

December 2023/ January 2024

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

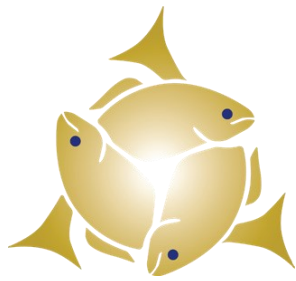


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



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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 2024 edition

The copy date is 12 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.

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*Front cover :- Holy Trinity through the mist
by Jane Medd*

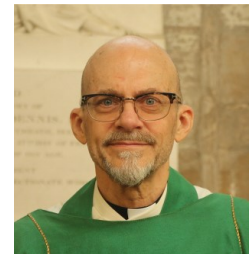
Holy Trinity Team



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Revd. Kay Dyer
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Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



Revd Emma Harrington
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

Looking after the Innocents

One of the most dramatic parts of the Christmas story, so often overlooked in our modern season of merriment, is the 'slaughter of the innocents.' As recorded in Matthew's gospel, Herod ordered the killing of all children in and around Bethlehem under the age of two in an attempt to wipe out any threat to his power and authority. The pain and anguish this must have caused to so many families is unimaginable. Yet, as we have seen in Israel and Gaza in recent weeks (and Ukraine before that), it is sadly so often children and the innocent who are the ones who suffer most in times of conflict, as one authority tries to overpower, or even eliminate, another. I imagine I'm not the only one who sometimes can't bear to watch the news because the suffering being shown, especially when it involves children, is too much to cope with.

I'm sure many of us will pause this Christmas to give thanks that we and our loved ones live in a peaceful land. Yet we must also be mindful of those in our own communities who need to be kept safe from harm, especially children and adults who are vulnerable. Every parish in the Church of England is required to have a Safeguarding Officer and these wonderful people play a vital role in helping us to look after those amongst us who are vulnerable. I'm very grateful to Jane Armitage, and more recently Lynn Suter (assisted by her husband Paul) who have held this role for us here in Stratford. Last month the PCC appointed Helen Warrillow as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer and she tells us more about her role and who else is involved in the administration of our Safeguarding procedures in the article on page 18.

It can be tempting to view the requirements of Safeguarding (especially the need for training and 'safer recruitment') as a bureaucratic burden and to roll our eyes at the inconvenience of it all. But keeping the vulnerable in our communities safe is a fundamental part of what it means to be a church, part of the Body of Christ, and is an expression of our parish values of Holiness, Humility and Hospitality. The Christian faith teaches us that every human person is made in the image of God, known and loved by the Creator. This gives each person a fundamental **Holiness**, meaning in its most basic sense something that must be preserved whole or intact, that cannot be transgressed or violated. **Humility**, an often misunderstood concept, does not mean putting ourselves down or diminishing the role we have to play; rather it means recognising that we must work together and rely on others, as we do not within ourselves have all the resources needed. In the context of Safeguarding this means being willing to listen when someone expresses a concern that something doesn't feel right, accepting that our own perspective is always limited. Finally, our **Hospitality** is about striving to make sure everyone feels valued, welcomed and safe in our churches and in the activities that take place on behalf of the church.

At Christmas we recall the birth of the one who was innocent, yet through his death and resurrection shows us the way to life "in all its fullness". We long to share this fullness of life with everyone, especially those for whom life is currently overwhelming or too painful to bear. May the light of Christ shine in the dark places of the world this Christmas, and may you and your loved ones know that light and love in your own hearts in this season.

Patick

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023



3 December Advent Sunday

5pm Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity

Sunday 10 December

5pm Christingle Holy Trinity

Sunday 17 December

3.30pm Carol Service All Saints'

6.30pm Carol Service St Helen's

Saturday 23 December

7pm Lessons and Carols Holy Trinity

Sunday 24 Christmas Eve

10am Parish Eucharist for the fourth Sunday in Advent

3.30pm Christingle All Saints'

3.15-5.30pm Walk-through Carol service Holy Trinity

5pm Christingle St Helen's

11.30pm Midnight Mass Holy Trinity

Monday 25 Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion Holy Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion St. Helen's

9.30am Holy Communion All Saints'

10am Parish Eucharist Holy Trinity

There will not be a 5pm service on Christmas Day.

