

October 2020

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TRINITY TIMES



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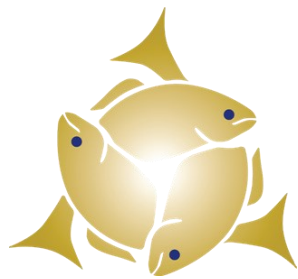


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The picture on the front cover shows people going back to St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers, on 6 September. The first time since lockdown began back in March!

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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 **November 2020** edition

The copy date is 16 October

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

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

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia   

Front cover :- First service at St Helen's since lockdown began.

By Paul Lageu

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

Holy Resistance

In the process of preparing the editorial for this month's magazine, there has been much in the news about various examples of "resistance" and non-violent-direct-action (NVDA). We have seen groups such as Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion, using civil disobedience and NVDA to block the roads outside newspaper distribution centres. We saw over the summer the Black Lives Matter protests rightly highlighting racial injustice systemic within society and institutions.



The most recent Extinction Rebellion protests coincided with the beginning of Creationtide (running until the 4 October). It covers an important time in the church calendar during which we celebrate Harvest, and have an opportunity to renew our commitment, as individuals, the Church, and as a nation, to be part of the solution to our planet's present climate emergency brought about by climate change - the threats posed by climate change to Creation, to individual species, habitats, weather patterns, and humanity.

In the challenge to address climate change, social injustice, economic inequality, power resides largely in the hands of governments, institutions and big national and multi-national companies. All too often, these are slow to change their structures and business practices. God's Creation especially, has been plundered and people exploited, and God asks us to change. The difficult work is yet to begin and will require us to take a stance, one way, or the other. For us all, this will require changes in behaviour, attitudes and choices. For some, it may mean active resistance, and might involve civil disobedience in standing firm to the values of the kingdom as revealed through the Gospel, even if costly.



However, the practice of Holy Resistance is nothing new. It is more than joining marches and demonstrations, more than being arrested for non-violent direct action, although these actions have their part. Inspired by God, Holy Resistance is a deep, rich and constant theme among God's people. Throughout the Bible, during and since the time of Jesus, God's people have resisted evil and injustice in creative ways:



- The Israelite midwives in Egypt, ordered by Pharaoh to kill Israelite baby boys, lied and saved the babies – God increased the Hebrew nation;
- Moses, adopted into the royal Egyptian household, resisted Pharaoh and led the Israelites to safety;
- Rahab, a prostitute, hid two Israelite spies on her rooftop rather than surrender them to the king of Canaan, and became an ancestor of Jesus;
- Esther, plucked from obscurity to be the Queen of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I), risked her life pleading for the lives of her fellow Israelites, and saved the nation;
- Jonah fled rather than go to pagan Nineveh, yet God pursued him, forgave him, and his powerful God-given words converted the whole city;
- When the first Christian martyr Stephen was about to be stoned to death, he not only refused to recant, but preached a powerful sermon before

Saul, who later became Paul the apostle;

cont.....

Holy Resistance cont.....

- Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns in prison, and did not flee when an earthquake broke their chains – their jailer and all his family were converted;
- Jesus practised Holy Resistance to both earthly and spiritual “powers and principalities”, in his mission as Saviour of the world;
- Individuals within the Christian-led American Civil Rights Movement risked their lives, and helped to change their nation. Many were arrested; the Revd Dr Martin Luther King assassinated.



I doubt that any of these people – or countless others – could foresee the consequences of their actions, whether in the immediate future or centuries later. Yet even if they were terrified at the time– and many were– all were obedient to the love, justice, and mercy of God, and the values of God’s kingdom, seeing with the eyes of faith, hope and love, and acting according to what they knew to be genuinely right.

We are called to respect the authority of our earthly leaders, but that should never be blind obedience. As Christians, we must grasp the challenge of discerning between good and evil

laws and practices – are they aligned to, or move us closer to the values of the Kingdom of God? An important Christian principle is to speak truth to power, whilst at the same time as praying for those in power. The theologian Walter Brueggeman wrote: *“Legitimate power always includes attentiveness to justice. When power is not attentive to justice it cannot endure. This is a summons to us to keep the agenda of justice for the vulnerable alive and front and centre, to maintain a kind of subversive stance toward power”.*

What happens when those in authority refuse to listen? When a government’s laws or commands are in direct violation of God’s teaching for us to live in peace and love with creation? Some may feel called to peaceful and respectful civil disobedience, as we have seen with Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion in recent months, to encourage those in power to listen and to engage with important issues. For as the Apostle James reminds us, words alone without actions are meaningless: *“...Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”* (James 2: 14-17).

Fortunately, the most profound and simplest action of Holy Resistance is one we can all exercise... it’s subversive, but as of yet, will not incur the police knocking at your door (unless practised unmasked in a group of six or more in a private home!) – it is prayer. Prayer is the most profound act of Holy Resistance. To pray, to celebrate Holy Communion, to sing hymns and Christian songs, to uphold love, peace, mercy, justice, and truth - these are profound acts of Holy Resistance in a world dominated by violence of all kinds (physical, psychological, emotional, moral, spiritual) and by the love of money and power. It does not matter where we are – at church, in our home, in prison, or on the streets, in a field or a garden, with others, or alone – this is powerful spiritual work which enables change.



Holy Resistance - for we are the Body of Christ, praying with faith and hope and love, and remembering that *“God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline”* (2 Timothy 1:7). Let us always be prepared to exercise it for the values of the Gospel, the benefit of God’s Creation, and in the pursuit of justice, peace and dignity for all.

The Revd Steve Jarvis - Associate Vicar

Worship in October

10am Services at Holy Trinity

It will be a great joy to open the doors of Holy Trinity once again on a Sunday morning from 11 October when we hope to begin our new 10am service. We had intended to start in September, but were delayed by the delivery of new equipment for live streaming.



Why is the new equipment so important?

