

TRINITY TIMES

FEBRUARY
2016

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The Magazine For The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon



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Holy Trinity Church Stratford-upon-Avon

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"Lives changed through God's love"

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Steve & Hilary

Cover Photo: John Burgess

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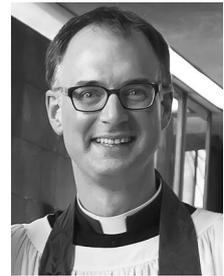
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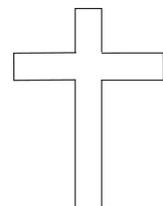
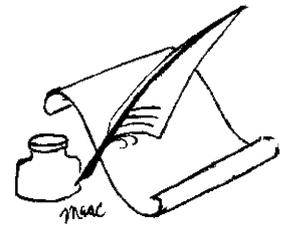




Photo: John Burgess

Rachel Writes...



"Open to God changed my life"

"Lives changed through God's love." This is our vision for the parish of Stratford-upon-Avon. It articulates what we are seeking to realise as a parish, but do you know what a life changed through God's love would look like? Sometimes visions are so lofty they seem unreachable, but as I write my final piece for Trinity Times I'd like to encourage you: this vision was reached before it was even identified! Through the life and ministry of the church community in Stratford, through God's love at work through you, my life has been changed in ways beyond anything I could have asked for or imagined.

Little did I know that the decision I took on the morning of 9th December 2010 to walk the long way home from town, a route that took me through Holy Trinity's churchyard, past a sign for an 'Open to God' service entitled 'The Annunciation' (the Gospel I just happened to have been praying with that same morning) would change my life for ever! That is no exaggeration. Two days later I entered Holy Trinity for that service, longing to hear from God, and I did. That's a story I have recounted before, so there's no need to repeat it, but much has happened since then.

I arrived at Holy Trinity as a Roman Catholic lay-person, anxious and uncertain about where God was calling me. I was welcomed with open arms and given the freedom to explore a calling to ordained ministry. A freedom I had never experienced before. I have spent four blessed years in pioneer ministry, underpinned by your unfailing love and encouragement, and now I leave to complete my ordination training in the Church of England, hopeful and excited about what God has in store for me next.

So, where am I going? I am heading out to the countryside! I have been asked to serve my curacy in the Mid Fosse Benefice (the parishes of Chesterton, Lighthorne, Lighthorne Heath, Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey). Alongside my curacy I am joining the diocesan 'Acceler8' project, an initiative which is seeking to grow new disciples in the 20s & 30s age range. Initially this will involve forming a residential community in the vicarage in Charlecote. Together we will have a wider remit for exploring ministry amongst 20s & 30s across the Barford Benefice and the Fosse Deanery. Our mission, as I understand it now, will be to explore ways of growing the rural church younger and deeper through prayer, outreach and hospitality.

I am beginning my role with 'Accler8' from March, hence why I am leaving my current post earlier than anticipated. I am not moving to Charlecote until the summer so I'm certain I will see many of you in Stratford in the meantime and of course I'd love to welcome as many of you as possible to my ordination in Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 3rd July.

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The adventure of the past few years would not have been possible without you, so thank you! Thank you to those on the PCC who bravely voted to appoint me even though you had never met me. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged me, prayed for me, laughed with me, volunteered alongside me, wandered Trinity Mead's streets with me, and inspired me with your faith. I leave feeling like a much-loved member of a very large extended family and I pray that God's love at work through you will continue to change people's lives in the way it has changed mine.

I conclude with two verses from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which you may have noticed framed over my desk in the clergy office. I'm taking them with me when I leave so here they are as a reminder of what I hope has been at the heart of my ministry, and I pray will be at the centre of yours:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." *Ephesians 3.20-21*

Old Friends

A few days after Christmas Hilary and I spent some time in a rather splendid hotel in Lancashire called The Inn at Whitewell situated in the Forest of Bowland. A beautiful place with a church attached. Together they have cornered the local wedding business!



On the way back to Stratford we called in to see the Revd Canon David Banbury and his family. As many of you will remember David introduced Rachel to Holy Trinity and into our hearts.



