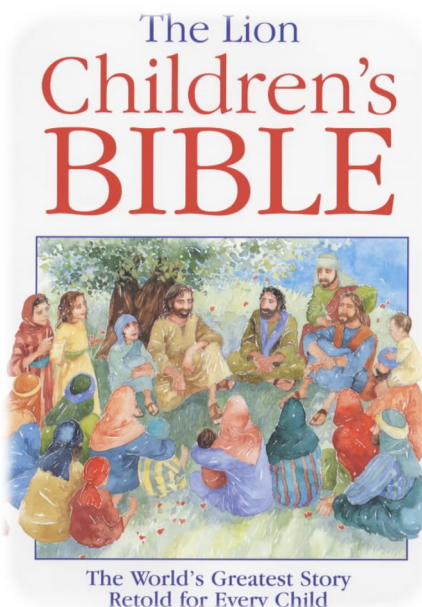
The children who were moving up to school were each given a book, along with all our prayers. The **Ken Kennett Stay and**

**Play** group returns on **Tuesday 12 September 9-10:30am** and **Trinity Tots**, in the Parish Centre, returns on **Thursday 14 September 1:30-3pm**.



At the end of the school year in July we had the leavers' Eucharist at Holy Trinity School. As part of the service we thought about important milestones in our personal lives and our

Christian lives. I was very grateful to Sebastian and Oliver who had the courage to tell their whole school about the experience of receiving their first Holy Communion. As part of the service the Year 6 children, who were moving to secondary school, were presented with a Bible, which they were really pleased with. A huge thank you to all those who donated so that we were able to give them each their own Bible.



*Cont...*

The fund is ongoing, as the plan is to establish a fund which will pay for the Bibles we give at Christenings, as well as the Year 6 leavers each year. If you would like to donate, donations can be made via internet banking. The information you will need is:

To:- Stratford-upon-Avon PCC

Sort code:- 40-43-19

Account number:- 20649430

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

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



### CAN YOU PRESS A BUTTON?

Across the autumn we are going to become desperate to recruit new members to our Audio Visual (AV) team. Between marriages and house moves, the team is going to be reduced to four people. The ministry through the services isn't just about the people in church, but those we reach at home and in other locations, including local care homes who gather their residents each week to watch.

To operate the PowerPoint is simple, you simply follow the service and press a button to move to the next slide. Similarly for the sound, you move a slider up for someone talking at the lectern and down when they finish. Currently people are doing the PowerPoint and sound at the same time, but if we had enough people, it would be ideal to separate these jobs and make it easier. Operating the sound and PowerPoint is easier than making the coffee in church!

The more people on the team, the less often people need to do it. If you would be able to help, or want to sit with the team to see what it involves contact [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Residents at Cherry Trees  
Care Home





## Clarifications and Apologies



A former work colleague had a mouse-mat similar to one in the picture, only it read "*Chaos, Fear, Panic ...My work here is done!*". It was for us in the office a source of mirth and merriment.

It's been brought to my attention that, inadvertently, I triggered such sentiment for some through my sermon and preaching on the 25 June 2023.

On reflection, I hold my hand up in making the classic mistake of (wrongly) assuming that people in the pews share the same background and understanding as I myself hold regarding the Bible as Holy Scripture. It was an arrogant, careless and incorrect assumption to make, and understandably, has led to misunderstanding as to where I was coming from, a genuine concern as to where I was heading to, and actually detracted from where I wanted the key point of my sermon that morning to land.

We are all at different stages on our respective faith journeys, including the views, knowledge, understandings and opinions we hold regarding the nature and books of the Bible. In my teenage years, I was a member of a large conservative evangelical Baptist church that held to the Bible as being the inerrant, infallible Word of God written – whilst it was to be studied, memorised and used to instil an element of fear and control in hands of the then pastors, it certainly was not encouraged to be questioned, or understood from a non-spiritual perspective, including its historical context regarding the compilation of books and pastoral letters it contains. However, when I studied A-level Religious Studies, and subsequently at degree level for ordination, I had to learn to leave the pre-suppositions my then church held regarding the Bible at the door.

Through my A-level study I began being immersed in background information, contextual information, histories, theories and opinions, especially regarding the Pentateuch – what we commonly understand as being the first five books of the First Testament attributed to Moses. These I would never have been allowed to be exposed to by my then church. That Hebrew was written in consonants, not vowels – but different vowels could give different words, connotations and meanings. Thus the Tetragrammaton (YHVH) is still to this day, the unpronounceable name of GOD, and scholars are still "best-guessing" what the correct vowels are.