Attendance at the service will be limited whilst social distancing rules apply, which means it is crucial to be able to broadcast the service live over the internet so that those who are unable to attend can still participate if they are online. This also enables us to reach those who are self-isolating, who can't attend on a particular Sunday due to family or work commitments and others, from anywhere in the world, who simply want to be part of the worship at Holy Trinity. Putting services on the internet in the last few months has enabled us to connect with a significant number of new people. Our experience during lockdown has also taught us that just using a mobile phone live results in very poor quality (as a result we had to pre-record our services during August and September). So we have decided (following a generous donation) to invest in some high quality cameras and other kit so that we are able to offer the best we can to God. We will also need screens in the church so that those present can see the elements (pictures, video clips, slides etc) that viewers at home can see. This may take a few weeks longer to achieve however, so to begin with the content of the service will be a little more limited.

What will the 10am service be like?

As there will no longer be a parallel service taking place in the Parish Centre, this new service will be a combination of what was previously the Parish Eucharist and TrinityCentre@10. This means we hope there will be something for everyone, of any age, both formal and informal elements, music which is led by the choir and also a band or instrumentalists. Our recent survey of those who have participated in services during lockdown has shown that there is a desire for our worship to be engaging, relevant and creative, rather than just feeling like we're "going through the motions" week by week.

Will there be Holy Communion?

Yes. The eucharist, which is a service of both word and sacrament, is central to our life as a church and a distinctive aspect of Holy Trinity. So the 10am service will always be eucharistic, but that doesn't mean it needs to be formal or dull. We can explore God's Word and break bread together in many different and imaginative ways, and this new start has given us the freedom to explore these. The intention is to keep and build on the best of our traditions whilst also being open to the creative work of the Holy Spirit.

Harvest Festivals

We are well and truly in Harvest season now and there are two Harvest Festival Services this month:

4 October 9.30am St. Helen's (booking required)

18 October 10am Holy Trinity (booking required but also live-streamed)

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER



Holy Trinity Church

4 October

| | | |
|------|--------------|---|
| 10am | Online only | Choral Eucharist (pre-recorded broadcast) |
| 4pm | Holy Trinity | Holy Communion (booking required) |

11 October

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 10am | "Faith in a Different World" service with Rev. Dr Sandra Millar. Booking required but also to be broadcast as a live stream. | |
| 4pm | Holy Communion (booking <u>not</u> required from this week onwards) | |

18 October

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 10am | Harvest Festival (booking required but also broadcast live) | |
| 4pm | Holy Communion (booking not required) | |

25 October - Bible Sunday

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 10am | "God's Word for Today" (booking required but also broadcast live) | |
| 4pm | Holy Communion (booking not required) | |

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

4 October

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9.30am | Harvest Festival (booking required) | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--|

18 October

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| 9.30am | Eucharist (booking required) | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|



All Saints', Luddington

11 October

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| 9.30am | Eucharist (booking required) | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|

25 October

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| 9.30am | Eucharist (booking required) | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|



FROM THE REGISTERS September/October

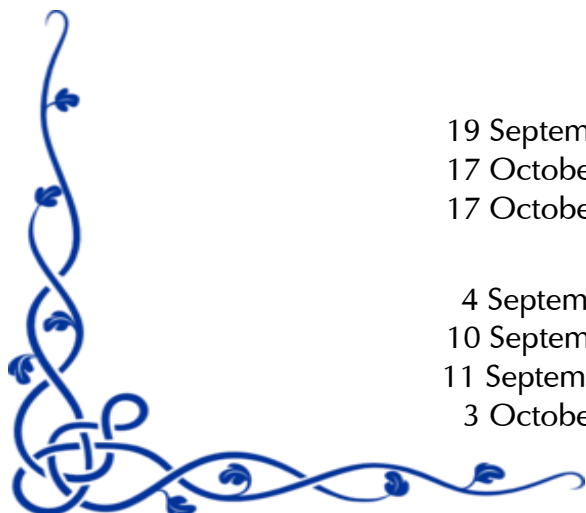
Christenings

Weddings

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 19 September | Matthew Barrett and Maria Stafford |
| 17 October | Michael Phillips and Lucy Foster |
| 17 October | Robert Cartwright and Sarah Illingworth |

Funerals

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 4 September | Maurice Beard |
| 10 September | Steven Usher |
| 11 September | Sylvia Birch |
| 3 October | William James Adam |





SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020

For 2020 we are continuing our encouragement to support the UK based charity **Link to Hope**, which benefits families and the elderly of Eastern Europe, directly through their regional partners.

Link to Hope offers help to people of all backgrounds regardless of race, colour or creed with no qualifying criteria other than that they are poor and marginalised. The charity currently works with nationals in Moldova and Romania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. It sends Christmas Shoeboxes to all of these countries, especially people struggling to survive in the poor villages that lack basic amenities.

Life in Eastern Europe is very hard. The countries that have succeeded in entry to the EU have provided many people, especially the young, with the opportunities that their parents could only dream of. However, those of low or no literacy existing in poor housing, still struggle with poverty, illness, lack of money, unemployment etc. Tragically their children are born and raised to live in the same way and continue to exist in a circle of poverty they can never escape from. Link to Hope believes that the only way out of poverty is through education and that there is also a need for social care for those that cannot look after themselves.

As we are still in a time of COVID-19, and with limited office support, as a Parish, we will be unable to be a collection point for shoeboxes. However, we can guide you to supporting the charity directly. This can be done best in the following ways:

Link to Hope can fill a shoebox on your behalf. Volunteers at Worthing HQ will choose items, pack a shoebox, wrap it and even put a greetings card in it on your behalf (family name or first names only). To complete, fill in the form in the link below, make your donation (circa £20) and write any comments in the box beneath, including what you want written on the greetings card. As they are making a shoebox especially for you **Link to Hope** will even take a photo of it and send it to you if you would like. [WE FILL A SHOEBOX LINK](#)

Donate directly to the 2020 Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal. To send a cheque instead then please send it to Link to Hope, Link House, Park Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2AN. Please mark clearly who has sent it and the donation you would like to make. To make a donation via BACS payment **Link to Hope** details are: Natwest, 60-24-31, Account No:12677949. **PLEASE PUT A REFERENCE ON YOUR PAYMENT** (e.g *Shoebox Appeal 2020*).

