

December 2020 / January 2021

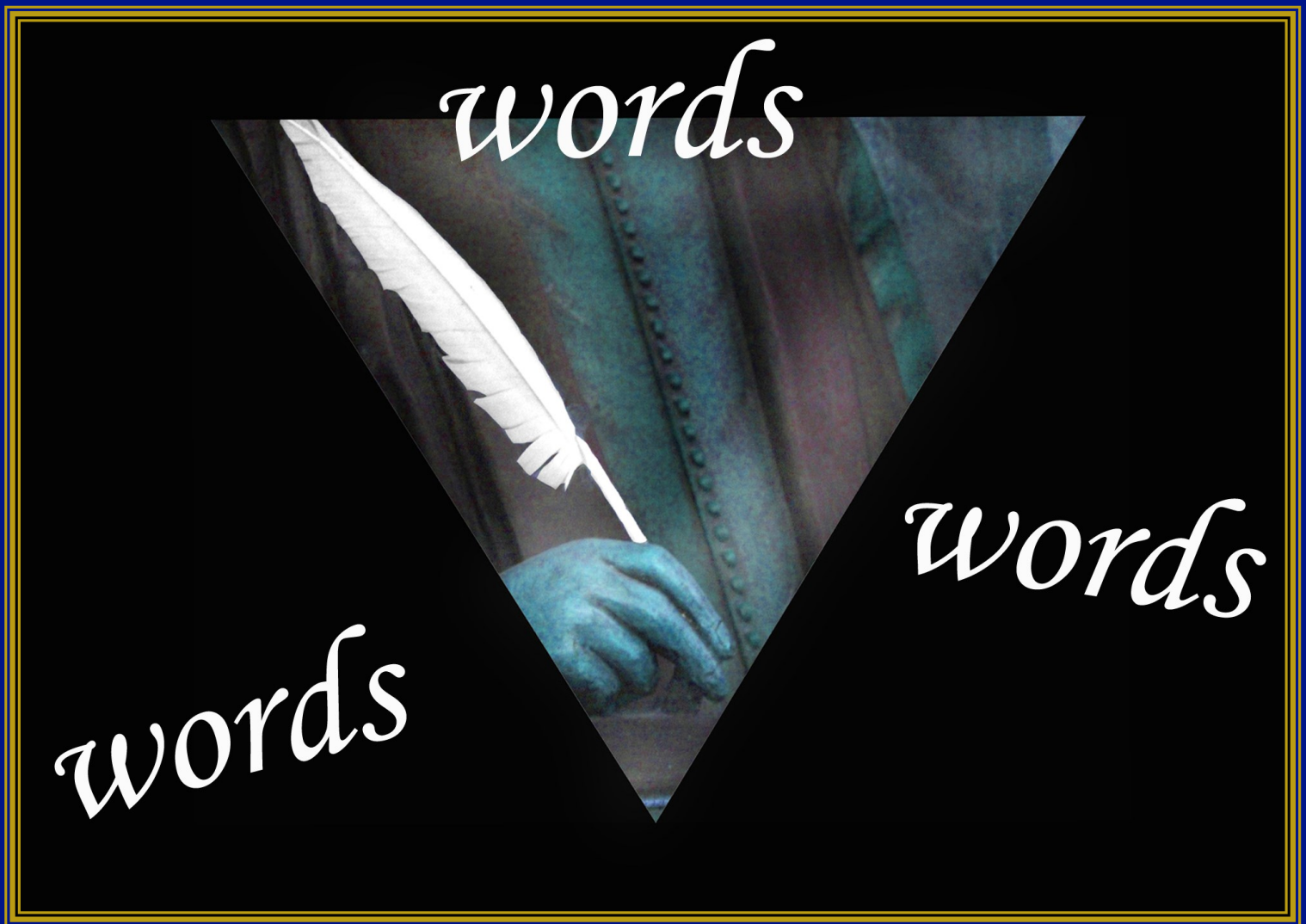
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# TRINITY TIMES



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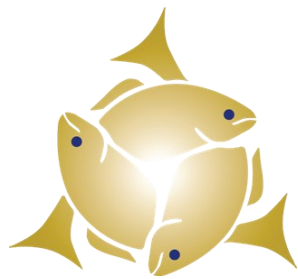


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This edition of the magazine sees the last *Howlers* which has been running for seven years and all of us on the team would like to say a huge *thank you* to Pat Pilton who has worked so hard to put them together.

**Editor** - Revd Patrick Taylor

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**Team Member** - Paul Lageu

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 **February 2021** edition

**The copy date is 15 January**

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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For any questions regarding the distribution of Trinity

Times please contact:

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- *The Dramatist*

Detail of Shakespeare monument in Holy Trinity Church.

Do you know which play the quote comes from?

Answer on page 25.

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

# COMFORT AND JOY

One of my favourite details of the Christmas story is the fact that the three Kings “left for their own country by another way” after their visit to Jesus. This Advent it feels as though we are doing this journey backwards, and having to approach Christmas “by another way”. As a uniquely difficult year draws to its close, Christmas will feel different, and we need to acknowledge that for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones, the emphasis this Christmas will need to be as much on “comfort” as it is on “joy”. We need to be ready to offer consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in with jubilation.

St Paul in Romans 12.15 tells us to ‘rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep’. We are yet to see if we will be able to celebrate together in one place this year, but this is an opportunity to embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not have been physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so anyway.

The Church of England is offering online reflections and services this Advent and Christmas under the title of “Comfort and Joy”. The hope is that Comfort and Joy will help us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God’s consoling love in the present. Look out for links which will be in our weekly bulletins this month.