The above list does not include all regular weekly services.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

3 December - 1st Sunday in Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The promise to the people of God
5pm - Advent Carol Service

10 December - 2nd Sunday in Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The rescue of the people of God
5pm - Christingle

17 December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The preparation of the people of God
5pm - Holy Communion Traditional

24 December - 4th Sunday in Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The revelation to the people of God
5pm - See Christmas schedule

31 December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Evensong with Ministry of Healing

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

3 December - 1st Sunday in Advent

9.30am - Morning Praise

17 December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

6.30pm - Carol Service

All Saints' Church, Luddington

3 December - 1st Sunday in Advent

9.30am - Holy Communion

10 December - 2nd Sunday in Advent

9.30am - Holy Communion

17 December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

3.30pm - Carol Service

31 December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

9.30am - Holy Communion



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

7 January - Epiphany

10am - Parish Eucharist - Who is Jesus? Light in our Darkness

5pm - Holy Communion Traditional for the Baptism of Christ

14 January - 2nd Sunday in Epiphany

10am - Parish Eucharist - Confirmation

5pm - Choral Evensong

21 January - 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

8.00am - Holy Communion Service according to the Book of Common Prayer

10.30am - Joint service with the Methodists

5pm - Taize

28 January - Candlemas

10am - Parish Eucharist - Who is Jesus? The son of God

5pm - Candlemas Special

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

7 January - Epiphany

9.30am - Morning Praise

21 January - 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

All Saints' Church, Luddington

7 January - Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

14 January - 2nd Sunday in Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

21 January - 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

9.30am - Holy Communion

28 January - Candlemas

9.30am - Holy Communion





Trinity Times Subscriptions for 2024

The annual subscription for a printed copy of Trinity Times is due in January. The price for 2024 will be the same as 2023 i.e. £10 for 10 issues. A small number of individual copies will also be available for purchase from the Church Shop at £1.50 each. Electronic copies will continue to be available, via the Newsletter and Church website, free of charge. A pdf version can also be sent via

email if you do not receive the Newsletter (please send you email address to: paullageu@hotmail.co.uk).

For those subscribers living outside the Stratford town boundary, who would like a printed copy, they can either collect their copies in church, after a Sunday service. Alternatively, they can have them posted to their home address (there is an additional annual charge of £16 for this service, to cover the cost of postage and packaging).

Paul Lageu
Trinity Times Editorial Team



Photograph of Holy Trinity Sound Desk that Kay and Roy Dyer's granddaughter Lottie (11 years old) helped operate during a recent Sunday Morning Service she attended. Others may wish to help when needed.

Christingle

One of the real highlights of the year, our **Christingle Service**, is on **10 December at 5pm in Holy Trinity Church**. This service gives us the opportunity to support the work of the **Children's Society**, as well as having the wonderful moment when Holy Trinity is lit only by the candles, in the Christingles, held by the children (and adults) at the service. If you've not been before, you really don't know what you've been missing.

We'll be making the Christingles on Sat 9 December at 1:30pm in the Parish Centre. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. This event is suitable for children, whose help is essential in ensuring that the sweets and raisins, to go on the Christingles, are of an acceptable standard.



CHRISTMAS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Now is the time of year that I can publicly get excited about Christmas!! I may have been reading the Christmas food guides, building festive Lego and working my way through chocolate fudge yule logs since October, but as we reach December others begin to catch up with my excitement.



The **Christingle Service on Sunday 10 Dec, 5pm in Holy Trinity**, is one of my favourite services of the year. Nothing can beat Holy Trinity being lit only by the candles in the Christingles and everyone singing. It's a sight and experience not to be missed. As part of it we are also raising money for the Children's Society, so a double whammy of goodness. The Christingles need to be made, and sweets tasted and we'll be making them on **9 Dec, 1:30pm in the Parish Centre**. The more people that can help with this, the quicker we can be done, so the more the merrier.

The village churches also have their own **Christingle Services on Christmas Eve, All Saints' Luddington at 3:30pm** and **St Helen's Clifford Chambers at 5pm**. Other opportunities to share in this special service.

The **Walk-through Carol** service returns to **Holy Trinity, Christmas Eve at 3:15-5:30pm**. Children (of any age) are invited to come dressed as a Nativity character and take their place in the Christmas story, including the selfie stable at the end. As you walk through Holy Trinity, you can relive the Christmas story, with choirs singing and beautiful lighting. If you wish you may sit to pray and take in the atmosphere.



On Christmas Day at **10am Christmas Day Parish Eucharist**. Being an "alleged" grownup, I don't get toys anymore. So, all children are encouraged to bring their favourite new toy or present to show me and for me to play with. This service is an opportunity to once again celebrate what began thousands of years ago in a stable.

As you'll have read elsewhere in this issue we'll be continuing with our Forest Church service in December and January, getting into the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany spirit. Meeting at 4:15pm at the Methodist Church Car park before heading into Holy Trinity churchyard. No matter the weather, the service will go on, so please dress appropriately and bring a torch in these darker months.