Thank you.

Steve



BACK AGAIN

By Sally Abell



St Helen's, at Clifford Chambers, freshly vacuumed and smelling of furniture polish, welcomed back worshippers last month.

Spiders were chased away and cobwebs removed as a masked congregation of fifteen joined a communion service led by Kay Dyer on Sunday, 6 September.

It was the first time that the majority of villagers had been inside St Helen's since March and there was a sense that it was good to be back, albeit in the slightly bizarre, Covid-compliant way.

Services at Clifford will be held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9.30am for the foreseeable future.



Trinity Times Editorial Team Vacancy

Trinity Times plays a very important role in communication and outreach both within and outside our parish. A vacancy has arisen for someone to join the Editorial Team, taking on responsibility for managing the magazine subscriptions from the beginning of 2021. We are about to commence a review of the way in which subscriptions are currently handled. As a result, this vacancy represents an exciting opportunity for someone to be directly involved in the review and to influence the outcome. If you are interested in joining the team or would like more information then please contact Paul Lageu

(tel. 01789 298302: email – paullageu@hotmail.co.uk).



PCC report: Wednesday 26 August 2020

'Blended worship' has been voted by PCC as the style best suited for future 10 o'clock Sunday morning services, under the current COVID restricted circumstances.

The new pattern of worship will begin from Sunday 11 October for a six-month trial period.

Reverend Patrick Taylor said, "I believe this is a risk worth taking in these exceptional times and with our limited resources. We're talking about one act of worship, for all ages, from all stages of faith and from all forms of socio-economic backgrounds. It's really important that we go into this with our eyes open. This is not a 'closing down' of other services, but a combination of what's usually experienced in the Parish Centre and the main Church building."



Finance

Treasurer Mike Warrillow provided an initial 2021 budget and an overview of August's finances. Mike said, "At the end of the month we will be £75K in deficit...this time last year we were around £112,000 in surplus. That's £187,000 year over year change and we're still eating into our reserves quite quickly.

"More and more people are moving to standing order which means stewardship is holding up. But Chancel donations are down dramatically due to reduced visitor numbers and less being given."

With Holy Trinity's income significantly depleted, PCC voted in favour of the proposal to only pay Clergy costs to the Diocese and no tithe on our income for our Parish Share.*

*Every Parish in the Diocese of Coventry contributes towards the cost of Parish Ministers.

News in brief

Kirsty Severn has been appointed as a Foundation Governor for our Church school, Holy Trinity Primary alongside Reverend Patrick Taylor and Val Payne.

PCC agreed to approach the 'Friends of Shakespeare's Church' to help fund the restoration and re-ordering of the North Transept, to take a proposal to open the space to visitors a step further.

PCC approved in principal, that a bubble of six Bell Ringers can be formed to return to the bell tower to ring - with appropriate social distancing measures in place.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 September 2020.

Services back at All Saints', Luddington

All Saints' held its first service since lockdown on 9 August with a full house of socially distancing congregation. There seemed a tangible feeling of relief at being back, albeit without bells and hymns and we are looking forward to our next service in September. Priority will be given to the regular members of the All Saints' congregation but there will be a few spare spaces for others wanting to join us. Our thanks to Revd Steve Jarvis and Paul Lageu for their help in getting us on the road back to normality."

Jane Beeley

BEYOND THE RIVER JORDAN - 2



We are exploring the area beyond the River Jordan to which Jesus took his mission several times according to all four gospels and from which crowds of his followers came (Matt 4.2).

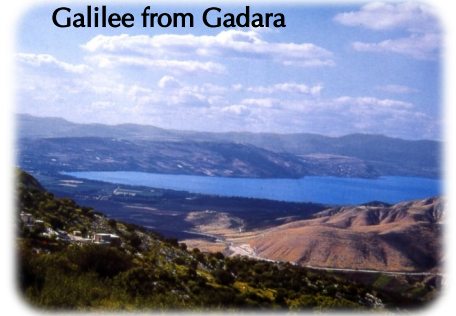


Decapolis

This is the region known as the Decapolis or Ten Cities which included Amman (Philadelphia in Jesus' day), Gadara, Gerasa, Pella and Damascus, all of which had grand status in Roman times as witnessed by the well-preserved city ruins, and some have important significance in biblical history. The fact that people farmed pigs in this area reveals that they were Gentiles. This would be the imagined 'far country' to which the prodigal son departed in Jesus' parable.

Amman, the capital of modern Jordan, was where Uriah the Hittite was killed in battle with the Ammonites, purposefully so that David could steal his wife Bathsheba (2 Sam 11). On our first day in Jordan we headed north out of Amman to Gadara, made famous as the place where the demons Jesus cast out of a madman fled into a herd of pigs which then stampeded to their drowning in the lake (Mark 5). As we walked up the road through Gadara, paved with black basalt slabs, we reflected that this was the way Jesus trod. Wherever we went we paused to read aloud the appropriate biblical stories. From Gadara there is a fine view across the blue waters of Galilee to distant Capernaum and Nazareth. Scholarship suggests however that the encounter with the madman actually took place at Gergesa, closer to the lake. It was in crossing Galilee (about six miles wide) immediately before this incident that Jesus stilled the storm which caused the disciples to wonder who he was (Mark 4). From these earliest days of Jesus' ministry reports of his miracles and his power over demonic forces reportedly drew vast crowds from this area.

Galilee from Gadara



River Jabbock

On travelling to Gadara we crossed the River Jabbock, famous as the place where Jacob wrestled with God in the night and after which his name was changed to Israel (Gen 32.22-32). Jabbock, where we crossed it, is no more than a babbling brook, but it remains famous as the site of one of those divine interventions on which Israel's faith was founded. Jacob named it Peniel, that is "*the face of God*", because he had 'met with God face to face'. Somewhat incongruously we were greeted by two old chaps in Kefir headdress who offered us the world's most bitter coffee!