Then there was the classic **JEDP** theory, invented by Julius Wellhausen in the 1800s. This theory is all about identifying the Bible's sources and traditions: **J** stands for *Yahwist*, **E** for *Elohist*, **D** for *Deuteronomist*, **P** for *Priestly*. Wellhausen set out to explore what had been understood by scholars and academics in principle for generations. Whilst many 19<sup>th</sup> century source critics like Wellhausen have subsequently been critiqued and pulled apart, the basic idea that the Pentateuch, and indeed an idea applicable to the Bible as a whole, was formed as a compendium of earlier sources which were then edited together, that core part of the **JEDP** story remains absolutely valid and solid even to this day.

*Cont...*

To hold a view of the Bible as the “*Word of God written*” may have perfect validity as statement of faith/belief for the individual beholder, but as a statement that is factual and conveys the true complexities of the origin of Holy Scripture, it most certainly is not!

In light of this, it has never therefore been threatening or undermining to me, or to my faith, that the First Testament at key points of Jewish history had been edited, re-edited and redacted. One of the most significant and well-known periods of redaction and re-editing academically recognised happened during the 6th century BCE. This was during the reign of King Josiah, who was the great-grandson of King Hezekiah, during whose own reign the worship, tithes, and recognition of only one priestly family line, began moving towards the centralisation at, and upon, the High Temple in Jerusalem (check out the book of II Kings).

King Josiah came to the throne aged 8yrs of age, and naturally, was supported by advisers who also included Hilkiah, then High Priest of the Jerusalem Temple, and the Shaphan, the Royal scribe. King Josiah embarked on a major reconstruction of the high priestly Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. During the renovations, Hilkiah stumbles across something unfamiliar. It was a book entitled *The Book of the Laws of YHWH*. To this day, nobody quite knows what this book compiled. Could it have been the book of Deuteronomy? Was it all five books of the Torah/Pentateuch? Whatever it was, in II Kings, it is presented as being the basis of Josiah’s rebranding of Judaism – his royal reforms as a reassertion of the divine kingship of Yahweh, and by extension, the divine right of the Kings of Jerusalem and the high priests of the Jerusalem Temple.

If it was the case that a young King Josiah was eager to present this *Book of the Laws of Yahweh* as his divine mandate for his and the Jerusalem High Temple’s reign, then Hilkiah and Shaphan both quickly recognised that there were serious problems with the text as it was, and that it was not the manifesto for the theocracy that the king, and they, might wish it to be. Admittedly, with a limited word count, I’m only able to present you a light sketch of what was a significant period in the history of the development of the Hebrew Scriptures. However, in summary, the broad consensus held among today’s academic Biblical scholars, is that within decades of Josiah’s elevation of the *Book of the Laws of Yahweh*, and following the fall of the monarchy, an urgent re-write became the order of the day, one which would cement the influence and power of the High Priest of the Jerusalem Temple.

By way of comparison, we have something similar happening in British history - a way that illustrates how undue influence and agendas can all too easily be imposed upon an impressionable child. Think of Edward VI – no more than 9yrs of age when he became king, and immediately finding himself supported by the two patriarchs of two powerful families. These were families who had been deeply invested in the religious and political reforms initiated by the old king.



Edward's young age providing the patriarchs of these two families, the Seymours and the Dudleys, with a grip on national policy, accelerating reforms and pushing them even further, whilst at the same time anchoring their own positions in the kingdom as powers behind the throne. Was it any different for 8yr old King Josiah?

Hilkiah was the patriarch of the Jerusalem High Temple family. Tasked with the young king's spiritual guidance, he and Shaphan the Royal Scribe, now found themselves in prime positions to thoroughly reform belief and practices, legitimising the royal court, and elevating the Jerusalem temple. However, this was more than merely a centralisation of power. It was a party-political victory of sorts, one which effected a profound alteration of the then religion inherited from the First Temple of Solomon's time, transforming what Jews of their period, the period in exile, and the subsequent 2<sup>nd</sup> temple period post exile, believed, and how they related to, and what they understood about God (YHWH).