David is well settled in Lancashire busy creating great outreach programmes that last year included a play about the First World War written, produced and directed by David. All my fault apparently! The play is going on a cathedral tour this year starting in Derby - dates to be arranged.

David's daughter Ruthi is also being ordained this summer in York Minster.

The whole family send their love to friends at Holy Trinity.

Steve Newman

Chance or Design?

When I was asked to write a short article for Trinity Times about an event which might have made me think about my faith I couldn't bring to mind a story worth writing about. Although I have done quite a lot over my life in terms of work and travel I would consider my life to be fairly boring to others. I was stumped.



Then I thought about a piece of work which a friend of mine recently persuaded me to help him with. My friend has had a succession of illnesses over the past fifteen years or so, and when I met him in Stratford, about three years ago, I saw first hand how these illnesses have impacted on him, his friends and family. He'd been a very successful amateur golfer and then a businessman, but all of these successes have broken down through his inability to focus due to bipolar illness.

It's interesting how others react to him when he is loud, vocal or exuberant through his gesticulations, or misapplication of his medicines. Interestingly, if he was a rock musician or artist then his behaviour would perhaps be seen as normal! His extensive business investments have all suffered because of his illness. His business developments often came about because he was willing to look where others didn't, and were/are, by any measure, hugely creative. Investors, and of course banks, find it difficult to deal with such creative business people.

So what about God and the link that lies in some developments my friend and I have been involved in over the past few months.

One morning, drinking coffee in a local café my friend said: "As a former committed atheist I came to believe in God via Mathematics."

He then went on to develop his understanding of how we can find God through a series of mathematical models linked to Einstein's Theory of Relativity and Quantum Physics. I don't have the space in this article to go through all the stuff my friend forced me to consider, question and write in order to create a future paper which fairly and simply states that mathematically there is proof of God's existence. As a consequence it has shown me the importance of being strong enough to declare one's faith.

There is no doubt (it is not just a matter of belief in my considered view) that God exists. There is statistically no way chance has created the Universe and our Earth. The mathematics are so against the probability of such a set of events happening through chance. The opposite of chance of course is design. This then establishes, for me, the proof of God the Creator.

When one further considers the energy necessary to cause such a creational event, and through this cause the life which continues with and through us, then the greatness of God is displayed. So why, with all our weaknesses, do we fail to see such a reality just because we find it difficult to either understand or explain such magnitude?

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The Holy Bible helps of course, but doubters point out historical inconsistencies rather than the greater consistency through known historical events. Once again, applying probability theory shows that the likelihood of the Holy Bible being a 'great conspiracy' is far less than it simply being the truth.

So, given that I now know that mathematically what I have listened to and read over my lifetime is supported by numbers which tie into the developing fields of quantum physics and theories of energy and relativity shouldn't I be shouting from the hilltops about the existence of God and, more particularly, the truth of the Trinity and Jesus being the son of God?

Well, of course I should and I am. But, we all know that in our society being a vocal advocate of one's Christian faith is no longer 'politically correct'

Given that God created our Universe, and our Earth and us, we know that he is in us and that mathematics support this. If God can create all we know then he can certainly deal with small matters such as gradually letting us into his secrets as we take scientific and mathematical knowledge forward. Given the truth of the Trinity and Jesus being of and in God, then surely we should share this message with others?

Political correctness makes us wary of proclaiming our Christian beliefs but if we fail to do this are we not failing in our duty to show the way to eternal life through and with God? What right do we have to deny this to others?

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Worship in February



SUNDAY February 7th Holy Trinity *Sunday Before lent*

8.00am Holy Communion— with Revd Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton

Parish Centre Good News@10 —with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

6.00pm Choral Evensong—Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship—with Revd Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion BCP—with Revd Patrick Taylor

SUNDAY February 14th Holy Trinity *Lent 1*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Evensong—Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB

Parish Centre 7pm Open To God—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—Revd Nicki Chatterton

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd Canon John Grady

SUNDAY February 21st Holy Trinity *Lent 2*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate

6.00pm - Choral Evensong—Preacher Mike Milburn

9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird—with Revd Patrick Taylor

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers— with Revd Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington— with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

SUNDAY February 28th Holy Trinity *Lent 3*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Food4thought —Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP—Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate

Parish Centre 10.00am— FAB

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers—Traditional Holy Communion with Revd Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington— Holy Communion—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

"Lives changed through God's love"



Worship Notes for February

Lent begins relatively early this year. It's a good opportunity to focus on our spiritual practices (e.g. your pattern of prayer, worship and bible study) and consider what needs more attention in our walk with God so that we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. You are welcome to join the Lent Course offered by Churches Together in Stratford. See page 15 for more details.