Then it was only a short journey to Jerash, ancient capital of the Gerasenes. Of all the Roman ruins outside Italy those at Jerash are counted the best preserved. Here we became acquainted with amphitheatres still in use and holding thousands of spectators, where the acoustics are so good that sounds made by tearing a piece of paper or dropping a key on the stage can be heard distinctly at the top of the auditorium. In some places sound was amplified by ceramic pipes running up through the seating. At Jerash the main street is bordered for six hundred metres by pillars that once framed the frontages of shops. Ruts in the paving indicate where chariots for centuries rumbled along. The site includes fountains and temples from Greek times.



Jerash

All this is a reminder of how the Gospel quickly took root in the Greco-Roman culture beyond the Jewish world. At Jerash there is an imposing Temple of Artemis, sacred to the same goddess with whose devotees Paul contended at Ephesus (Acts 19.23-41) and here also is evidence of Christian churches later formed from the fallen stones of the pagan temple.

Supporting Vulnerable Children & Young People

Do you want to support a charity, allied to The Church of England, whose vision is 'A country where children are free from disadvantage, where we fight for change, supporting disadvantaged children to have better lives'? If so, please read on, and do not skip this article, to learn about how you can help and support the work of The Children's Society.



A major source of income for The Children's Society comes from House Boxes. House Boxes are a simple and easy way to contribute to the work of The Society. The Society can provide a box, into which you can put in any loose change, which you hardly notice at the time (although we're more than happy to accept notes), and this small change accumulates over the year, until the annual box opening when with all the other boxes in the parish are opened and counted. This adds up to a significant contribution to the work of The Society (nearly £1800 in 2019). If you don't have a box, and would like one, then please contact me (paullageu@hotmail.co.uk; tel. 01789 298302).

As we are all too well aware, this has not been a normal year and it still isn't. It is looking like it will be many months before we are back to any sort of normality. With significant numbers of people having shielded at home and with a much-reduced number of purchases having been transacted using cash, as opposed to card, it is likely that the amount of money currently held in Children's Society House Boxes will be far lower than in previous years. Many of our faithful 'counters', who help count the box contents at the annual box opening, are over seventy and have also been shielding. Add into the mix the likely problems with banking cash (a lengthy process at the best of times, even without social distancing), then it is with much regret that I have decided that the Children's Society Box Opening for Holy Trinity, scheduled for 7 November, will not go ahead this year.

However, COVID does not reduce or stop the work of The Children's Society. If anything, the need for help and support for children and young people is even more acute. In addition to the call on its services during lockdown, the Society is anticipating a significant increase in the demand as lockdown eases and children return to school. Therefore, I would encourage everyone who has a house box to continue to keep putting money into the box and help make 2021 a bumper record-breaking year.

The Society has been very active during the pandemic. As an example, 'Pause', a mental health drop-in centre for young people in Birmingham has adapted to work through email, and telephone now that their systems have been tested as safe and confidential. There have been conversations around death, domestic violence, alcohol misuse, loneliness and many other issues which have been exacerbated by lockdown. They have also produced Self soothe boxes which include mindful colouring, pencils, stress balls and chocolate which go out in the post. More children and young people who would not have walked into Pause have accessed the service remotely, enabling staff to help a greater number of people. They are now trying to have a booking system within government guidelines to meet face to face too.



Unfortunately, it is likely that many churches around the country will be forced to take the same decision that I have, with regard to this year's box opening, resulting in a significant drop in income at the very time when the Society needs it most. In addition, a very significant contribution to The Society's work, the income from Christingle Services, is also likely to be significantly reduced this year.

cont.....

Supporting Vulnerable Children and Young People cont.....

You don't need to be a box holder to contribute to the essential work of The Children's Society. If you would like to contribute at this critical time, whether or not you are a box holder, the Society are more than happy to accept contributions by cheque (made payable to The Children's Society). If you would like to contribute in this way then please send your cheques to the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, addressed for my attention. Alternatively, the St Andrew's, Shottery, based Committee, have set up a Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jackie-wightman).

If you would like more information on the work of The Children's Society then please go to their website (www.childrensociety.org.uk) or speak to me (01789 298302).

Paul Lageu
Children's Society
House Box Co-ordinator



Revd Patrick Taylor with
Sandra MacDonald,
Orion Johnson, Janet Hall and
Lindsay MacDonald
In front of the Becket
exhibition.



'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'

These are the words alleged to have been spoken by Henry II, referring to Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in December 1170. Four knights took the king's words literally and slew Becket in the north transept of Canterbury Cathedral on 29 December 1170. As we learn in history, a whole chain of events unfolded from this single treacherous act.

Thomas Becket was born about 1118 in Cheapside, London and rose to become a dangerous adversary of his king, Henry II. He became Lord Chancellor, then was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, but soon came into irreconcilable conflict with Henry and was forced to spend six years in exile in France. On his return to England in early December 1170, Becket again challenged the king, and was murdered. The monks in the cathedral hastily placed his remains in a tomb in the crypt, but within three years he was canonised and fifty years later, on 7 July 1220, his remains were translated from the crypt to a magnificent shrine in the cathedral.

Stimulated by the many miracles associated with St. Thomas's shrine, Canterbury Cathedral thus became a celebrated focus of medieval pilgrimage, rivalling Santiago de Compostella and Rome and in popularity.

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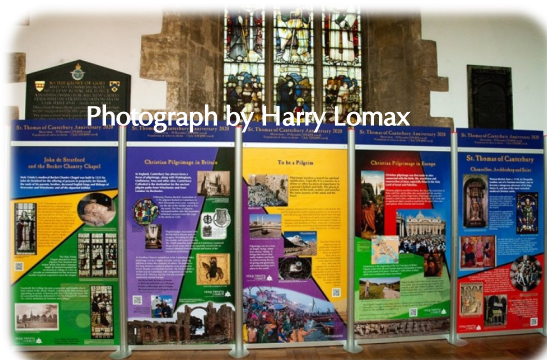
'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?' cont.....