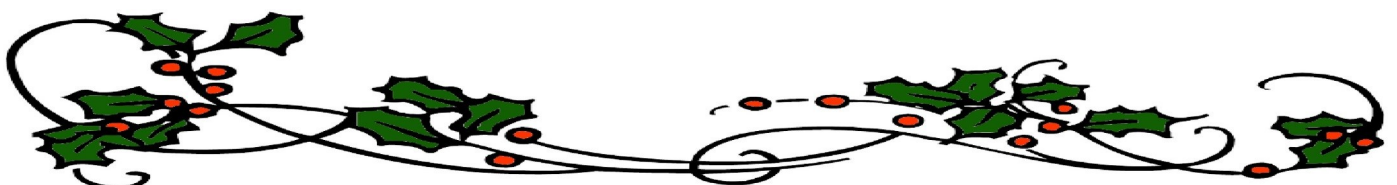
Our Archbishops Justin and Stephen write in one of their booklets, “Christmas this year will feel different. The family gatherings may well be smaller. For at least some of us, we may be joining in the familiar carols online rather than in church. But it will still be – as always – a time to care for one another and to be together. It will be a time to look back on a year when so much has changed. To remember those who have died, to support those who have lost jobs, to be thankful for all who have cared for the sick and the vulnerable. What has not changed is the story and the meaning of Jesus’ birth. God is with us. With us in the mess as in the good, in the disappointment and the difficulty, in sorrow and in celebration.”

A source of both comfort and joy for us in this parish has been the response to our recent Stewardship appeal. As you will have read last month, we are facing a significant shortfall in our income at the moment. Our giving needs to increase by about £4000 a month to cover the basic costs of our mission and ministry next year. It’s wonderful to see a number of people responding, either by setting up a Standing Order for monthly giving, or increasing the amount they already give. It’s too early to see the final result but my sincere thanks to all those of you who are giving generously and faithfully in order to enable the work of building God’s kingdom to continue in this Parish.

The different path we are having to tread this year is a bit steeper and rockier than the one we are used to, but thanks to your support and belief that God really is changing lives through what we are doing, this is a journey we can make together and will still lead us to encounter the miracle of God with us in our darkness.

My very best wishes to you all this Christmas

*Patrick*



# THE “BECKET SERVICE” ON SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

by Anthony Woollard

It was a happy coincidence that the Sunday on which Holy Trinity chose to remember Thomas Becket fell on the feast of Christ the King. The struggle between Becket and King Henry II was, after all, a struggle between Church and State, as to where the ultimate lordship lay – even if it was rather too focused on the technicalities of the Church’s legal rights. And Becket certainly believed that he was above all a servant of Christ the King, working to advance that kingship and finally dying for it. And thousands, perhaps millions, have subsequently made the pilgrimage to his shrine in Canterbury Cathedral, following in his footsteps.



Candle marking the Becket shrine in Canterbury Cathedral.

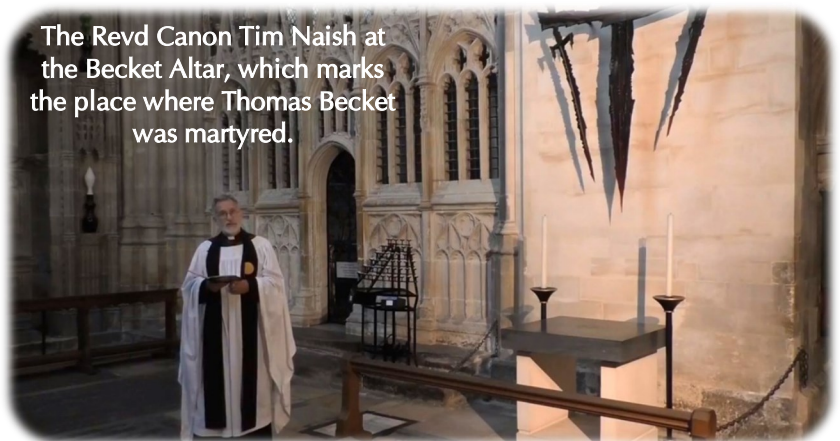


A scene from *Murder in the Cathedral*.

We had all hoped that this service would be an introduction to the Trinity Players’ production of *Murder in the Cathedral* over the following few days. Alas, lockdown prevented that, and we must now wait for it until sometime early in 2021 when Government rules allow. But the service began with two very brief extracts from the play – Thomas (played by Mark Spriggs) wrestling with temptation (voiced by Tim Raistrick) about his motivation for martyrdom, and his final declaration in a sermon of

just what he expected his fate to be, and why.

We were reminded of our special link with Canterbury and Becket through a later Archbishop, John de Stratford, who during his time as Vicar here built much of our church and in particular set up the Becket Chapel. In his rich sermon (pre-recorded in the Cathedral) Canon Tim Naish noted that John de Stratford was also involved in church/state struggles – but he died, not as a martyr, but peacefully. This he saw as an illustration of the sheer complexity of different ways of living in the “two kingdoms” of this world and of Christ; the tension and sometimes bitter conflict between the two, but also the interplay between them, our calling to live our discipleship in the very secular context of everyday – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and so on, as salt and light in the world – whilst letting ourselves be formed by the disciplines of faith in a greater Kingdom. He did not gloss over the ambiguities of Thomas’ motivations (illustrated in those extracts from the play), but reminded us that this is part of our humanity under God, and that in our pilgrimage all our own mixed motives can be taken up into our destiny in Christ, in the lifelong pilgrimage to which we are all called.



The Revd Canon Tim Naish at the Becket Altar, which marks the place where Thomas Becket was martyred.

The recording of the service will of course remain on YouTube and can thus still be used as a preparation for the play when it is finally performed.

**TRINITY**



**PLAYERS**

Thank you to all our supporters who bought tickets for **Murder in the Cathedral** by *T.S. Eliot*

I expect you share our disappointment that the second Lockdown prevented us from staging our Play during 2020, the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of Thomas Becket on 29th December 1170.