I hope to see you over the Christmas period, but if not may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and joyous New Year. And to thank all those who have helped or volunteered in our work with children and families over the last year. Thank you!!!

Phil Harper

FOREST CHURCH

We have held our first Forest Church service with Stratford Methodist Church. As we meet every other week the second service will have taken place by the time you read this, but too late for inclusion in this issue of Trinity Times.

For me personally, it was one of the most spiritually uplifting things I've experienced for a while. Our churchyard I know so well, but journeying through it and seeing it in a different way transformed it for me.



As it was our first service, we began introducing ourselves by making our initials out of things we could find and it was amazing the variety of ways people chose to do this with what they found. After sharing a prayer, we set off further into the churchyard. We moved to different parts, each time wondering what was the largest and smallest, newest or oldest thing we could see, to look deeper and notice what we may not have seen. Although they were simple questions the ideas and discussion were

fascinating across all ages. We then wondered where might God be in this space, was it different in each place, how might we connect with God? What I found particularly striking was the role birds played on our journey. In our first area we saw two crows high up in a tree watching us, somebody then heard a blackbird calling out; we followed the sound and saw it sitting on the back of the bench. We repeated the looking and pondering questions in this new area. We moved into the RSC gardens and a young swan came out of the water to join us. The swan followed and stayed with us all the time we were in that space. I've walked the gardens many times, but never had that experience. As we moved through there, who doesn't enjoy walking and kicking through piles of leaves, it was a truly all age experience!!



As it got darker, we turned on our torches and this helped us explore and see things in a different way. Reducing our field of vision to just where the light lay, seeing amazing colours in the fungi on a tree stump discovered by Hugo, one of our younger worshippers.

To finish our service, we lit a fire pit (with a bit of trouble, but a great team effort with ideas and know how) and as we toasted

marshmallows, we reflected on what we had seen, experienced and how God may be seen through it. Or what parts of our Christian faith were symbolised in all we had seen, death and new life, light and dark.

After sharing ideas and marshmallows we finished with a prayer. It was a truly all age experience.





For me it was fascinating; all ages sharing ideas and thoughts about what they saw. As I reflect on it, our experience with the birds seemed almost trinitarian. The crows high above, almost out of sight, like a perhaps more childish view of God high above. The blackbird's song, calling and leading, like the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. The young swan, almost Jesus like, coming amongst us and being present with us.

Or as someone else noted the swan, a symbol of Stratford, and a juvenile one, could this be a reminder of those we are called to step out of our churchyard and who want to engage with us?

Some have said that as nature is God's creation and God spoke it into being, perhaps they speak to us through their creation? The birds may just be birds, but in forest church it isn't about right or wrong, it's experiencing aspects of our faith. I love words, but I am also a visual person, and this was an opportunity to further my relationship with God in a physical, tactile way.



After the apprehension of the first service, I am excited about the services ahead. I really would encourage people to at least try it, you don't know what you may see or experience. Anyone can join us, there is no maximum or minimum age limit. The after-school timing will be difficult for some, but we are also looking to have an occasional weekend service as part of Stratford Churches Together.

Forest Church Meets at **4:15pm** every other Wednesday (in term time) in the Methodist Church car park and it lasts about an hour. The upcoming dates are **6 Dec, 20 Dec, 10 Jan and 24 Jan.**

Phil Harper



PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY



Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents its Christmas concert on Saturday 16 December 2023 at Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford at 7.30pm. This will be a celebration, heralding the start of Christmas week, with a programme containing well-loved Christmas carols as well as some less familiar, with organ accompaniment by Douglas Keilitz. Readings will be given by two well-known local thespians, Tim Raistrick and Juliette Grundy. The conductor is Oliver Neal Parker.

Tickets for 16 December Concert (£15) are available from choir members, online at www.stratfordchoral.org.uk or at the door on concert night. Children up to 18 are admitted free if accompanied by a paying adult – a marvellous opportunity to introduce youngsters to music.

For further press information, phone Carol Jackson on 01386 841 440.

Website: www.stratfordchoral.org.uk

Come and Celebrate
Burns Night

Haggis, neeps & tatties
Dessert
Bar

Scottish Country Dancing
Bagpiper

Saturday 20th January
Parish Centre
Tickets £15
Beginning at 7pm
(doors open 6:45pm)
Sign up using the link in the Weekly Bulletin or in church

SOCIAL EVENTS
For more information please contact Chris on 01789 204 273

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

SAVE THE DATE

Pancake Party
With Lily's Waffles & Crepes

Tuesday 13th February
Parish Centre

More details in the next issue of Trinity Times

SOCIAL EVENTS
For more information please contact Chris on 01789 204 273

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON





THE CHAMPAGNE CATHEDRAL

1210 or 1211?