Why not try using daily bible reading notes during Lent? Various versions are available in the bookshop.

The following services will also help us on our journey through Lent:

Ash Wednesday 10th February—receive the sign of the cross in ash as a reminder of our dependence on God's grace.

10am Said Eucharist (Guild Chapel)

7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Mondays 7.30pm Holy Communion

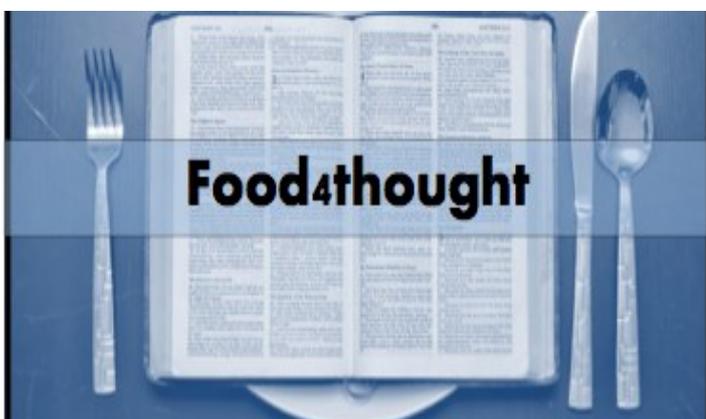
Every Monday in Lent (starting 15th February). A simple and meaningful service which takes place in the crossing at Holy Trinity.

Sunday 21st Feb Laying on of hands and prayer for healing will be offered in the Becket Chapel during the 10am Parish Eucharist.

Stations of the Cross

7.30pm Thursdays 25th February and 10th March, Holy Trinity.

A reflective service in which we consider the relevance to us of each stage in the experience of Jesus from being condemned to death to being laid in the tomb.



28th February 10am Holy Trinity. We continue our series of teaching on the theme "Why go to church...?". The topic in February is "...to feed on Christ our Provider". The text will be 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Patrick



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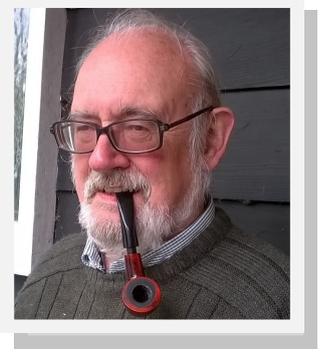
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Anthony Woollard's
Window on the World
"Thou smilest and art still."



Well, here it is. The year of Shakespeare. It is quite clear, from the attention already being paid to the 400th anniversary of his death, that if we thought the 450th anniversary of his birth in 2014 was big, we have seen nothing yet. So how should we react?

Some of us shared in the Twelfth Night Poetry Mass last month, at which Paul Edmondson presided. In a way, it should be Paul writing this column, not me. For if anyone has given thought to how Christians should respond to the inheritance of the Bard, Paul is that person. And I am glad that he is sharing, with a number of other luminaries including our own Ronnie Mulryne, in the annual conference of Modern Church in July on precisely that theme.

But here are my own thoughts, linked, as they must be in this issue, to the beginning of Lent.

We shall be celebrating Twelfth Night again with the Trinity Players production in July. If only from that play, and from his treatment of the character of Malvolio, we can be pretty sure that Shakespeare had little time for Puritanism. How would he have observed Lent, I wonder? As little as he could get away with? Or would the sympathy which some have found in him for the "old religion" of Catholicism have led to a quite serious keeping of the season?



Notoriously, we know remarkably little about Shakespeare the man, and even less about Shakespeare the believer. His inner life is an enigma. The Victorian poet Matthew Arnold, writing in an age when the "sea of faith" seemed to be withdrawing, was fascinated by the puzzle of Shakespeare's true beliefs. He wrote:

Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask. Thou smilest and art still.