Holy Trinity's own medieval **St. Thomas Becket Chantry Chapel** was built in 1331 by John de Stratford especially to offer prayers for the souls of himself, his family and departed kings and bishops; de Stratford was originally Rector of Holy Trinity, then Bishop of Winchester, and finally became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1333. He too is buried in Canterbury Cathedral, near the site of the St. Thomas Becket shrine. Our Becket Chantry Chapel also attracted many pilgrims both from Stratford and from around the country.

Pilgrimages involve a search for spiritual significance, and Christian pilgrimages outside England were made to places in Europe such as Rome, the city associated with the martyrdom of Peter and Paul, and to other sites connected with the birth and life of Jesus, especially in the Holy Lands of Israel and Palestine.

In this important year, commemorating the 850th anniversary of the murder of St. Thomas Becket, and the 800th of the translation of his relics to the shrine, a group of church volunteers has succeeded (despite the problems of working within a Covid-free environment) in mounting an exhibition to celebrate the life and influence of St. Thomas Becket. The exhibition includes five large and colourful stands, full of images and information about John de Stratford, St. Thomas Becket and the practice of pilgrimage.

The Guild Chapel has a wall painting of the Becket murder, and it was intended to liaise with Holy Trinity and local schools to lead children's pilgrimages from chapel to church, with the exhibition as part of the commemorations. A team was already working to this end when Covid-19 brought these plans to a halt. The exhibition is the sole survivor of the preparations to mark these important anniversaries. It has been created by a talented team, project managed by Lindsay MacDonald, whose wife Sandra researched and wrote the text for both the exhibition and the more extensive accompanying website articles. Professional graphic designer, Orion Johnson worked on the design of the five panels and has produced a bold and arresting display. Our operations manager Andy Winter provided the excellent hardware for the five panels, and the whole exhibition, which was paid for with church funds, cost less than two hundred pounds. An



added bonus in the exhibition is a beautiful watercolour of the Becket Chantry Chapel, painted by Guild Chapel volunteer and local artist, Janet Hall. Her imaginative depiction really helps the visitor envisage how the medieval chapel might have looked in the 14th century.



Watercolour of the Becket Chapel as imagined in the 14th century
By Janet Hall.

In a short ceremony on 9 September, the Vicar, Revd Patrick Taylor, blessed the opening of the exhibition, and said he hoped that those who see it will be inspired in faith and in their pilgrimage through life. The exhibition will be on display during the autumn season, and visitors to

Holy Trinity Church, both young and old, will be enthralled by the eye-catching images and by the story of the memorable martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket.

Judith Dorricott



The Parish "Away Weekend At Home", Sunday 11 October
10am Holy Trinity (and live streamed) and 2-3.30pm on Zoom

We may not have been able to have our Away Weekend as planned this year, but we're delighted that the speaker we had booked, The Revd Canon Dr. Sandra Millar, is coming to Holy Trinity on Sunday 11 October to give a talk at the 10am service on the theme of "Faith in a Different World". As the world adjusts to the effects of Coronavirus, what does it mean to have faith? What difference does it make to our lives, our churches and our world?



Sandra lives in Gloucester and works for the Church of England as Head of Welcome and Life Events, helping churches to engage well with all whom we meet, especially through christenings, weddings and funerals. She previously worked as Adviser for work with Children and Families in Gloucester Diocese (where she was a colleague of Steve Jarvis!) and in various parishes. She trained at Cuddesdon (with Patrick!) and prior to that had a career in retail marketing. Sandra grew up in a village near Coventry, and is interested in reading, travelling, eating and people. She is also passionate about helping all of us together discover more about living as a follower of Jesus and attracting others to find the joy.

Following her address at the 10am service there will then be an on-line discussion forum from 2-3.30pm to enable us to explore further with Sandra what it means to be Christians and the Church in this world that now feels different from the normal we were used to.

Sandra says; 'I am so looking forward to being with everyone at Holy Trinity, and learning together more of what faith means in the changed world we find ourselves facing in 2020.'

**Be content
whatever the
circumstances.**

Philippians 4:11



WINDOW ON THE WORLD



Many years ago, I was walking up a hill in north London, looking west, into one of the finest sunsets I have ever seen. It occurred to me then that this beautiful experience was largely down to air pollution and other imperfections in the atmosphere. That set me thinking. And some of our experiences of “imperfection” in people’s responses to the pandemic have led me back to that story.

We tend to assume – even from references in the Bible (some of which are mistranslations) – that “obviously” perfection must be better than imperfection. And then we look at things like pressures for “the perfect body”, which have done real harm, especially to women. Perhaps, in history, pressures for “the perfect political and economic system” have been even more damaging.

I believe that there is still a tradition in parts of Islam which has something to teach us. Artists and craftspeople will deliberately leave a small flaw somewhere in their work. Why? To remind themselves and others that perfection belongs to God alone.

Perhaps that is something we need to remember much more, as we face the challenge of change beyond the pandemic. There are already plenty of people telling us how to be better than we were before; individually and as a community; physically, mentally and spiritually. And we must listen, because there was a lot wrong with the pre-pandemic society, much of which has been shown up by the experiences of the past few months. One example is inequality, especially but not only between racial groups. Another is disharmony between humans and their environment. These and many other issues have been seen in new perspectives, and we must rise to the challenges they present. But we will pretty certainly not get it right, at least not in our own strength or in our own time, and we need to accept that before we start.



A great theologian once said that the beginning of faith lay in “simply accepting the fact that we are accepted”. Those words have been liberating to many. To young women obsessed with the pressures to conform to a “perfect” body image. To autistic people, struggling to get to grips with the sheer reality of other people and indeed of God. To many great individuals, like Churchill, Mandela and Gandhi, who through serious personal imperfections have contributed really dramatically to making the world a better place. Those words can liberate all of us to make a positive difference without being obsessed with the “perfect” result. Our “imperfections” may, of course, be hindrances to that – but they can also, as with that sunset, actually contribute to the final result in ways we cannot foresee.

We may not all see ourselves as “people of faith”. But I am reminded - even in my own experience – of that old joke about the two behaviourist psychologists who met in the street; one said to the other “You’re feeling fine; how am I feeling?” Our faith, whatever form it takes, may be more obvious to others (and to God) than to ourselves. Don’t listen (too much) to those who tell you how to be and what to do in some search for an abstract perfection. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted – and you might discover that you can move mountains.