What is recognised by scholars as happening during this time was the birth of *Yahweism* - a definitive and dominant editorial layer to the Hebrew Scriptures (what Wellhausen would refer to as the J strand). This would inform the only version of the Pentateuch known and understood by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple tradition under the Pharisee control at the time of Jesus and would be the backdrop for the animosity we see in the Gospels and in the New Testament (the Book of Revelation is predominantly about the downfall of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple, which would happen in 70 CE).

This version was also the basis of the Pentateuch in the Septuagint, the Greek/Latin translation of the Hebrew Scriptures (which differs from the Masoretic version used by Judaism today), from which English translations of the First Testament derive. It was the basis of the dominant depiction of YHWH in the narrative of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple tradition during Jesus' upbringing and active ministry, and the underpinning of what had seemingly become in Jesus eyes, an oppressive theocratic mandate shoring up the burdensome rule of the Pharisees, Levites, the religious High Council, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple culture within the region, over the Jewish communities of the diaspora at that time, and over a people already under Roman occupation.

This understanding and knowledge gleaned through A'level and degree level study, underpins my reading, interpretation, and understanding of what and how I read and approach the Hebrew Scriptures; the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus; the mission of Paul and the early church. It is what shaped my reading of the two texts I was presented with for Sunday 25 June 2023 to preach on. Sadly however, I failed to communicate this contextual background sufficiently, if at all, and understandably, caused a level of *chaos, fear and panic*. For that, I offer my apologies – it was carelessness on my part, not intention.

My genuine intention was to demonstrate how radical and liberating the message of Jesus in revealing the true image of a loving, generous transcendent God. That to those hearers of his time, it stood in stark contrast to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple depictions. A revelation that would liberate and move those of his time, and ours, beyond what had become distorted narratives of a deity that had become "*all-too-created-in-humanity's-image*".

*Clarifications and Apologies cont...*

To whom the scribes and editors of 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE had, confusingly for us, attributed unhelpful and contradictory behaviours, attitudes and connotations. Such depictions often leave us with a text that reads more like *“Game of Thrones”* than the underpinnings of a gracious, compassionate, loving and restorative faith tradition centred on the transcendent God revealed to us in, and through, the person of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, this has been a sticking point for many in their objections to the Christian faith. As I shared in the beginning of this clarification, I once belonged to a significant church that had also a large youth group, of which I was a member. Through the wonders of Facebook, I’m still in contact with many friends from that time. Unfortunately, only a minority of us remain actively involved within the faith, and the life of a church. The biggest barrier for the rest being an inability to marry up the problematic depictions of God in the First Testament, with the God revealed to us in the person of Jesus.



Though I believe the Bible, the whole of it, including the Hebrew Scriptures, was compiled for us, it certainly wasn’t written to us. And for me my Bible is like a compass that keeps Jesus, the living word of God made flesh, as my North. However, as with all compasses, it needs to be read correctly, and we need to be aware of the external/internal influences that affect the accuracy of the “needle” that points the direction.

I’m reminded therefore, when I read it, of the wise words of the renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggeman:

*“Start with the awareness that the Bible does not speak with a single voice on any topic. Inspired by God as it is, all sorts of persons have a say in the complexity of scripture, and we are under mandate to listen as best we can, to all of its voices”.*

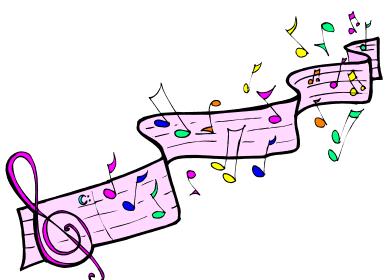
And in reading the Hebrew Scriptures in light of the Jesus of the Gospels, I am reassured and encouraged in my journey of faith by the words of N. T. Wright, former Bishop of Durham:

*“If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. ...And go on looking until you’re not just a spectator, but you’re actually part of the drama which has him as the central character”.*

So, clarifications and apologies – my hope as I begin my sabbatical, is that you will sincerely accept mine.

With every blessing

Revd Steve Jarvis



## **SOUNDBITES**

- 6 September - Castalia Baroque Trio
- 13 September - Yuanwei Ping - piano
- 20 September - RBC - clarinet and piano
- 27 September - Stonyhurst School

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

## The Ordinations of Thomas Powell and Emma Harrington at Coventry Cathedral on 2 July 2023

Patrick with  
Thomas  
and  
Emma



Emma is our new curate and was ordained Deacon.  
Thomas was priested on the same day.