However, we continue to rehearse on Zoom and are keeping the Play live in the earnest hope of staging it early in 2021. Unfortunately, it is impossible to give firm dates at the moment but do watch the Holy Trinity website for an announcement.

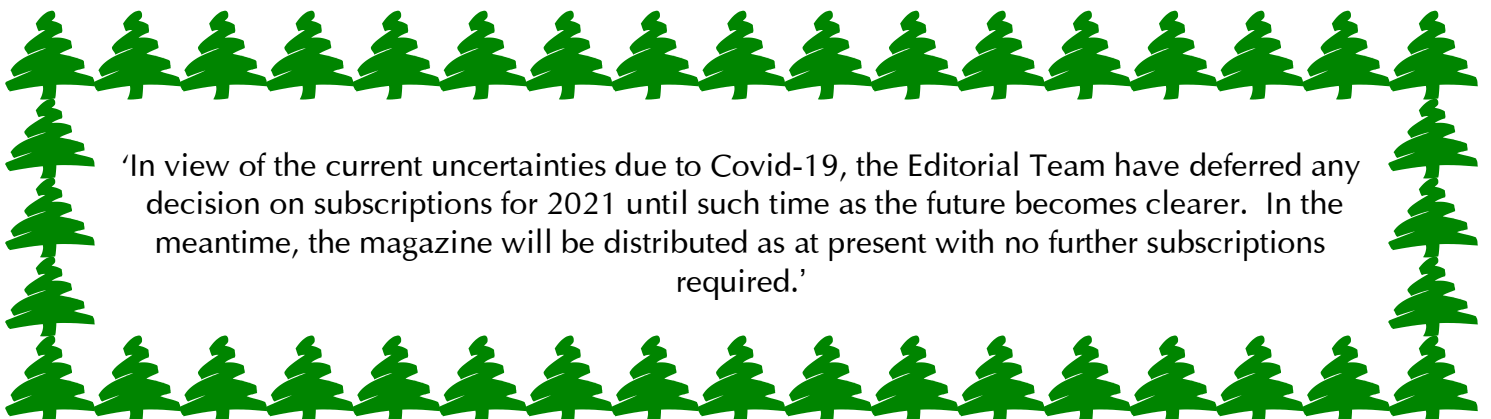
The opportunity to hear a recording of the Becket sermon and short extracts from the Play on Sunday 22 November is not to be missed.

The Saturday Matinée had in fact sold out so, assuming that audience will still be limited, we hope to offer two daytime/early evening performances on a Saturday in place of one of the evening shows.

We are grateful to all those of you who volunteered to help with Front of House, refreshments, knitting chainmail, making costumes, dressing and lighting the set. We still need you and look forward to the time when we can all play our part in the production of **Murder in the Cathedral**.

*Ursula Russell*




  
 'In view of the current uncertainties due to Covid-19, the Editorial Team have deferred any decision on subscriptions for 2021 until such time as the future becomes clearer. In the meantime, the magazine will be distributed as at present with no further subscriptions required.'

# WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY



At the time of writing we are assuming the second lockdown will end by the first Sunday in December and that congregational worship (with restrictions on numbers due to social distancing) will be permitted again.

The proposed schedule of services is therefore as follows (but please check details online or ring the Parish Office before making any plans to attend in person).

Every Sunday there is a 10am Eucharist at Holy Trinity (live streamed) and a 9.30am service in one of the villages (booking required for all of these). Other service details as below (all 5pm services are at Holy Trinity).

## December

6 December	<b>Advent 2</b> 9.30am St. Helen's	5pm Holy Communion
13 December	<b>Advent 3</b> 9.30am All Saints'	5pm Evensong
20 December	<b>Advent 4</b> 9.30am St. Helen's	5pm Holy Communion BCP
27 December	<b>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> 9.30am All Saints'	No evening service

## January

3 January	<b>Epiphany</b> 9.30am St. Helen's	5pm Holy Communion
10 January	<b>The Baptism of Christ</b> 9.30am All Saints'	5pm Evensong
17 January	<b>Epiphany 2</b> 9.30am St. Helen's	5pm Holy Communion BCP
24 January	<b>Epiphany 3</b> 9.30am All Saints'	5pm Taize Service
31 January	<b>Candlemas</b> (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple) No service in Villages	5pm Special for Candlemas



## Christmas Services

**\*\*Please note all Christmas Service arrangements are yet to be confirmed at the time of going to press\*\***

In order to enable as many people as possible to experience Christmas at Holy Trinity, we are planning a **Walk Through Carol Service**. The hope is that Holy Trinity church will be open between 3pm and 5pm on Christmas Eve, with the choir singing Christmas carols. Anyone who wishes to come will be welcome to make their way through the church (observing social distancing as required) and pause for a brief moment to pray and give thanks to God for the birth of Jesus before the crib which will be set up in front of the High Altar. It will not be possible for anyone to sit down or linger in the building as we will need to keep everyone moving -but not rushed- so that all those who wish to come are able to do so.

Preparations are also being made for some pre-recorded services including:

**Christingle - for all ages**

**The Big Nativity - perfect for families to participate in**

**A Christmas Carol Service**

Look out for some special Christmas displays in the churchyard as well!

### Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Morning

We are currently looking into whether the walk-through service format might be a way of enabling those who wish, to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day without having to limit numbers. Plans have not been settled at the time of going to press so please look out for further information which will be published when available.

### Village churches

Arrangements for Christmas services for All Saints' and St. Helen's will be announced once we are in a position to make definite plans.