Some of us will have visited La Cathedrale de Notre Dame in Reims, a beautiful city north east of Paris, and in the centre of the French champagne region. But did you know that our parish church is one year older? The work to build Holy Trinity Church in Stratford started in 1210 while the first stone of the cathedral in Reims was laid in 1211. The cathedral team in France initially employed four architects and the work continued throughout the 13th, 14th and even 15th centuries.

Who is Clovis?

Every French schoolchild knows the answer to this one! There was a basilica on the site in Reims town from the year 300, and once the Franks had overcome the barbarians and gained control of northern Gaul, their leader Clovis converted to Christianity around the year 500. Clovis was baptized in Reims Cathedral and is always remembered in French history as the first king of France.

In 816 Louis the Pious, Charlemagne's son, received the imperial crown from the hands of the Pope, and thus Reims Cathedral had the honour and privilege of anointing the first five kings in its original early building.

Twenty-five more kings anointed

The new cathedral was built in the shape of a Latin cross, with ten bays in side aisles and a choir ambulatory with five small chapels radiating outwards. The building is tall, standing at thirty-eight metres high, and has three tiers of Gothic stained glass windows. The beautiful vaulted nave has been likened to an upside-down boat, while the eighty-one metre towers stand high, overlooking the town and the countryside beyond.

Once the new cathedral was built, every king of France was crowned there, from Louis VIII in 1223 to Louis XIV, called the sun king, Louis XVI the king during the French Revolution, and the final French king, Charles X who died in exile in 1830 after only six years on the throne.

The fortunes of the cathedral have been chequered. A serious fire damaged the structure and the roof in the 15th century, and the French "Embellishers" or "Enhancers" of the 18th century stripped the cathedral of all its furniture and some of its medieval stained glass. Fortunately little damage was done to the cathedral during the French Revolution, but the worst was yet to come.....

"Crushed, mangled, gutted"

By the 20th century, the cathedral that embodied the history of France found itself at the front line of the war of 1914-1918. The building was bombed incessantly for over one thousand days by the German artillery, and much of it caught fire. The cathedral was in a deplorable state, being described in the press as "crushed, mangled and gutted" and it took over twenty years of repairs before it could open once again for worship.

Cont...

But good can rise out of evil. On 8 July 1962, General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer came together to attend mass, standing side by side in the cathedral to seal the absolute reconciliation between France and Germany.

Stained glass from every century

At Holy Trinity Church, we lost our original stained glass at the time of the reformation, so almost all our windows are Victorian.



Across the English Channel, there were different hazards as fires, wars and even a hurricane took their toll of the delicate stained glass in Reims Cathedral. Luckily some of the early stained glass remains and it is the rose windows from the 13th century that make the visitor gasp in admiration. In particular the giant rose window above the west door becomes even richer in the evening when the setting sun enhances the brilliance of the glass and colour pours into the nave.



Intermingled with the medieval glass are several 20th century windows. The southern rose in the transept was created by Jacques Simon in 1937, and represents the risen Christ, while three side chapels have modern stained glass work by the German painter Imi Knoebel. These colourful and geometric windows were commissioned in 2015 at the 50th anniversary of the reconciliation between France and Germany and intended to highlight the friendship the two countries one hundred years after the destructions of the great war.

Marc Chagall



This famous 20th century artist has three beautiful stained glass windows in the axial chapel of the cathedral. The commission was offered to him in 1968 and the work took six years to complete. He chose the same delicate blues that would have been used in medieval times and the result is breath-taking. There are six ten-metre high lancet windows, featuring the Tree of Jesse, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and a historical composition including the baptism of Clovis. Above these are three stunning rose windows that complete the

masterpiece.

For me, Marc Chagall is a man for all times. He was born into a Jewish family in a village in Belarus (now in Russia) but spent most of his adult life in France where he has work in many churches. His most famous stained glass masterpieces are in the Abbell Synagogue in Jerusalem, and in New York, where his Peace Window was created in 1964 for the United Nations. His aim was to create a piece of work in memory of all those who had lost their lives in the cause of peace. A powerful thought in these troubled times.