In other words, Shakespeare's plays and poetry do not give straight answers to the big issues. But they do give a picture of the realities of life which helps us to find our own answers. Time and again, his insights into human nature ring true. There is certainly no rigidly orthodox religious line, whether Catholic or Protestant, anywhere in his plays. He tacks from an apparent belief in Purgatory in *Hamlet* to an attack on "equivocating" Jesuits in *Macbeth*. Sometimes he seems to be approving of an even older religion, with the gods of Greece and Rome making an appearance. And often, not least in many of the Sonnets, he is just simply earthy. But he has a deep sense of our origins, both in our past and in a world beyond.

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So when we ask him about his precise beliefs, he “smiles and is still”. Yet we can be enriched in our own faith by hearing again those great insights. And, in participating in “the Shakespeare industry”, we just may enable other people to hear a message also.

So this Lent, whether we feel called to deny ourselves “cakes and ale” or not, we might do well to focus hard in our prayers on the events that are to come – the Birthday Weekend and the visit from Stratford Sister Cities, the Trinity Players production, perhaps the Modern Church conference, and so much else – and prepare ourselves to understand and share that message more fully with the tens of thousands who will come to Stratford or who in other ways will be touched by the anniversary of this enigmatic writer.



Twelfth Night Poetry Mass

We gathered in Holy Trinity Church on the eve of Twelfth Night when the Church remembers the Magi who traditionally visited the baby Jesus on that day, symbolising the revelation of the Son of Man to people of every nation, culture and creed. We also remembered William Shakespeare in this the 400th anniversary of his death; and indeed this was probably the first event held in Stratford to mark this important memorial.

The celebrant was the Reverend Paul Edmondson of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and his service interspersed traditional carols and hymns of Christmas and Epiphany with excerpts from poetry which replaced many of the usual prayers. As well as famous Shakespearean speeches from Hamlet (*a prayer for those who suffer in body, mind and spirit*) and The Merchant of Venice (*a summary of the law*) other poets were invoked to shape and direct our prayers. They included Charlotte Bronte, John Clare, Wendy Cope, Carol Ann Duffy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Christina Rossetti, Mark Akenside, Thomas Hardy, Wilfred Owen, Kapka Kassabova, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Reg Foakes, William Blake and John Donne. The poetry was read beautifully by many individuals who live in and around Stratford, including some of the regular members of Trinity Players. I have preserved my copy of the order of service to keep as a memorable anthology of the Epiphany.

The Communion was followed by a new libretto entitled ‘To the memory of our beloved, the author, William Shakespeare, and what he hath left us.’ The words are by Paul Edmondson, set to some of the music by Richard Wagner (from the end of *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*) and arranged for organ and voices by Stephen Dodsworth and Benedict Wilson. Visiting soloists were Nick Smith (tenor) and John Lofthouse (baritone). The piece alludes to twelve of Shakespeare’s plays, two of his sonnets, and to some of the things his contemporaries said about him. The work was dedicated to the German Shakespeare Society and we were honoured and charmed to welcome their president, Dr Claudia Olk, who had flown in from Berlin especially to be with us.

The evening concluded with “cakes and ale” (actually modern bottled beer and mince pies) served at the back of the Church by Hazel and Margaret.

Thank you to all those whose contributions made this a wonderfully spiritual and thought provoking occasion.



Jane Taylor

“God Is At Work, Turning Our Vision Into Action”

Revd Dr Steve Bate

It's a great joy to be able to see so many ways in which God is at work among us, seeing our vision turning into practical action - seeing lives changed through God's love.

Many developments have taken place in our ministry among younger children and their families that we couldn't have imagined only a short time ago – including the prospect of a Children and Families Minister being appointed later this year. I thank God when I see all this happening, but I thank God for so much more that goes on among people of all ages in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon. I've just returned home after a fulfilling evening spent with our newest home group. This group of both men and women spanning a wide age-range have come together seeking to go deeper with God as they spend their first six weeks looking at The Creeds. They'll be looking in detail at these summaries of Christian faith and putting into practice the meaning behind those words we say each week.