## Holy Trinity Choir on a new high!



Some of you will have enjoyed the Friday Evensong at the Guild Chapel at the end of last term. Next year you will be able to hear the choir singing at Hereford and Birmingham Cathedrals and maybe other famous places. Hear them in Stratford this autumn

as Choral Evensong returns **Sunday 10 September at 5pm in Holy Trinity Church.**

Choir outside the Guild Chapel.  
Photo by Stephen Dodsworth.

# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.

**Place:** Holy Trinity Church

**Date:** 29th September 2023

**Time:** 11am to 1pm

**Contact:** email: [diane01789@gmail.com](mailto:diane01789@gmail.com)  
or [busyb1945@hotmail.com](mailto:busyb1945@hotmail.com)

Simply scan this QR code with your phone  
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.  
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.



Headline Partners

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



**COSTA**  
COFFEE



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19431\_Poster2

## The Baptism of Florence Bridges - 11 June 2023



Florence is presented to the Congregation before her christening.



Parents and Godparents make their declarations.



Godparents {Amy, Jessica and Nick} with parents {Hannah and Sam} and Florence.



Patrick baptises Florence.



Before {reluctantly} handing her back to her parents

Photos by George Reah



## **PCC Meeting 17 July 2023, at St Helen's, Clifford Chambers.**

Outstanding items from previous meeting were reviewed. Update on the Choir School - the local schools have been visited and it was agreed that September would be an appropriate starting time, with a taster session on 15 Sept and the first class on 22 Sep 2023.

Presentation on The Welcome Team by Eve Archer - the aim of the Welcome Team is to identify new regular members of the congregation and then to get together at regular intervals to meet up over coffee for introductions and welcomes and a tour of Holy Trinity by the Rev Patrick Taylor.

A paper was presented on Sustainable Church and was discussed in smaller groups to raise questions, review our actions and offer ideas.

Buildings and Environment - Approval was given to apply for faculties in respect of Roof Safety, the lifting of the wirings for the Church screens and the work on St Helen's Bell Tower.

Finance - the year to date expenditure against budget was reviewed and briefly discussed.

Safeguarding reports were presented, discussing the need for Risk Assessments, DBS Checks, Role Descriptions and obtaining written permission for minors appearing in live screenings. The various levels of training were outlined.

Jane Coles has been nominated as a Governor at Holy Trinity School.

# **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





We were honoured to host the Bishop of Warwick, John Stroyan's final Eucharist before retirement. He has been the Bishop of Warwick for eighteen years. Bishop John asked us to thank everyone at Holy Trinity who made it such a special occasion.



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](mailto:vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org)

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On Saturday 23 September Holy Trinity will host a fete for the first time in approximately thirty years. The community of Stratford-upon-Avon will be invited to share in old fashioned fun and entertainment in The Dell (which has kindly been donated by the RSC), next to the Church. All monies raised will go towards the church organ fund but more importantly it will bring the church into the community to demonstrate how we are very much part of the life of Stratford-upon-Avon and to provide a chance for families to relax and meet friends and neighbours in a beautiful setting.



Fetes have been a means of getting together since medieval times.

It is a French word meaning holiday or party and we truly hope this will be the case if the weather is kind and the people of Stratford engage in the event....and why wouldn't they when they hear about the fun that will be going on there.

The most joyous part of working on the event is to see how things are coming together and how generous people can be and willing to want to help and get involved. Of course,



it is not all fun, there is a great deal of paperwork, reading long documents on what we can and can't do, researching on how to run a fete, logistics, health and safety, licenses for everything under the sun and advertising and promotion plus organizing it all so that it runs smoothly on the day and keeping costs to a minimum. The weather will impact the day, but the British people are used to this, and the long-range

forecast is looking OK, but we really pray for a dry day to attract as many people as possible.

*Cont...*

To give you a flavour of the day here is a rundown of events: -

The night before the event LSD Promotions, who have kindly donated thirty stalls and tables and chairs, will erect the stalls for us, which is a huge help. They will also dismantle and take them away at the end of the fete.