*Patrick*

# FROM THE REGISTERS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

## Christenings

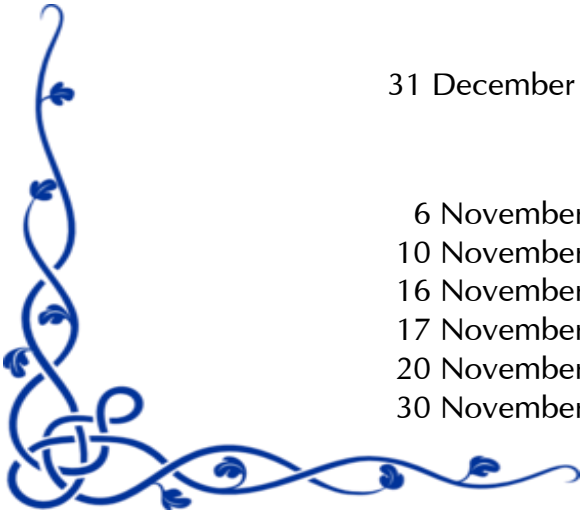
15 November      Kitty Camille Cunningham Warren  
                            Eleanor Warren  
                            Michael Warren  
22 November      Suzie Violet Rose  
                            Simon Rose  
                            Kamila Rose

## Weddings

31 December      Luke Ladbrooke and Eleanor Bigland

## Funerals

6 November      Annette Lavinia Schofield  
10 November     Peter John Kenny  
16 November     James Milne  
17 November     Wendell Jones  
20 November     John Hodges  
30 November     Kenneth Roome



North Door of church decorated by Laura Taylor with poppies for Remembrance Day.

Photograph by Harry Lomax



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# Christmas Quiz

## 1. Why is a turkey so called?

- It was first bred in Turkey by a man who wanted a larger chicken.
- The first settlers to America thought it was a type of Guinea Fowl, which was known as a Turkey Cock in Europe.
- The First Nation Americans called it a tar kwy, meaning fan-tailed, and the Pilgrim Fathers thought Turkey was a better name than Torquay.



## 2. Why is Christmas Island so called?

- 75% of the island is covered in spruce trees.
- It's midway between Advent & Easter Islands.
- Captain Mynors of the East India Company gave it the name when he sailed past it on Christmas Day.



## 3. Where did the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe originate?

- The Celtic Druids viewed it as a sacred symbol of virility and fed it to humans and animals to restore fertility.
- In Norse mythology, Loki killed Odin's son, Baldur, with an arrow made from mistletoe. When the gods resurrected Baldur, his mother, Frigg, declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss on all those who passed below it.
- In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, servants would steal a kiss from a maid under the mistletoe and it was considered bad luck to refuse.



## 4. Who invented Christmas Crackers?

- Lawrence O'Hare from Manchester who was looking for something to utilise the spare capacity in his paper mill.
- Tom Smith of London who wanted to promote his bon-bon sweets.
- The Chinese.



## 5. Who is said to have been the first person to add lighted candles to a Christmas tree?

- Prince Albert
- Pope Leo XIII
- Martin Luther



## 6. In the German speaking region of Switzerland, Samichlaus (Santa Claus) was accompanied by Schmutzli. What used to be Schmutzli's job?

- To carry Santa's sack.
- To carry a twig broom to spank naughty children.
- To drive Santa's sleigh.



## 7. To whom was the first recorded Christmas card sent?

- James I of England
- William the Conqueror
- Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria



8. Why is Boxing Day so called?

- a. It is the day when postmen, errand boys and servants expected to receive a Christmas box.
- b. It is the day when people box up their unwanted Christmas presents and take them back to the shop to exchange for something they actually want.
- c. Traditionally, many villages organised a fair on the day after Christmas with the main attraction being a boxing booth.



9. If you find a man's button in your Christmas pudding, what does it mean?



- a. Someone around the table needs to seriously go on a diet in January.
- b. If a single woman finds it, she will get married in the next year.
- c. If a single man finds it, he will remain single for the next year.

10. Why was Christmas cancelled in 1647?

- a. There was a pandemic and the country was in lockdown.
- b. Oliver Cromwell had 'two left feet' so hated the idea of people dancing.
- c. There was a record-breaking snow storm and Santa's sleigh overshot the landing, resulting in all the presents getting broken and Santa spending the night in A&E.



Answers on page 22



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ~ 8 NOVEMBER 2020  
at Clifford Chambers



Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Parish Council, and retired army and air force veterans from the village, at the War Memorial in Clifford Chambers.

Three people, as the official party, laid the wreaths and one read out the names from the Memorial. Thirty others watched from socially distanced positions and followed the Track and Trace guidance from the Parish Council.

A short service of Remembrance was held outside the church and led by the Revd. Kay Dyer.



# PCC report: Tuesday 10 November

by Ruth Poulten



The PCC has agreed to adopt a financial budget for Holy Trinity for 2021, which is £40K in deficit.

Treasurer Mike Warrillow presented the detailed proposal, outlining income and expenditure for the next twelve months and reminded members how COVID restrictions have significantly impacted church finances - particularly regarding visitor income.

Mike said, "We've looked carefully at every aspect of our accounting to see how we can reduce our spending and grow our income but it's a challenging situation. We're very grateful to have had five more parishioners sign up to our Stewardship programme recently and nine increases to planned-giving from others. However, we do need more of this if we're to make any head way towards breaking even by the end of 2021."