Judith Dorricott



*May the peace and hope
of*

Christ's birth

be with you now and always

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

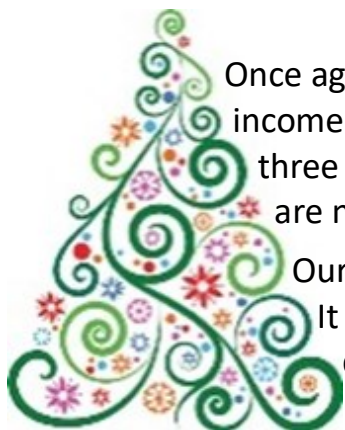
With love this Christmas time from:-

Margaret Edwards and Family. Brenda and Paul Lageu. Lilian and Graham Hopkins.
Gina and Roy Lodge. Mary Phillips. Ruth Davies. Jill and Colin McDowall. June Bond.
Bryan and Christine Cottrell and Family. Anne Blair. Rev Kay and Roy Dyer. Stella Webley.
Rodney and Carole Askew. Gillian Nunn. Cilla and John Burgess. Eve Archer. Wendy Bowie.
Judith and Norman Dorricott. Hazel and Chris Tattersall. Ann Morgan. Margaret Sullivan.
The Clergy Team - *Patrick, Kay, Thomas, Emma and Phil*. Judy and Paul Standing.
David Wilson. Sian Wade. George Reah. Jane and Andrew Martin. Hilda and Jon Craig.
Faith and Ron Piper. Tina and Keith Hillyard. Mary Wells. Suzi Sinson. Diane Edwards.
Bobbie Pearce. Helen and Mike Warrillow. Penny and David Harrison. Hilary Newman.

The people listed above all participated in
our Christmas Card Amnesty and donated
to our three Christmas Charities:
Embrace the Middle East
Alzheimer's Society
Clapa - Cleft Lip and Palate Association



CHRISTMAS CHARITIES



Once again, the PCC wish to continue in the tradition of donating the income received from our Christmas Services across the whole Parish to three charities – an international, a national and a local one. All three are new for this year.

Our “international” charity for 2023 will be **Embrace the Middle East**.

It supports the life and work of Christian partners of all denominations from Egypt to Syria, where many of them are tiny minorities facing considerable threats to their very survival. The choice of this charity was made before the latest terrible conflict in Israel/Palestine which will cause extra suffering for these communities. Although an international charity, we feel we have a local link through Revd Su McClellan, who was a former Ordinand in our Parish. Su is now based at Coventry Cathedral but continues to lead the Church Engagement Team with this organisation.

Our “national” charity is a rather better known one - **Alzheimer’s Society** - offering support for the increasing numbers of people suffering this affliction and furthering research into its causes, alleviation and possible cures. This is a charity close to the heart of many in our congregation.

Finally, our “local” charity is **Clapa, the Cleft Lip and Palate Association**. Based in Birmingham, it has given much support to at least one family in our congregation. About three babies per day are born with a cleft, often diagnosed in the womb. These children can face many years of corrective surgery and every case is different. **Clapa** aims to make sure no family goes through this journey alone.



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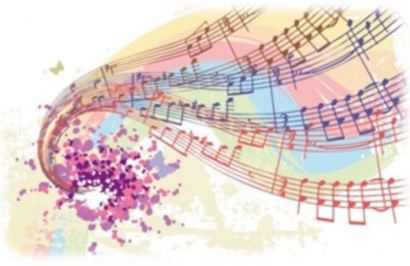
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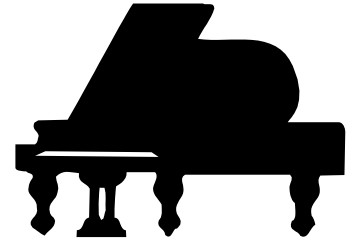
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Friends of the Music Reunion



This year is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Music. It was the brainchild of Richard Osborne, then a bass in the choir and who would become the first Chairman. He, Peter Summers as Director of Music and I mapped out the scope of what the Friends was for. We determined that it was not to be the Friends of the Choir, although the choir had recently seen a surge in membership and quality. Instead, it would encompass all the live music in the church. Thus, over the years, the Friends have supported the Music Group, Handbell Ringers and purchased both the chamber organ and grand piano as well as helping to fund the sound system in the Parish Centre. In the 1990s and this year, the Friends have also been major supporters of the organ appeals.



However, the Choir has been an important focus for the Friends and, in considering how to mark the 40th anniversary, it was decided that the Friends should celebrate the dedication of hundreds of singers who have been in the choir and show that Holy Trinity still values that service, even after they have left. Thus the concept of trying to connect with and link up past choristers into a Choir Association has been started. As I have been in the choir now for fifty-two years, it was felt that I would be the best person to try to make the initial contact and I managed to draw up a list of some two hundred and thirty names of people I could recall or had some record of and have begun the process of trying to contact them.