**LSD Market Stalls**

Saturday, before the start at 12pm, all the Holy Trinity teams will be preparing for the part they will be playing in the fete. Stall holders will begin to arrive and unload their goods and then be directed to park their vehicles at the Methodist Church or Conservative office car park, both of whom, have kindly donated parking spaces to us. Signage, staging, gazebos for administration, lost property/children, first aiders will be set up. Miles of bunting and balloons will be

strung up around the event to make it look festive and colourful and the Shotertry Scouts and Cubs will arrive to help with the day.

A parade from Bancroft Gardens to The Dell will begin at 11.45 and we hope to have a stilt walker, children dressed in fancy dress, Morris dancers and invited guests to begin the walk along the river to the fete. An opening ceremony will officially begin the fete.

The main ring will have all kind of events running throughout the day, including singers, choirs, musicians, children fancy dress competition and games. Look out especially for stocks where 'volunteers' of the clergy will 'enjoy' having a wet sponge thrown at them! There will also be a friendly dog show so that people of Stratford can show off their lovely four-legged friends.

Stalls with local crafts and produce will be open, food stalls serving hot food and the Dirty Duck will have a stall selling Pimms and Prosecco. To add to all this, our marvellous Social Team will be providing cream teas in the Parish Centre and a cake stall with plenty to go round for all. Special tours of the church will commence on the hour and the whole event will close with the drawing of the raffle and the prize giving for the sports and events that will have been taking place during the day.

Then the big clear up when stall holders depart, LSD will take away the stalls and we will ensure that the Dell is returned to the RSC the way they gave it to us; (otherwise we may be fined).

Probably a quick drink or two in the local pub and home to collapse in a heap!

Thank you so much to everyone who has signed up to be a volunteer on the day or donated prizes and bric-a-brac. As you can see, there is a great deal going on and we need you to bring along your families and friends and spread the news of the event to as many people as possible.

*Cont...*

*Holy Trinity Fete cont...*

Advertising and publicity will start soon with banners, posters and leaflets being distributed to all households in Stratford-upon-Avon, which we hope will include the chance to win a big prize (still trying to find one, any offers gratefully received).

If you want to know more or donate gifts or prizes and would like to be involved in the day in any way possible, please contact me either in church on a Sunday morning or by email at [ega1912@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ega1912@yahoo.co.uk) and help us make this a day to remember for Stratford-upon-Avon and Holy Trinity Church.

**Eve Archer and the team**



### **PCC AWAY DAY—24 JUNE 2023**

On 24 June, 2023 members of the PCC met at the Old Chapel in Oxhill for a day of getting to know one another better and giving them time to discuss items in greater depth than regular meetings provide.

The aim of the day was to review all the projects in the PCC remit and compile a list of those it would be beneficial to look at in more depth, as had been done the previous year. Each member was asked to suggest three items under the headings of The Five Year plan that they felt would benefit from this process..

As an introduction to discussion we were reminded briefly of the role of the PCC:

- Being Trustees of the Charity
- To be responsible to the Diocese and Deanery Synods
- To support the Incumbent
- To be the main decision maker of the Parish
- To be responsible for promoting our Mission to God
- To provide an Annual Report to the Charity Commission
- To be responsible for Finance, Church Buildings and Assets.

The meeting split into smaller groups to review the suggestions and raise any notable topics that had not be raised in advance. The whole group than reconvened to discuss all suggestions and clarify any subjects that were unfamiliar. These discussions improved members awareness of the many possible projects that are covered by our Five Year Plan. The meeting ended with the understanding that a list of topics for further development would be prepared within the next few weeks.

## THE HOLY TRINITY MYSTERY PLAYS



Have you ever wondered whether people went to the theatre before Shakespeare and his contemporaries wrote Plays?

In fact, the theatre came to them!

Although drama was first recorded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Easter Service, the Mediaeval Mystery Plays were performed by the Craft Guilds of a town or city and not the church-community drama for the people by the people – and were a source of great civic pride. The Guilds sometimes referred to their specific skill as a Mystery hence the modern title.

Cosmic drama and bible stories were presented in intensely human terms; it has been said that ‘the unknown playwrights never allowed piety to swamp their humanity and the plays abound with humour, music, pathos, dancing, tension, refinement and vulgarity’.

Acted by amateurs, the religious teaching would suggest they were written by clerics, though from the sympathetic treatment of the poor and oppressed and of the preoccupations of ordinary folk, they must have been clerics in the community.

The plays were not just entertainment for the masses; in their heyday, the Coventry Plays were performed for Royals including Margaret of Anjou, Richard III, and Henry VIII.