PCC approved 5 financial resolutions in total:

1. The Holy Trinity financial budget for 2021
2. The All Saints' financial budget for 2021
3. The St Helen's financial budget for 2021
4. Discretionary fees and hire charges to be increased by 2% (appropriately rounded) with effect from 1 January 2021
5. Staff salaries to be increased by 2% with effect from 1 January 2021

## Music Plans

PCC heard with interest about music plans for 2021 from Douglas Keilitz, Holy Trinity's Director of Music. "I've had lots of opportunity to sit and think, explore and listen since I arrived in February and been on furlough. I've been watching, listening and dreaming! Part of my plans are to rebuild and restructure the existing choir programme and bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. There's an opportunity to further utilise Trinity Voices as a true training ensemble and feeder into the larger choir programme. I've also been thinking about creating a community music education initiative, focused on the underprivileged and those who are unable to access music education and lessons in Stratford, again as a feeder into the greater music programme of the church. In my plans is the development of a Stratford-upon-Avon Early Music Festival. I would also like to produce recordings, such as CDs and other audio, in-house of our choir and other music ensembles as fundraising vehicles for the music programme. Music in our village churches is also part of the bigger picture but all these ideas will of course have to wait until restrictions are lifted!"

## News in brief

The following PCC Officers were elected:

Vice-chair, Senior Warden: Rhod Mitchell

Hon Treasurer/ Hon Assistant Treasurer – Pay Roll: Mike Warrillow

Hon Secretary: Miriam Dow

Electoral Roll Officer: Tim Raistrick

Stewardship Officer: Chris Kennedy

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jane Armitage

Friends of Shakespeare's Church – 2 PCC representatives: Mike Warrillow & Lindsay MacDonald

Municipal Charities: Peter Rowland

Cathedral Parish Partner: Rena Kelly

Co-options from village churches:

All Saints', Luddington: Jane Beeley

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers: Pat Woolvin

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.30pm with a focus on Eco-Church and Village Churches.

## BEYOND THE RIVER JORDAN - 4



"Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land . . . and said to him, 'This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said 'I will give it to your descendants.' " (Deut 34.1-4)

Most modern tourists don't have the wiry legs of Moses, aged 120! It's much easier to ascend Mt Nebo by coach. The mountain top provides a memorial display to that great patriarch who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and, through the ten commandments, gave a basic moral code to the world.

The objects of interest are:

1. Moses' view over the land of Canaan, enhanced today by a board which indicates the direction of key cities in the Old Testament, some of which still feature in our modern news.



Moses memorial

2. An imposing lump of white rock, inscribed to the memory of Moses in Hebrew and English, a reminder of the rock struck by Moses from which water gushed forth in the desert (Numbers 20.11). St Paul claims that the rock prefigures Christ (1 Cor 10.4) who satisfied the Israelites' physical thirst as he satisfies our thirst for the Holy Spirit today.

3. A cross entwined with a serpent which also links the Old and New Testaments. It illustrates (Numbers 21.9) 'So Moses made a bronze snake and put it upon a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived'. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. (John 3.14-15)



Cross and snake



Nebo church

4. A stone-built little Christian church. A welcome place of meditation for all who make the pilgrimage to the top of the mountain.

5. At the east of the church the central window shows Moses raising his hands as in Exodus 17.11 'When Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands the Amalekites were winning.' It is a

message about the power of God made available through prayer vis-à-vis the weakness of trying to do things in our own strength.

For our visit the sun shone brightly on Mt Nebo. It was a moving time of reflection on a momentous divine intervention in the human history and how the coming of Christ gave a spiritual meaning to that history. Somewhere in that barren land of Edom Moses lies buried in an unknown grave, but his legacy still lives, immeasurable.



Moses praying

# *Glory to God*

in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
to men.



Luke 2:14

*We wish everyone at Holy Trinity, All Saints' and St Helen's  
a very peaceful Christmas and a joyful New year.*

*With love this Christmas time from:-*

Kay and Roy Dyer. Felicity Howlett. Margaret Edwards and Family. Diane and Alan Patterson.  
Margaret and John Sullivan. Bobbie Pearce. Helen and Mike Warrillow. Sheila Wolstenholme  
Anne Blair. Pat Jackson. Brenda and Paul Lageu. Joan Forbes. Judy and Paul Standing.  
Mary Phillips. Judith and Norman Dorricott. Phil Harper. Richard Hartley. Eithne Mulryne.  
Miriam and Andrew Dow. Faith and Ron Piper. Jill and Colin McDowall. George Reah.  
Beryl Dyke. Shirley Ann Crimp. Marilyn Shorey. Carol Campbell and Family. Gillian Nunn.  
Jean and John Rees. Elizabeth Dixon. Marion and Rhod Mitchell. Stella Webley. Mary Wells.  
June Bond. Christine and Bryan Cottrell. Anne and John Graty. Rena and Ken Kelly.  
Ann McNeill. Pam and Philip Cheshire. Tina and Keith Hillyard. Carole and Rodney Askew.  
Margaret and Graham Wilcox. Sandra and Lindsay MacDonald. Pat Wood. Jacqui Salmon.  
Lilian and Graham Hopkins. Wendy Bowie. Hazel and Chris Tattersall. Ann Morgan.

**TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU;  
HE IS CHRIST THE LORD.**

**LUKE 2:11**

The people listed above all participated in our Christmas Card Amnesty and donated to the charity (CMS) that we are supporting this year. All the money raised will go to Tom and Verity Clare working in Uganda.

## THROUGH THIS ONE'S EYES by David C. Ellis

This is the one  
whom angels worship and adore,  
wrapped round with linen  
where his mother laid him  
gently on the straw;  
whose tiny face is wrinkled  
at the light of lanterns held aloft  
and shining eyes express surprise  
at wooden beams and glistening beards  
and other eyes.

This little world he sees  
ends where the lantern light  
is lost among the shapes of  
dark, warm beasts whose breath  
billows across his view  
with ever-changing, child-enchancing  
rainbow hue.



*"The Adoration of the Shepherds  
by Rembrandt*

Nothing is said.  
but within this shed  
so many wondering questions  
pass between his eyes and theirs,  
where prayer  
unspoken hovers in the steaming air.

This is the one  
whose vision pushing back the dark  
shall so outshine  
that stable light  
that all mankind will view  
the universe afresh  
through this one's eyes.