Other developments continue as God's people in this place are themselves changed through God's love *and* others lives are changed for the better through God's love. The ministry of the Home Communion Team, the Bereavement Team, The Lay Chaplains, the Welcome Team and more are all expressions of that vision - seeing lives changed through God's love. Another team with a low-key but important ministry is our Pastoral Contact Team. The team members are quietly keeping an eye open to see that no one is overlooked in our church. Only recently, thanks to this team, one of our elderly church members was able to experience the love of God through the love and care of God's people during the last few months of her life.

God is at work, turning our vision into action. I wonder, where can you see that happening and how might you be part of it as we continue to see lives changed through God's love?



Daytime Alpha Course

Alpha

Because many people were unable to join the evening Alpha Course a short daytime course has been arranged and meets on Tuesday afternoons for one hour.

For more information contact Steve Bate on 01789 299195

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Trinity Tots



For the under 5s

Trinity Tots meets every Thursday at 1.30pm in Holy Trinity Parish Centre during term time. We need more volunteers so we can continue to supply this service to young families. If you can help contact Steve or Val Bate on 01789 299195

The Children's Society

The final total from the November Housebox opening was £1,636.19, an increase of 13.4% on last year. In addition, the GoodNews@10 Christingle raised £214.95, and Rob Craven's retirement collection raised a further £175.

What's On In February...



Stratford Churches Together Lent Course 2016

Every year there is a joint lent Course. This year's course is 'The Joy of the Gospel' - a study course in sharing faith. Meetings will be at the Stratford Methodist Church, on five Wednesdays, from the 17th of February to the 16th March. Refreshments will be available from 7.30pm. Each session begins at 7.45pm and ends by 9.30pm. If you would like to buy a copy of the course book before the course begins it will on sale in the Holy Trinity Church Shop.



Film Night



The February Film Night choice is the classic

The High and the Mighty

Released in 1954, this hugely popular film (but only recently released on DVD) stars John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Laraine Day, Robert Stack, Jan Sterling, Phil Harris, Robert Newton and David Brian.

Written by Ernest K.Gann (based on his own novel), and directed by William A. Wellman, *The High and the Mighty* is probably the first of the so-called airliner 'disaster movies'. Wayne is at his immovable best.

Sunday 21st February at 7.30pm Holy Trinity Parish Centre Lounge

Novel Theology

FEBRUARY—Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid's Tale*

MARCH—Carys Bray *A Song for Issy Bradley*

APRIL—Catherine Fox *Acts and Omissions*

The first Thursday of the month.

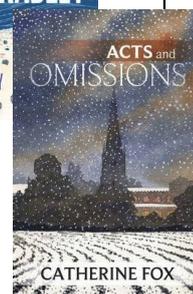
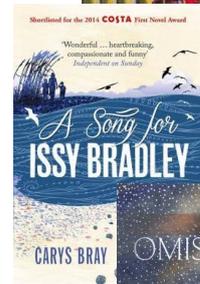
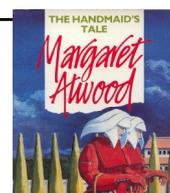
For more information: contact Anthony Woollard on 01789 204923



Click & Chatter

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Do you enjoy knitting and other handicrafts? Come to the Parish Centre on the 3rd Friday of the month—2.15pm. Next meeting February 20th



A Look At The Eucharist

Revd Roger J B Taylor

“ A gathering of the faithful...”



When the early Christians broke away from the Synagogue they continued the singing of the psalms and reciting of prayers that had long been part of the Jewish traditional worship. Soon to be added was the agape, a communal meal taken together in the spirit of love, peace and unity. For the participants this meal consisted of bread and wine taken at the traditional evening hour, fulfilling the commandment given by Jesus to his disciples on the night of the Last Supper, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22: 14 – 20). It thus became a commemoration of the life and sacrificial death of Christ. As time went on the Greek word Eukharistia, “thanksgiving” was adopted. This Eucharist has remained the central act of Christian worship ever since. A time for giving thanks. While worshippers are participating in this thanksgiving, they are brought by the majesty and balance of the liturgy into a state of peace and unity in which Christ’s mysterious presence among them becomes a living reality. For a few moments they experience their essential oneness with God and Jesus.