One likes to think that Shakespeare, growing up, would have been aware of these plays just up the road. However, as his own plays and those of his contemporaries became more popular, Mystery Plays were deemed insufficiently secular by a new audience and rather too secular, even popish, for the emerging Protestant Church. Scripts were called in by Church Authorities for plays about Mary to be excised; later they were called in and never returned. So only the York, Wakefield, Chester cycles and some odd plays, including two from Coventry, survive.

They were either staged on a wheeled wagon in the street as part of a pageant (York) or in an open space (in front of Lincoln cathedral). Plays became the responsibility of the appropriate Guild- an early form of advertising: for example, Shipwrights staged the story of Noah, Goldsmiths the Adoration of the Magi and the Tanners, The Fall of Man since Adam and Eve were traditionally dressed in white skins. The Cooks clashed pots and pans to provide a cacophony around the mouth of hell.

The original actors were amateurs who had to audition so that the services of any man lacking in ‘cunning (skill), voice or person’ might be dispensed with though the Mechanicals Play in ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ suggests that didn’t always happen!

The Wakefield Burgess Rolls 1556, include the instruction that actors must be ready on their waggon by five in the morning or pay a fine of 8d. Unsurprisingly, they managed to devour a huge amount of food during performance and rehearsal including (Chester records) 6s. 8d worth of beef and three old (I hope this means mature) cheeses. They all went for a beer at the Barber’s after rehearsal, the tab being 18d. The accounts for the, now missing, Norwich Grocers’ Play of *The Fall of Man*, record that God was paid 16d, Adam 6d and the other characters 4d.

*Cont...*

The Tree of Knowledge displayed apples, figs, oranges, three pounds of dates and a stone of almonds. Baby Jesus was a real baby at Chester and was paid 12d while Mary only received 10d because, it is suggested, the baby's face had to be burnished! An exception to the practice of men playing women's parts is the Chester Play of *The Assumption*, in which all parts were played by 'wives of the town'. Doubtless this fell foul of the Censor early on.

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



Tim Raistrick as God starts the deluge.



Noah's family cower in the ark.

One of the wicked, David Southheard, drowns dramatically.

Photographs are from the *Noah Play* which the players staged for the 800th Anniversary of Holy Trinity in 2010.



Overheard:- What does *Upon* mean as in Stratford Upon?

Unfortunately, group leader's answer was not heard!! It is left to the readers to guess the nationality of the enquirer!



I expect a lot of my readers, especially those with children, will know Roald Dahl's story of the BFG (Big Friendly Giant). It is just a few years since Trinity Players put on a memorable performance, with the inimitable Pete Cubitt in the lead role, supported by stars both adult (including the late Steve Newman) and younger. Even in the Parish Centre, without many "special effects", we could believe in a BFG who towered above the little people around him. And what did he, with his mangling of the English language, call them? He called them "human beans".

Perhaps it takes a giant to look down at the human race and see just a lot of tiny objects who – apart from leaping around a little from time to time – are pretty much inanimate.

I have thought a lot of that "human bean" description just lately. There has been so much publicity for developments in "artificial intelligence" – robots and more – which some have even suggested could take the world over from humanity. Science fiction becoming reality? On a more everyday level, plenty of us have struggled with computers and websites that don't respond to us. And this increasing dominance of new technology seems to make even worse the problem of bureaucracy – in public life, in business, occasionally even in the Church - when we indeed feel just like human beans, at the mercy of bean-counters who themselves are at the mercy of their machines.

Of course, this is not all bad. I typed this on a computer; I submitted it via email; you are reading it, either on a link from our website or in a printed version run off on a sophisticated machine. These things are part of our modern life, and they have enabled the human race to do so much that they could not do before. But I do wonder (is it just because I am old?) whether we are reaching a stage when the machine really is in danger of taking over from the "human bean".

In the Church, we talk about human beings as "made in the image of God". That is actually a very complicated idea, and I will not go further into it here. But it reminds us that we are intended to live as persons in relationship to each other, not as servants to, or parts of, any machine – whether a computing system, or an organisation, or any combination of the two.

I recently saw a notice on a market stall, which said that, while they were happy to take payments by card, they still preferred old-fashioned cash! I rejoiced. We have all learned, since Covid, to make more use of sophisticated technical methods of payment. But has that resulted in a loss of more personal ways of doing things? I always refuse, in supermarkets, to go to one of those automated tills; I want to do business with a human being!