*"The Adoration of the Shepherds  
by Vasari*



Christmas at  
Holy Trinity  
last year.



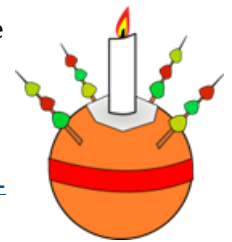
## KEEPING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Anyone who knows me will know that Christmas is my favourite time of year. And this year is not going to be any different. There may be restrictions on what we can do and how we do things, but my Star Wars themed Christmas tree will still be put up and my wooden light up village, or Phil-Ville as it's also known, will still take over most of my lounge. The Church Services that we offer for children and families will be different, but still happening.

One of the highlights of the build up to Christmas is the **Christingle Service**. As well as supporting the charity The Children's Society, it creates a moment to stop and reflect in a busy time.

Trying to do a Christingle Service in a Covid secure way is a logistical nightmare if you consider the making and handing out of Christingles, lighting them, and positioning them around church. So instead this year the Christingle Service is going online. A service will be available from **4pm, 13 December** on the **Church Facebook & YouTube pages**. You can either join in with the broadcast as it goes out at 4pm or it'll be left on the channel to enjoy later. You probably don't have all the equipment to make your own Christingles, but don't worry you can request a Christingle kit from me ([phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)) to deliver to you which will have everything in it (except the orange) that you'll need to make your own Christingle at home. To help with knowing the numbers to make, the sooner you can ask for a kit the easier it is.



The other service which will be going online, rather than being in the Church this year, is the **Big Nativity**, so hopefully it's going to be an even bigger nativity. To have the service in church would be too difficult, considering the restrictions on numbers, and keeping everybody in their own family groups without moving. Throughout the service, as the Christmas story is retold and we build up the crib scene in church, those watching will be encouraged to build up their own crib scene at home. It doesn't matter if you haven't got a fancy nativity set, anything will do; soft toys, Lego figures, a selection of fruit and vegetables with faces drawn on. I'm excited to see how creative people are

with photos of crib scenes after the service. The service will be available on the **Church Facebook & YouTube pages** on **Christmas Eve from 4pm**.

Another addition to our offering this year is the continuation of the **Bible Adventure Box Service** which is a joint initiative between myself and Claire Grimes, the Children & Families Worker at St James' Alveston. Each month we put out a service on Facebook & YouTube and parents can request a free box, for the children to use whilst they watch the service. In the box is everything they'll need for the craft we do, as well as lyrics for the song, puzzles and a sweet treat. For the December service we're doing an Advent special, hearing the story of Mary and the Angel, thinking what Advent is about and making an exciting angel craft. If you'd like a box please email me at the address above.

Christmas maybe different this year, but it certainly isn't cancelled. However you celebrate this wonderful time of the year, I hope it is peaceful and full of light.

*Phil Harper*

(Children & Families Minister)





“Wait! JUST WAIT!” Have you ever felt like shouting that at people in a hurry, who risk their health and yours by pushing past you at less than two metres’ distance? I certainly have (though, at the time of writing, I have not actually done it). Some of us might have hoped that one of the lessons of lockdown would be that it is not a good idea to be always in a hurry. But it seems to be programmed into us.

“Waiting” is of course one of the great themes of Advent. And, I would argue, of life. Do you remember any sermon that you heard over fifty years ago? I do. It was given by a wise old Lutheran pastor at the beginning of the academic year in a US theological seminary. The 60s were a time of ferment, just like now. Lots of young people preparing for ordination were desperately impatient to get out there and put their faith into practice, not just in worship and preaching, but in areas like civil rights and resistance to the Vietnam war. And Pastor Steimle took his text from another part of the Church’s year – the period between Ascension and Pentecost. “WAIT – until you are clothed with power from on high”. Learn to WAIT, until in God’s good time you are ready to do what you are called to do.



But we are not good at learning to wait.

Perhaps this is especially true today, when so much changes daily and everyone has to make lightning responses. But patience still has its place, and we lose so much if we neglect that. “What is this life if, full of care,/We have no time to stand and stare?” asked the poet. And what is this life if we are so busy with instant responses to pressing demands that we push people off the pavement – or make silly mistakes?

But what are we waiting FOR? In Advent, the answer used to be simple; we are waiting for Christmas and all that it means. But what is Christmas going to be like this year? How does its vast message apply, when so many traditional rituals are off the agenda? How can we still recapture that ultimate hope for a new creation which Christmas represents? Faced with so much gloom, so little that looks like any kind of new creation, do we wonder about our faith? It would not be surprising.



The end of November was the scheduled time for the Trinity Players’ production of *Murder in the Cathedral*. T S Eliot, a man with many faults, was nevertheless a great Christian poet who faced up to these very questions about waiting and hoping. Here are some of his most famous words, from the *Four Quartets*:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope,  
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing. Wait without love,  
For love would be love of the wrong thing. There is yet faith;  
But the faith and the hope and the love are all in the waiting.....  
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

Sounds a bit agnostic? But the last line proclaims that there is still room for miracles – if we will only learn to wait for them, and not pre-judge what they will be or when they will come. At this time, when hope seems so difficult, and faith and love may weaken, I find those words prophetic. Something to hold onto as we move into the Church’s great period of hoping and waiting.

## VALUED VOLUNTEERS

In our series on Valued Volunteers within our community we hear this month from Chris Cottrell at Holy Trinity Church.

### About Your Volunteering

*In what areas of church life do you undertake voluntary work?*

I am currently involved in one of the teams that enable the church to be open for private prayer and visitors. Before the present restrictions, I helped with the Welcome and Social teams.