I also updated my history of the choir, previously serialised in Trinity Times, and added this to the Friends' website: www.htcfom.co.uk

As well as inviting the choristers to link up via the website, they have also been invited to take part in a reunion day next May when there will be an opportunity to catch up with each other as well to rehearse for a celebratory Choral Evensong. This will also involve past Directors of Music who have enthusiastically supported this Friends' initiative. The preacher at the service, which will be at 5pm on Saturday 11 May, will be a former Chorister, The Very Rev'd Ian Black, who is now Dean of Newport Cathedral.

Having embarked on this, a number of us have wondered why it has taken us so long to do what is such an obvious thing and I have been pleased with the keenness of singers, some from as far back as the 1960s, to reunite on this occasion. There are many people who I haven't been able to contact so would be grateful for any help in passing the message on if you know someone who was in the choir.

Tim Raistrick

**A New Worship Service in Holy Trinity Church:
8am Holy Communion
according to the Book of Common Prayer**

Sunday 21 January will mark the return of the 8am service of Holy Communion in Holy Trinity Church. The new service will be offered monthly, on the third Sunday of each month, and will follow the traditional liturgy of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The Reverend Thomas Powell will preside.



The service will be held in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, and will include a brief homily, but no music. We expect it to conclude by 8:45am.

All are welcome to attend!

Safeguarding and Safety for our Parish Volunteers

There is a wealth of rulings from the Government and the Church of England on 'Safeguarding' procedures, so what does it mean for our own Parish? Many of these rulings have passed into legislation and we find that, partly due to COVID as well as changes of personnel, the procedures for our Parish are not yet as robust as we would like them to be. Therefore, we want to make a special effort over the coming few months to ensure all our volunteers are well-trained and well-informed.

We recognise this will not be done without some guidance and, therefore, Liz Marshall, our Interim Parish Office Manager, and I, in my new role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, have a plan to meet with every Team Leader in the Parish to put together a Safeguarding and Safety Package for distribution to all the members of their Team. This will not only include Safeguarding requirements (yes - I'm afraid every volunteer will have to do at least Basic Awareness training) but also Risk Assessments and Safety Procedures for the activities specific to each Team. Although much of this will be considered 'obvious' or 'common sense', there is now a need to formalise how we do things. However, we think in the end the effort will be worth it, in the hope of improving protection for everyone, so we ask those of you involved to work with us as we try to make Safeguarding and Safety become part of our Parish's everyday culture. I hope we can rely on your support.

Helen Warrillow
Parish Safeguarding Officer



At this time of year, and perhaps especially after our Mystery Plays, we think of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus. But where is Bethlehem? Not in Israel, but in the occupied territories of the West Bank. Some of us have been there – at a more peaceful time (I have no recollection of the checkpoints). Now, that divide between Israel and the Palestinian lands has become a war zone once again, and the Christians in Bethlehem live in a place of suffering and fear, alongside their Muslim neighbours. Surely it was not a coincidence that led us, just before the Hamas atrocities, to choose Embrace the Middle East – a charity with a heart for all across that area, but not least for the tiny Christian minorities – as one of our Christmas charities. Their Head of Church Engagement is the Revd Su McClellan, who is better known to some of us as the wife of the Vicar of St Andrew's Shottery and someone who served a placement with us during her ordination training.

Who was responsible for the bloodstained events that began in mid-October? The Hamas group from Gaza, which initiated them, must surely bear much guilt. But, like some other Palestinians, they sincerely believe that Israel has no right to exist. Now, Israel is a country fully recognised by the United Nations, set up in the Jews' ancestral homeland following the horrors of Hitler's persecution, and it most certainly does have a right to exist, and to defend itself. Whether that right extends to some of the actions that it has recently taken, and others that it has failed to take in response to initiatives for reconciliation with the people of Palestine....that may be another matter.

But who actually created the state of Israel, in the middle of an already populated land? The Western powers, with our own country very much in the lead. After the horrors of the Holocaust, it was the right thing to do. But, if some outside powers created a new country right in the middle of England, how would we feel? Our own Anglo-Saxon ancestors bitterly resisted the Normans, yet eventually the two groups settled down together in one country and became one people. How long will "eventually" be, in the case of the Holy Land?

What was right some seventy years ago is still right today, and yet for the Palestinians it can still be experienced as a wrong. And this is not some faraway country of which we know nothing; we were and are involved. I remember a sermon preached in our church one Holy Innocents Day many years ago, when we were reminded that NONE of us is "wholly innocent".