A feature of church life which has been borne in on me more and more is quite simply that this can be, and should be, and often is, something where we meet together precisely as persons to share in worship and fellowship, and show to the world an example of a loving community. Perhaps we should do more, in considering how our lives are structured today, to ask whether the way we do anything really does enhance that personal connection, or whether, in the interest of efficiency or whatever, human beings in God's image might be slipping into treating each other as mere human beans?

## FROM THE REGISTERS - June/July/August 2023

### CHRISTENINGS

8 June	James Zachary Ziegler
11 June	Isla Mae Rennie
	Anastasia Bronte Rosa Clowrey
	Phoebe Emmeline Olive Clowrey
	Drew Alfred Arthur Clowrey
	Florence Lyra Bridges
9 July	Skye Russell
	Willow Stanley
16 July	Corey Halliday
	Georgie Halliday
	Lilly Halliday
	Skye Halliday
23 July	Rupert Noble
6 August	Rufus Cunynghame
	Winifred Cunynghame
	Percy Cunynghame
27 August	William Smith

### WEDDINGS

2 June	Lee Hinton and Katie Dixon
10 June	Andy Zimmerman and Ginny Ziegler
17 June	Ranjit Saimbi and Camilla Hegarty
8 July	Jonathan Andrew Fisher and Molly Louisa Allen
2 August	Huw English and Tosca Hein
5 August	Daniel Foxwell and Zoe Oldham
11 August	Robert Walker and Jennifer Rackham
18 August	Nicholas Guise and Charlotte Green

### FUNERALS

6 June	Jennifer Southall
16 June	John Stanley Nankervis
3 July	Michael O'Neill
7 July	Roger William Dopson
14 July	Ernest Charles Matthews
30 July	Rob Lister
7 August	Edward Weatherhead
18 August	Sheila Mary Ward





## 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 young string players with financial needs 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 **6 September**. 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 Support Team Co-ordinator

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## **TRINITY FELLOWSHIP**

September starts another year in the life of what was once “The Churchwomen’s Group”. More recently we were “Trinity Ladies” but as from now we will be known as “Trinity Fellowship”. Our aim is to be more inclusive and we hope that men as well as women will come and join our meetings. This year we will also be in our 78<sup>th</sup> year, the group being founded in 1945 with the aim of purchasing land to build a Parish Centre. Our founders raised £800 which bought the land our centre now stands on. This was no mean feat just after the war and must have taken them several years. Every year at the beginning of November we remember them by attending Holy Communion in the Guild Chapel.

Tina Allen our speakers’ secretary has a very full and varied programme arranged for us. Our first speaker in September is Mr Peter Preece a wild life photographer which should be very interesting. Our fee for the year is £5.00 payable by cash or cheque made payable to Stratford upon Avon PCC. A programme of our meetings will be given to members in September. Our meetings start at 2p.m. in the Parish Centre and the first meeting is on Wednesday 20 September. If you would like to join us please come along and we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge

Chair.

## **ALL SAINTS’ BARBECUE**

On the 15 July All Saints’ Church held a BBQ, Board Games and Bar event in association with Luddington Village Hall. In addition to board games people were able to play skittles, thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Church. We were also able to offer some jam and some custard doughnuts for free, thanks to an earlier hirer of the hall.

Unfortunately, the weather was not ideal for a BBQ. There was a distinct lack of sunshine and the wind was very gusty. Despite the weather we had a reasonable number of people attend, some with children, which is always good. Those who did attend enjoyed the hot dogs and burgers and the social interaction of playing skittle and board games.

Many thanks to Jean and Steve for cooking the hot dogs and burgers and to Debbie and Chris for running the bar. Also thanks to Nathan who helped set up the skittles with Steve. Nathan was able to experience how such events can bring a village community together.

We held our first ‘All Saints’ Arms’ Community Events, initiated by the Revd. Steve Jarvis, back in 2019. The introduction of events, at the Village Hall, with a licenced bar has brought the village community together. The Village Hall now also hold events with a licenced bar.

## ADMISSION TO COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION

At the beginning of July, it was wonderful to welcome six children to begin receiving Holy Communion. We have been doing this for a few years now, but the Pandemic did create a break in the process. These children will now regularly receive Holy Communion, and we continue to hold them in our prayers, looking forward to the day they choose to be confirmed.