*How long have you been a volunteer?*

From 1980, when no longer working full time, I started to help with Sunday school. In 1984, following a Church Army mission week, I helped to establish a pre-school praise group and was involved with several summer Holiday Clubs. For several years, I was responsible for Sunday coffee. My present role started in July.

*What originally motivated you to become a volunteer?*

I felt it important to help with the activities in which I was encouraging my children to participate. Volunteering also helps us, as individuals, to get to know a wider section of the congregation.

*In what ways do you think that volunteering supports our parish mission?*

The Holiday Clubs and pre-school group were an opportunity to invite the children of families who were not necessarily regular members of HT to participate in an informal faith-based event. We hoped that they would then join us in family worship on a regular basis. Social events have also enabled us to reach out to the wider community.

*What aspects of your voluntary work give you the greatest pleasure/joy?*

I particularly enjoy seeing the various strands of the church and wider community coming together, getting to know each other and having fun.

*How long have you been a member of the congregation at Holy Trinity?*

I have been attending Holy Trinity since 1975 when we married and came to live in Stratford.

*What attracts you to our church?*

As well as the beauty of the building, I appreciate the breadth of the styles of worship and the diversity within the church membership.

*Do you have a favourite hymn?*

Impossible to narrow it down: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, traditional, *The Servant King*, contemporary, and *Bread of Heaven*, Welsh.

### About Yourself.

*Where were you born? Is there anything about your childhood that you would like to share with us?*

I was born on the Gower Coast, west of Swansea, near the village of Southgate. My family, on both sides, were farmers with strong links to St. Mary's Church, Pennard, where both my grandfather and father were, in turn, churchwarden.

As a child, I preferred matins at 11 am on Sunday, which felt like an extension of my family, rather than Sunday school at 2pm with children I didn't know! I was confirmed at twelve and then taught at Sunday school, until leaving for university. As a family, our social life involved many church activities, with my mother being active in the Mothers' Union. Faith was firmly embedded in my childhood and I felt totally at home in church.



*cont.....*

*Valued Volunteers - Chris Cottrell cont.....*

*Can you tell us a little about your family?*

Bryan and I married in 1975, after meeting at university in London. We have three children, born between 1980 and 1986. Heather is a GP in South Wales, Rose teaches at HT C/E School at the Willows and our son, Chris, works in digital communication.

*Can you tell us about your working life?*

After obtaining a French degree at King's College, London, and PGCE in Cardiff, I taught French at a large Coventry comprehensive school for five years before starting a family. I continued to work in Adult Education, primary school French clubs and private tuition until returning to mainstream education, part time, at Stratford Girls' Grammar school for twelve years before retiring in 2008.

*Do you live in or near Stratford? If you weren't born in Stratford, what brought you here?*

Having decided that we did not want to settle in London, Bryan obtained a position at NFU Mutual, where he worked for thirty-nine years. We lived originally in Sanctus Drive before moving to Rushbrook Road in 1983.

*Do you have any hobbies or pets?*

I enjoy singing, knitting and baking.

*What are your tastes in music/books/films/plays?*

I am happy to watch any play that is well acted. I prefer books and films that are informative, especially related to the Second World War.



I know we are looking to fill the budget deficit but a rainbow landing on the East end of the church must point to hidden treasure, if only we can find it!

With thanks to our neighbour Sylvia McDonald for providing the photograph.

## EXTRA SUPPORT

"I'm OK" ... or would you like some advice or extra help? Since Covid started many of us have needed support in a different way and to say "I'm OK" when asked is almost expected, but in some of the work I do at Accessible Stratford I know there are local organisations who can help because you have additional needs or a physical disability, so take a deep breath and never be afraid to ask. Please!

Perhaps ask your family or circle of friends, or you may prefer to talk to someone from an organisation whose staff or volunteers will have been trained to help you. Normally I would suggest Citizens Advice, social services, your GP, Foodbank, the pastoral team at church or the police depending on what the problem is but because of Covid our local councils have set up extra helplines and websites offering you a wider choice. You might be at home on your own too much and feel lonely, you might have lost your job or are missing your family and friends due to lockdown. Most of us need help at some time.

It's not possible to list all that can be done but calling them will let you know or you can ask them in an email if you use an electronic device. Making the initial contact is the hardest thing to do, but it can be confidential if you choose.

**Stratford Support** was set up by the Town Council and the Town Trust offering help in many ways including collecting your medication or shopping. Call 07342 110112 or email [help@stratfordsupport.org.uk](mailto:help@stratfordsupport.org.uk) or [www.stratfordsupport.org.uk](http://www.stratfordsupport.org.uk)

**Stratford-on-Avon District Council** has a Covid-19 Community Recovery Plan which is for your health and wellbeing. They can support vulnerable people, advise about the Foodbank, employment support, general financial advice, or support for domestic violence. Call 01789 267575 or email

[socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or  
[www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/coronavirus-support-for-communities](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/coronavirus-support-for-communities)

**Warwickshire County Council** has a COVID-19 hotline 0800 408 1447. They also list Community led support groups [you'll need to search through for Stratford]

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-966-2079>

*Elizabeth Dixon*

*... they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. See that you excel in this grace of giving. Our desire is... that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need.*

*2 Corinthians various verses from chapter 8.*

## SERVICES BEYOND THE CHURCH BUILDING

It's great that people have been able to engage with our services online from home, but they also help sustain the faith of those in our care homes. Each Sunday the residents at Cherry Trees Care Home are given the opportunity to gather and watch the service live together.



### REMEMBER THE BADGER?

*Mike Warrillow*



At the APCM in October, I outlined the gap between our level of stewardship and the average level in the Diocese. In recent months, I am pleased to report that we have five people who have joined the stewardship scheme and eleven people who have increased their monthly level of giving. We are very grateful to them for their additional support and would welcome any others who feel able to join them.