At least we can hope, and pray, and support Embrace the Middle East. But we can also remember that the "origins of the Bible", on which one of our services in October focused, are themselves bloodstained, based in a part of the world which has been a place of conflict for millennia. And we can recognise that we too may yet face great upheavals of population arising from the climate crisis and other fractures in our broken world today. Pray that we may face those in a spirit of "peace and goodwill to ALL people" and recognise that, as for both Jews and Palestinians, that may involve challenge and suffering. For this Child was born "for the falling and rising of many in Israel" – and beyond.

FROM THE REGISTERS - NOVEMBER

CHRISTENINGS

19 November William Duck

19 November Callie Pennington

WEDDINGS

25 November Justin Beardon and Francesca Lee

FUNERALS

13 November Wendy Mazey

15 November Kenneth Anderson-Jones



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday **6 December**. If you think it would help to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time in your life please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2pm and we will finish at about 3.30pm.

There is no need to make an appointment; we shall be delighted to see you. Come and join us in the lounge area of the Parish Centre.

David Harrison
Bereavement Co-ordinator

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TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

Christmas greetings. On Wednesday 20 December we will be holding our annual Carol Service. I am delighted to announce that this year the Rev. Emma Harrington has agreed to lead the service for us. Please bring your friends and relatives to this service and if you are able to make or buy a few mince pies or small cakes please bring them with you. Also can some of you bring your pretty table cloths and a Christmas table decoration plus a Christmas raffle prize?

On Wednesday 17 January we look forward to hearing a talk by Mo Sutherland 'Are you feeling peckish,' food through the ages. It will be interesting to hear how our diets have changed over the years.

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

Wishing you all a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Gina Lodge
Chair.

St Helen's Church

Promises Auction Friday 6 October 2023

6 October saw an evening of collective generosity in our very special village community, when the magnificent total of £6,309 was raised for the Friends of St Helen's Church. Our friend and neighbour, auctioneer Chris Ironmonger (aided and abetted by his family members) encouraged and cajoled us all to dig deep into our pockets for the Promise of ninety-seven tempting lots ranging from flights in a light aircraft to cakes made by Clifford's legendary cooks. The dramatic panache with which Barry and Sophia displayed the tangible items: pictures, furniture and even jewellery, significantly raised the bidding too. The behind-the-scenes work of Clare and Beccy had resulted in this impressive total of lots, some coming in at the eleventh hour. The bar saw to it that our spirits were raised and we all had a great evening to remember.

Angela Wylam, on behalf of Friends of St Helen's, thanked everyone - organisers, donors, purchasers but most of all auctioneer Chris Ironmonger for giving us all a wonderful evening and making a notable contribution towards the Friends being able to help with the church's needs for replacement heating, repairs to the organ and restoration work to the bells.

Angela Wylam

THE HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY FETE

From Eve Archer - Fete Planning Team Leader

Saturday 23 September 2023 The Holy Trinity Community Fete welcomed the people of Stratford upon Avon into The Dell on a glorious sunny day for good old-fashioned fun. It was a day full of laughter, song, and friendship. The stall holders commented that it was extremely well organised, and we all received so much positive feedback during and after the event. Pictures tell us the story as you can see below, so I will not bore you with how we got to this point, but I will share some interesting facts.

4.5 months to organise (it usually should take about 12 months), **12** fete committee members, **20** fete committee meetings. **100s** of emails, texts, and telephone calls. Endless paperwork for Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, and various licenses to operate the fete. **33** Stalls set up and taken down free of charge by LSD Markets. **5** Gazebos set up by Tony, Andrew and Patrick. **3000** leaflets distributed; **10** banners set up around Stratford upon Avon. **75** Church Volunteers, **12** bottles of Prosecco consumed, **100** scones were eaten and a further **72** were sold. **300** teas and coffees served, **300** cups and saucers were washed and dried by hand plus teaspoons and **over £1000 raised selling tea, coffee and cakes!** **100** ducks hooked by **170** children. **64** tried to trap a rat.....most failed. **Over 200 sponges thrown at the Clergy.** **14** dogs and their owners entered the dog show....all were winners. **300** photos taken by the press and George Reah and **12** photos from the day appeared in the local press after the event. **100s** of prizes donated, **100s** of books and bric-a-brac donated, and **140** balloons blown up for guess the number of balloons in the taxi. An average of **20,000** steps were walked individually by most of the workers on the day!

2,000 People attended.

The fete made **£4,700** on the day itself and together with other generous donations received, we were able to contribute **£6,700** towards the organ fund.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED AND DONATED OR JUST SUPPORTED THE DAY. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.



Social Events Programme 2024

Burns Supper Jan 20th



Pancake Party Feb 13th

Luddington Walk Apr 13th



Greek Evening Jun 22nd

Parish Picnic July 14th



**Treasure Hunt &
Cream Tea Sept 7th**



**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

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



White lilies in gilded vases...