CONTINUING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

With restrictions remaining in place, the work with Children and Families still can't return to normal, well as normal as it ever was. But it has provided new opportunities. I've been working with Claire Grimes, who is the Children and Youth Minister at St James' Alveston. Claire had a great idea for how we can reach out to our younger members in a way that didn't put a lot of extra pressure on parents.



In September we released the first *Bible Adventure Box* service. A service for primary aged children based around a Bible story, with some exploration of what the story means, songs, prayers, rhymes and a craft. The great idea Claire had is that families can request a free box (letterbox sized) that contains everything children would need for the service. All the craft materials, puzzles, song words and even a sweet treat. No rummaging around the house to find sharpened pencil crayons.

At the end of August Claire and I met at St Peter's Mission Church on Manor Road to record the service. It was a fun morning as we figured out exactly how this would work, whilst making sure we remained Covid secure in all that we did.

The highlight for me was getting to play with a cow bell, I've never played one before, but if you watch the video you can see just how much I enjoyed it, although I fear I am now banned from using it!!

The first service was the story of *Jonah*, and it gave us the opportunity to share some ways the children could cope with the new adventure of returning to school, by looking at the positive side of things. The October service is based on *Daniel and the Lion's Den* and will be another exciting adventure. If

you know a child who would like a box, email me phil@stratford-upon-avon.org and I'll get one to them. The boxes are free, although if they are to be sent further than the Stratford area there might be a postage cost. If you want to watch the video of the service to get a better idea of what it's all about,



it's available on our Church YouTube channel, just search on YouTube for "Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon" and look through our videos to find "Bible Adventure Box – Jonah (Sept 2020)". It is also on our Facebook page. The October Daniel service will be joining it soon.

There have been a lot of challenges and stress for all people over the last few months, and unfortunately we aren't out of the woods yet. But I hope we can reflect and celebrate the new opportunities, the new links we have made, as we continue on this adventure together.



Phil Harper

From the Clare family in Uganda



We have just arrived in Kampala on a trip to finalise the immigration requirements for Verity and the boys now that the department is open again after lockdown. We are staying in a lovely AirBnB house (and we've had our first ice creams in Uganda) but we are hearing strong rumours that Kampala may be locking down again in response to a rapidly-increasing number of positive COVID-19 tests. We're supposed to be heading to our first short family safari at Murchison National Park but we need to be here for a while to get our immigration bits done.

There have been false rumours before so please pray with us that we make it out!

Just a few days ago, I (Tom) saw an 11-year-old boy named Eric (not his real name) as part of a clinic during my *doctor's day* at Yivu Abea health centre in Maracha district. The photo is me with Gilbert, the in-charge officer at the health centre a month or two ago (we were delivering hand washing stations as part of a project through Irish Aid).

It was the first time I had met Eric, but he was very unwell, with bilateral proptosis (both eyes being pushed forwards out of his head) as well as widespread lymphadenopathy (enlarged lymph nodes that can be felt) and prostration (being unable to stand up). He had been completely well up until March this year, like any other 11-year-old you might meet. They had been to two hospitals in the last six weeks but hadn't got any answers, even being told in their words that *nothing was wrong*, although the suspected diagnosis of childhood lymphoma had been written all over their medical notes. This is a childhood cancer that is potentially curable, even when discovered at an advanced stage, by chemotherapy.



I expect I'll write more in our upcoming link letter, but I explained to the boy and his family that he likely had a cancer called lymphoma at an advanced stage and we then organised a transfer to Uganda Cancer Institute as soon as practically possible. We went through the process of praying for God's provision for the family whose funds were exhausted by their prior medical bills and a sponsor came up within a day to cover all the costs of transport, diagnosis and any treatment needed.

I wrote the referral letter and spoke to the hospital. He was due to travel with his brother to start the process of diagnosis ahead of any treatment, with everything in place to help with their costs, but we just heard this morning that he died yesterday. I think he was at home but I haven't yet heard the details.

We are still processing this - it's my first experience of the stark reality of childhood death here in Uganda - but we appreciate your prayers for his family (he has several siblings including the eldest brother who carried him to my clinic) and for Gilbert, the in-charge at Yivu Abea through whom the transfer was being arranged and who will be trying to support the family as best he can. We also appreciate your prayers for us as we try to disentangle the complicated web of thoughts, emotions and questions both of what the hospitals were thinking and what God's up to in all of this.

We always love to hear your own news and prayer points (even if we often take a while to reply to them!) so do get in touch and let us know how you've been.

Blessings,
Tom and Verity

Clares in Uganda, P.O.Box 129, Arua, Uganda.

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

by Richard Howarth

Editor Stratford Herald



ON Boxing Day last year I had a lovely walk around a fairly quiet Stratford, showing off the town to an American friend of my daughter. We reached Holy Trinity and then headed back alongside the river to the rest of the family, who had opted out.

I reflected on that tour in my next comment piece for the Herald and, with a certain amount of disruption likely in 2020, welcomed the enduring presence of the river and the other institutions of the town. Wow! It is odd to look back on a time when the only disruption I expected was Brexit.

We planned to report on that and all other news in the balanced way we always aim for, while looking ahead to July and our 160th anniversary.

Coronavirus was not on our radar, so we expected to reach that landmark still a broadsheet paper and still owned by the family it had been in for generations.

We know what happened next and I don't want to divert attention from those who have suffered loss or been on the front line caring for others.

But as I write this now, the Herald is in a very different situation from where it was little more than six months ago.

We are under new ownership after we went into administration in May, a move that surprised many in the community.

It is no secret that newspapers have been under pressure for a number of years but even as the pandemic struck, few probably thought the Herald would be at risk – indeed many people believe newspapers are 'supposed' to exist.

But we are just another business and make our money from people buying the paper and buying adverts.

So we went into administration with hope but no certainty of the outcome we now have. Our staff was reduced as part of the process, although we were also incredibly busy and were getting unexpected appreciation for our efforts to keep people connected.