**NEW!**

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# TRINITY LADIES



Dear Members,

Christmas greetings to you all. Although this year will be very different from the sort of Christmas we all love, I do hope that you are able to see at least one or two of your family members. The carol *'In the bleak mid winter'* comes to my mind as I think of Christmas this year. We may not be able to do much in the way of attending Carol Services and giving hospitality to friends and neighbours but as the carol tells us we can still give Him our hearts.

I have contacted the Committee members and discussed with them about giving donations to Charities; usually done after our AGM which normally would have been in November. We all agreed to give £100 to the Church, £50 to the Shakespeare Hospice and £50 to Stratford Christmas Lights. I do hope that you are all in agreement with this. We still have sufficient funds to pay for the first few speakers when Trinity Ladies can start again. Once we get the green light to start meeting once more we will make sure that you all have the necessary information.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Gina Lodge  
Chair person



## Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Answer – b: (Guinea fowl were imported into Europe, from Guinea, by Turks, hence the name.)
2. Answer – c: (An extra point if you are able to locate an Advent Island anywhere in the world.)
3. Answer - Take your choice: (Nobody knows for sure and all 3 are seen to be the answer in different cultures.)
4. Answer – b: (Tom Smith wrapped his sweets in a paper wrapper and then added the 'crack' after hearing a log crackle in the fireplace.)
5. Answer – c: (Prince Albert is reputed to have introduced decorated Christmas trees into Britain but they were already a tradition in Germany. The first time a Christmas tree stood in the Vatican wasn't until 1982.)
6. Answer – b: (These days, Schmutzli's job is to gently have a strong word with naughty children.)
7. Answer – a: (William the Conqueror was too busy for Christmas cards, subduing the locals & getting crowned on Christmas Day.)
8. Answer – a: (I doubt you'll see a Postman on Boxing Day but you might well see the (Amazon) errand boy.)
9. If the button got into your pudding by accident – Answer – a:  
If the cook deliberately put it into the pudding mixture – Answer – c:
10. Answer – b: (Not totally sure about Oliver Cromwell's dancing skills but he definitely wasn't a fun guy so cancelled Christmas for the next 12 years.)

**Author's note:** Whilst the Author's decision is final, he accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the answers. Please address any complaints or disputes to Wikipedia.



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<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/information-coronavirus/covid-19-national-local-guidance-care-providers/1>

Hayley Sparks

Public Health Officer

Warwickshire Public Health (Population and Place)

Warwickshire County Council

[hayleysparks@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hayleysparks@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01926 731488

*My working days are Monday to Thursday 8am to 4.30pm*



# CHRISTMAS HOWLERS!



## HO, HO HO...

**What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places.**

Santa's elves are just a bunch of subordinate Clauses.

**What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel foyer? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!**

**What does the Queen call her Christmas broadcast? The One Show**

**How do snowmen get around? Riding an icicle.**

## AND FINALLY...

*"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it white."* **Bing Crosby**



**East Sussex father Bill Clarke** let his daughter (who specialises in garden history) choose whatever she liked for Christmas. Her surprise choice presented him with a problem when it came to presentation and wrapping — she chose a lorry load of compost. *You Absolutely Couldn't Make It Up*

Offer seen in sadly departed Stratford Debenhams last post-Christmas sale: "Four pack men's briefs. 30% off. Not perfect, because one pair is missing."

When a parishioner gave her minister a gift of cherry brandy for Christmas, his cryptic response in the parish magazine read: "Thank you Mrs MacIntosh for the gift of cherries and for the spirit in which it was given." *myfishbites.com*



*Compiled by Pat Pilton*

*"Nice idea Amelia but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."*

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS..

**In Jane's** Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third king going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied, "Oh he's just looking for a place to park."

**Love** is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of turkey. *Elaine age 5*



**Holy Trinity Band** who played and sang on Bible Sunday in October.

From left to right: Esther Rambaud, Dan Barnard, Esmée Barnard and Richard Fletcher.



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**Christmas** is just around the corner!!

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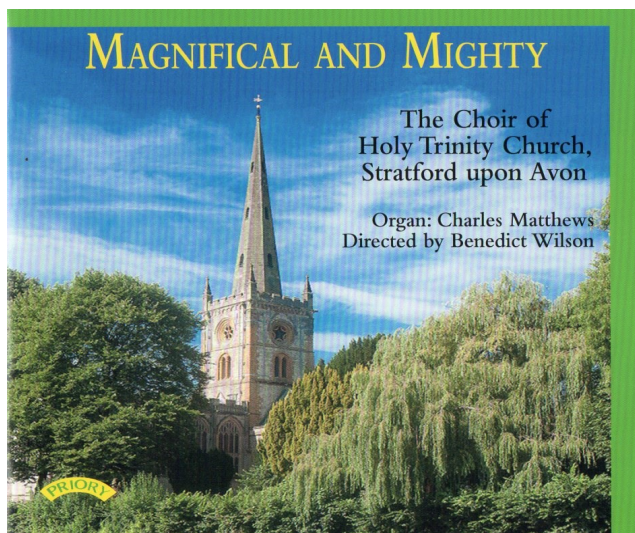
Are you having trouble thinking of a present for that special relative or friend who is always so difficult to buy for?

Or

Why not simply treat yourself to a present at Christmas which is

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The making of this CD would not have been possible without the generous support of

**The Friends of the Music at Holy Trinity Church.**

Answer to front cover quote:- Hamlet. Act 2 Scene 2.

# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town*

*Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

*Tel. 01789 266 316*

*Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org*

## Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
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

Paul Lageu	01789 298 302	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Gill Price	07963 453 386

## 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
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The Remembrance Service from Holy Trinity was moved online.

Jamie Farris who later read in the service.



Revd Patrick led the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial

The Remembrance Day online pictures by Phil Harper