During the service three of those who were to be admitted to Holy Communion were baptised, with their younger brother. Thank you to everyone who supported them on the day.

If your child would be interested in doing this, please let Phil know ([phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)) and he'll add their name for the next group.



Children receiving baptism candles

Emma, Phil and Patrick with children who have been baptised and those who received first communion.



Children who have received Holy Communion leading Patrick and Phil out of church.

Cake to celebrate First Holy Communion



Photographs by George Reah - 16 July 2023

## CLIFFORD CHAMBERS CIRCULAR WALK

At the end of July, a happy band of pilgrims, ably organized by Julie Renfrew from St. Helen's Church, set off on a three-hour walk from Clifford Chambers to Preston-on-Stour and back. Our group included eighteen walkers and three dogs all of whom enjoyed themselves enormously. Despite the heavy rain during most of July, we had plenty of sunshine with only a few light showers, and the occasional muddy track was quickly forgotten as we all admired the long stunning views from the hills behind Clifford Chambers. Our arrival at the village of Preston-on-Stour, our half-way point, was celebrated with much-appreciated coffee and flapjacks provided by Chris Cottrell and her Social Team.

Once we arrived back, weary but content, in Clifford Chambers, Julie generously invited everyone to share in soup, bread and sausage rolls at her house.

As well as the pleasure of walking in beautiful countryside, a group activity gives everyone an opportunity to talk to other walkers that they may not know well. Conversations were lively and varied ( cookery, advances in medicine, recent productions at the RSC...) and the time flew by. The Social Team are planning another walk in the spring of 2024. Do join us!

Judith Dorricott



Photographs by Judith Dorricott  
and Chris Cottrell

## Clifford Pageant

St Helen's Church played a key role in a summer pageant held in Clifford Chambers recently.

The church was used as one of the eight locations around Clifford in a strolling performance that involved some fifty villagers.

The church scene, written by Angela Wylam, was set in 1946 and told the story of Reverend Canon Brooks, whose sermons were so popular that a bus would bring regular worshippers from Stratford.

The St Helen's bell ringers, led by Mark Sayers and Vicky McCarthy, were also involved, welcoming the audience and ringing them out as they moved to the next location.

The Rainsford monument, which is up by the altar at St Helen's, was brought to life in a script written by Sarah Hosking, who imagined what had happened to Anne, following the death of her husband Sir Henry. If you visit the church and take a look at the Rainsfords, you will notice there is no writing on Anne's plaque.



Sally Abell, Wendy Harrison, Nick Abell and Adam Gentilli.



Angela Wylam

Adam Gentilli wearing a surplice loaned by Graham Wilcox.



## The Skittles and Barbecue on Saturday 10 June

On the hottest day of the year so far, the Parish Room was transformed into a skittles alley where Phil kept the balls rolling for a highly competitive rally where the ages ranged from 8 to 80 and possibly wider than that. Meanwhile the stalwart barbecue team roasted burgers and bangers while the skies darkened and you weren't sure whether the clouds were the smoke or the forecast thunder storm approaching. We'd all worked up a good appetite by the time we joined the queue for generous burgers and salads with delicious home-made puddings to round it off. Many thanks to all the cooks and organisers for a very enjoyable evening and to the Methodist Church for the loan of the skittles equipment.

Angela Wylam



# PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town  
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:office@stratford-upon-avon.org)

## Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	<a href="mailto:vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org">vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	<a href="mailto:steve@stratford-upon-avon.org">steve@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	<a href="mailto:kay@stratford-upon-avon.org">kay@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Curate	The Revd Thomas Powell	01789 266 316	<a href="mailto:thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org">thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Curate	The Revd Emma Harrington	01789 266 316	<a href="mailto:emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org">emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	<a href="mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org">phil@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>

## 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	<a href="mailto:liz@stratford-upon-avon.org">liz@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Parish Administrator:	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	<a href="mailto:sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org">sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		<a href="mailto:douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org">douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>

## 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	Theresa Kristunas	01789 750 326
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 - <a href="mailto:davidianharrison@hotmail.com">davidianharrison@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:office@stratford-upon-avon.org">office@stratford-upon-avon.org</a>
Welcome Team	Eve Archer	07826 574 854	or <a href="mailto:ega1912@yahoo.uk">ega1912@yahoo.uk</a>
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