As part of our strategy at this time we changed from our broadsheet format to a new tabloid look and expanded the range of our offering – not avoiding difficult stories but also featuring the many positive ones and launching our Messages of Hope series, with a contribution from a faith leader each week. We also got some unexpected encouragement from a former Church of England director of communications.

In a piece published in Christian Today magazine, Peter Crumpler urged churchgoers to back their local papers and highlighted how our role cannot be replaced by a community Facebook or WhatsApp group.

One comment stood out: "As local and regional media teeter on the brink of extinction, Christians can play their part by paying for their news – online or in print – promoting support for the local media in their church networks and supplying them with news and information."

The Herald teetered on the brink of extinction but has been saved and we go forward with new owners as Stratford News & Media. But we still need people to buy adverts and buy a copy each week.

Many towns have lost their papers and I believe are diminished by that – so for just 90p a week for an issue in print or online you get a collection of stories you won't find elsewhere (including our website and social media) and we think that's well worth it.

If you haven't read it for a while, give it a go – and let me know what you think, maybe over a socially-distanced tea or coffee!

SQUIRRELS VERSUS SNOWDROPS

Would you prefer to see squirrels scampering around the churchyard or snowdrops pushing up through the grass? That was the problem confronting the Churchyard Maintenance Team this month. When I met the team, one of their members Liz Johnson explained that they have decided to plant hundreds of snowdrops "in the green" this winter, so that they will flower in a year's time, and will eventually spread right across the churchyard lawns. They cannot plant snowdrop bulbs as the squirrels will simply dig them up and eat them all!

The Churchyard Maintenance Team was set up three years ago by Lindsay MacDonald, who was saddened to see the churchyard grounds looking untidy in places. While Stratford Council cut the grass and removed all the leaves, the area needed some TLC, and a group of enthusiastic volunteer gardeners offered to join Lindsay's team. The volunteers meet every two weeks and their main tasks include weeding and clearing branches, as well as removing excess ivy and pruning bushes and trees when necessary. One of their aims is to raise the canopy of the many trees, by lopping lower branches, so that all the grounds become lighter and more visible.



Lindsay Macdonald and Liz Johnson
by the stone pine tree.

If you have time to wander around the churchyard, there are some magnificent trees to admire. Apart from the stone pine tree from Ravenna (pictured) with its beautiful twisted trunk outside the south door, there is a cedar tree dating from 1872 which came from Gethsemane, an enormous oak planted in 1991 in memory of Rear Admiral Rupert Wainright, and a mulberry tree planted in 2010 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of our church.

Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the team had to stop work for three months but are now back in action. There is a great sense of camaraderie among the volunteers and an enthusiastic team spirit - perhaps helped by the fact that they always stop for tea and a chat during the afternoon - so if you enjoy gardening and want to join the group, they will be delighted to hear from you.

Judith Dorricott



A sunny summer's day - in good spirits - so pleased to be together
at a safe distance.



HOWLERS!

'The next best thing to solving a problem is finding some humour in it'

Frank A. Clark

ONE LINERS

The first Underground station ever opened was Baker Street in 1906. What was the point? Where would you go? *Paul Merton*

Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture."

I saw this bloke chatting-up a cheetah and I thought: "He's trying to pull a fast one".

Hooray! I finished Netflix today

FROM the Colchester County High School weekly parent bulletin: Dead Poets Society — for all poetry lovers. Bring a poem to read out or simply come along to listen. All authors must be dead, unless the author is yourself.

Radio 4 News Quiz

Only four people attended a meeting to discuss public apathy in Dorchester, Dorset. *Sunday Times*

There has been a dramatic change in our diets in the UK in recent years with more than 3.5 million vegans as of April this year. Retail has quickly caught up, with Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose all beefing up their vegan offers. *The Guardian*

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Christian Crackers



Compiled by Pat Pilton

"Looks like the sexton went to Spain after all, and is still in quarantine"



Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: "Lunch will begin at 12:15". Please correct to read "12 noon". *Harnham Parish mag*

OUT OF THE MOUTHS... My daughter Amelia, aged five, was crying because she couldn't get to sleep. I suggested she imagine a field with sheep passing through the gate one by one and to count the sheep and she would soon fall asleep. After five minutes the howling started again and I asked her what was the matter. Amelia said she had been counting the sheep but the field was now absolutely full. *Bidford-on-Avon letter to Daily Mail*



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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.