In the autumn of 2023 I stroll down the avenue of twenty-four limes.

Riverside, trees respectfully denoting the twelve tribes of Israel. To my right the twelve trees are a living representation of the apostles with Judas Iscariot, the traitor.

The sky darkens. An easterly breeze picks up and black-stained fingered branches shield me from a constant precipitation of cobwebbed twigs. Lime green, burnt-ginger and golden leaves waltz downwards. My well-worn boots tread over vaults hidden away by a flagstone walkway.

Beech, silver birch, holly and a magnificent cedar tree brought back to Holy Trinity as a cutting from Gethsemane in 1872 watch over ancient headstones cloaked in lichen moss.

It is a year to the day I was washed up on the Straits of Dover with nothing to my name. Today the Collegiate Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon welcomes me with open arms. The vicissitudes of life.

Entering the north porch of the church, I touch the sanctuary knocker, there since 1258, which, when urgently rapped against the massive oak door, allowed wrongdoers, or those claiming refuge from violence, to request the right of asylum and protection for thirty-seven days.

Today, can I ask for asylum? We refugees have suffered more in our lifetimes than anyone should.

“Righto, we are arriving at the West stained-glass, our oldest and most remarkable window dating back to 1840. Just above the head of Jesus, who is being baptised by John the Baptist in deep cobalt blue, is the dove – just there.” The guide points upwards.

That blue...my beloved sister always wore a neck scarf in that colour...she was often foraging, running and scaling oak trees in the purple mountains of Tehran. No hijab. A time before the prying eyes of the enforcers.

I remember our three...no, four attempts to leave, then the six long years waiting in a rat-infested refugee camp outside Paris... and how I found God there.

Cont....

After ten minutes the tour continues. Lighting a candle, I speak aloud:

“Aeazu uukht, my precious sister. My angel, I miss you. Why did you leave me?”

We walk towards the Chancel.

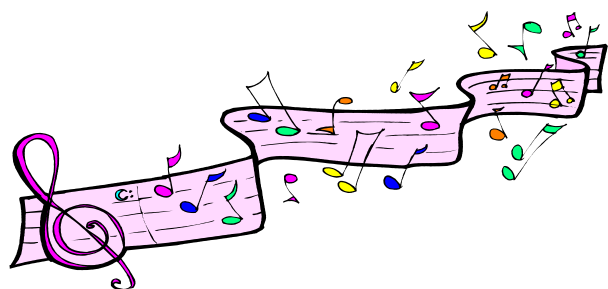
“Let’s take a look at the final resting place of William Shakespeare” says the well-informed guide.

Sudden rays of sunshine pierce the East stained-glass windows and traverse Shakespeare’s shrine. The scent of heavenly lilies in colossal, gilded vases permeates the air. Marvelling at the beauty and magnificence of the gold-leafed cross on the altar, my soul feels a moment of peace in this special place.

I had no idea I would marry for love a year to the day in this church. I will stand in front of this magnificent golden cross with the whitest of lilies in my hands - a symbol of triumph over evil.

A testimony of my Christian faith.

Written by Sam Jutel



SOUNDBITES

Will resume after Easter.

Thank you for all the articles that you have submitted to Trinity Times over the years.

I now leave you in the capable hands of the new design editor.

Felicity Howlett



You're Invited
to a party
to die for...

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"Who Killed the Dame?"

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2.30PM

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IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

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 Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Curate	The Revd Thomas Powell	01789 266 316	thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org
Curate	The Revd Emma Harrington	01789 266 316	emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
The Revd Penny Harrison	01789 266 316
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

Readers

Paul Gifford
David Harrison

Staff

Operations Manager:	Liz Marshall	01789 266 316	liz@stratford-upon-avon.org
Parish Administrator:	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Church Wardens

Paul Lageu	07434 328 484	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	07989 318 965

Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	David Harrison	01789 612 634 e-mail preferred - davidianharrison@hotmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Warrillow	01789 266 316
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	tba	
Friends of St Helen's Church	Angela Wylam	01789 268 156
Holy Trinity in the Community		
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Roome	01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Caroline Thomas	01789 266 316
Home Communion		
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contacts	Parish Office	01789 266 316 or office@stratford-upon-avon.org
Welcome Team	Eve Archer	07826 574 854 or ega1912@yahoo.uk
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396
Churchyard Maintenance		
Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110



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A peregrine falcon visited Holy Trinity during
November.



I have got my eye on you lot.

Nesting peregrine falcon photos by Claire Clack

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