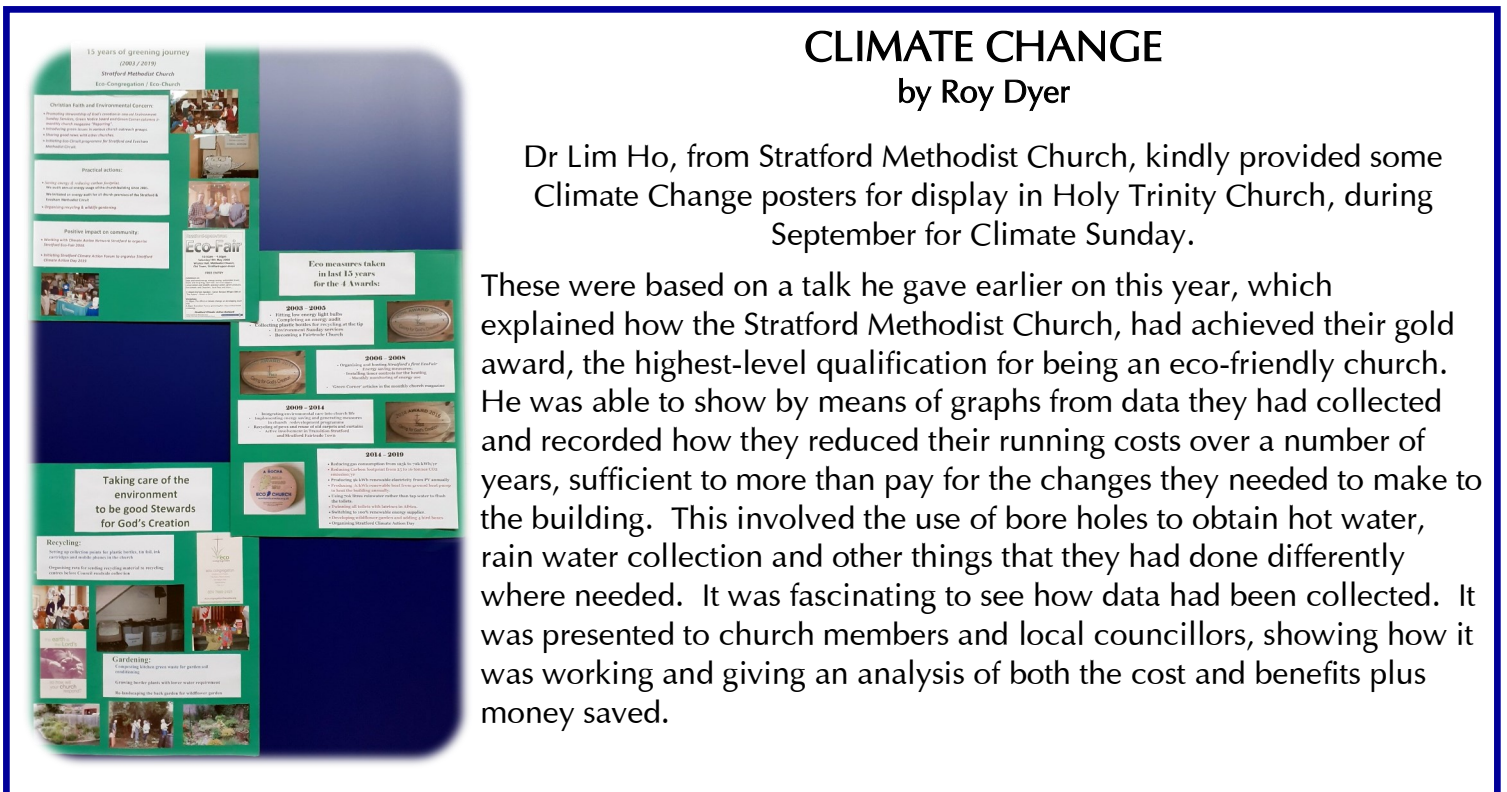


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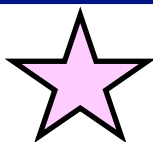
by Roy Dyer

Dr Lim Ho, from Stratford Methodist Church, kindly provided some Climate Change posters for display in Holy Trinity Church, during September for Climate Sunday.

These were based on a talk he gave earlier on this year, which explained how the Stratford Methodist Church, had achieved their gold award, the highest-level qualification for being an eco-friendly church. He was able to show by means of graphs from data they had collected and recorded how they reduced their running costs over a number of years, sufficient to more than pay for the changes they needed to make to the building. This involved the use of bore holes to obtain hot water, rain water collection and other things that they had done differently where needed. It was fascinating to see how data had been collected. It was presented to church members and local councillors, showing how it was working and giving an analysis of both the cost and benefits plus money saved.



Our Director of Music Douglas Keilitz and his wife Nancy together in church in September, after seven months apart, due to visa delays and Covid-19 restrictions.





Two men in a boat.

Mike Warrillow and Rhod Mitchell sailing past Holy Trinity church in July.

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FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH

To all members of the Friends, please note that, because of the Covid19 situation, we have had to defer this year's Annual General Meeting until the 25 October at 2.30pm. It will have to be held virtually given the current restrictions on gatherings of over six people and you should be receiving an invitation soon. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Thank you.

Alan Haigh
Chairman
Friends of Shakespeare's Church



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Tel. 01789 266 316

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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 |
| Children & Families Minister | Phil Harper | 07791 005 696 | phil@stratford-upon-avon.org |

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| The Revd Jenny Rowland | 01789 415 548 | The Revd Canon Andrew Dow | 01789 417 852 |
| The Venerable Brian Russell | 01789 266 316 | The Revd John Hall-Matthews | 01789 414 182 |
| The Revd Graham Wilcox | 01789 551 759 | The Revd Diane Patterson | 01789 266 453 |
| The Revd Roger Taylor | 01789 778 471 | | |

Staff

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Operations Manager: | Andy Winter | 01789 266 316 | andy@stratford-upon-avon.org |
| Parish Administrator: | Sarah Cushing | 01789 266 316 | |
| Director of Music: | Douglas Keilitz | | douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org |

Church Wardens

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Hilda Craig | 01789 551 234 | Paul Lageu | 01789 298 302 |
| Rhod Mitchell | 07983 985 474 | | |

Village Contacts

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| All Saints', Luddington | Jane Beeley | 01789 269 618 |
| St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers | Pat Woolvin | 01789 264 256 |

Other Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Head Server | Chris Cornford | 01789 295 066 |
| Bell Ringers | Charles Wilson | 01789 295 467 |
| Bereavement Support Team | Gina Lodge | 01789 204 850 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Jane Armitage | 01789 297 652 |
| Trinity Ladies | Gina Lodge | 01789 204 850 |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Tim Raistrick | 01789 509 885 |
| Friends of Shakespeare's Church | Alan Haigh | 01789 290 128 |
| Holy Trinity in the Community | Steve Jarvis | 01789 266 316 |
| Lay Chaplains | Keith Payne | 01789 266 316 |
| PCC Secretary | Miriam Dow | 01789 417 852 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mike Warrillow | 01789 298 928 |
| Friends of the Music | Josephine Walker | 01789 266 316 |
| Home Communion | Steve Jarvis | 01789 266 316 |
| Stewardship Officer | Chris Kennedy | 01789 299 785 |
| Trinity Players | Ursula Russell | 01789 204 923 |
| Trinity Tots | Phil Harper | 07791 005 696 |
| Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator | Gillian Nunn | 01789 415 830 |
| Welcome Team | Helen Warrillow | 01789 298 928 |
| Sunday Coffee organisers | Tina Hillyard | 01789 551 739 |
| | Diane Edwards | 01789 296 396 |