It is the regular celebration of the Eucharist that is the focus, the centre upon which everything else turns. It is important to note, that the celebration of the Eucharist was viewed as being experiential. In the Middle-Ages members of the worshipping community did not attend services expecting to learn something new and different. Most, if not all of the Eucharistic liturgy was proclaimed in Latin, a language unfamiliar to most of the people. However, whether they could understand it or not, to the extent that they were willing participants, they were being acted upon by the very structure of the ceremony. The organisation of the Eucharist follows that of an octave, an orderly progression taking the participant through all the steps of an evolution from his or her entrance into the church to divine union with Christ. The Eucharist is much more than a time for engaging the intellect, though that is important too. It is a time for involving the mysterious presence of God through acts of thanksgiving and praise.

At the beginning of the Eucharist, attention should immediately be drawn musically to the theme for the day. This musical introduction is called the Introit, or entrance song, announcing the theme of the service, bringing the participants directly into the spirit and intent of what follows. The Introit was usually musically demanding and therefore sung by a small group of trained singers, or a choir. From the beginning of the service an atmosphere should occur in which all the senses are involved. The liturgy is an elaborately designed drama that proclaims to the Faithful not just the external story of the life of Christ but its inner meaning. Through the action of the Eucharist, lives are called to be transformed in a profound and mysterious way.

In some traditions, the first part of the Eucharist is referred to as the Mass (gathering of the faithful) or Eucharist of the Catechumens (those studying the faith) and was similar in its readings and prayers to the Jewish synagogue services.

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The celebration begins with the Introit, followed by the Kyrie Eleison, a prayer asking for the mercy of the Lord, sung three times by the congregation. This is followed by the Gloria in Excelsis Deo, "Glory to God in the Highest," based on the song of the angels to the shepherds at the time of Jesus birth (Luke 2: 14). Both the Kyrie and the Gloria are part of what is called the Ordinary, the unchanging part of the Eucharist. Next comes the Collect, a prayer, said or sung by the celebrant and appropriate to the particular day of the church's liturgical year.

The collect brings to an end the entrance ceremony: for those familiar with the musical scale, it is the (*re*) of the octave progression; the (*do*) being the state of things outside the church.

Next comes the Service of Readings, the (*mi*) of the octave. This includes readings from the Old Testament or the New Testament Epistles, letters written by the apostles (eye witnesses) of Jesus to the new community of Faith. Before the Gospel Reading (the life and teachings of Christ as revealed in the New Testament Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), there are several types of musical responses to the scriptures read. The Gradual (from the Latin *gradus*, "Step"), so named because a cantor stood at the steps of the altar to sing it; the Alleluia, or Tract, also sung by trained musicians. The Alleluia and Tract, are both part of what is called the Proper, changing part of the Eucharist). The Reading of the Gospel is usually followed by a sermon (teaching). Then comes the Credo from the Latin *credo*, "I believe" or another statement of faith, said or sung by the congregation as part of the Ordinary. This concludes the Mass or Eucharist of the Catechumens.

The Credo makes the link to the Eucharist of the Faithful, which begins with a step corresponding to the (*fa*) of the octave progression. It is the interval between (*me*) and (*fa*) because it is the affirmation of faith that transforms the Catechumen into one of the Faithful.



The most holy of moments is then carefully prepared by the liturgy of the Offertory (marked in the octave progression by the (*fa*), a processional sung as the bread, wine, and other gifts, "the work of human hands," are brought forward to the altar. This is followed by the Eucharistic Prayer, consisting of the *Praefatio*, or "Preface," said or sung by the celebrant, and the Sanctus, "Holy, holy, holy," chanted by the congregation, providing a bridge to the Canon, "Law," the most sacred, unchanging part of the Eucharist, read or sung by the celebrant, while a profound silence is kept in the congregation. When the Canon is completed, all the Faithful respond with a resounding Amen, "So be it." The solemnity of this part of the Eucharist is emphasised by its place in the octave progression at (*Sol*), the Dominant note of the octave. When the celebrant of the Eucharist lifts his/her voice from the spoken word into plainchant, he/she performs what I call a speech-act of heightening or highlighting a very special moment. And no matter how many times I celebrated, at the moment of the elevation of the elements something new and very special always happened. After the Canon, the Communion Cycle begins with the *Pater Noster*, the "Our Father" the prayer Jesus Himself taught his disciples to say. This corresponds to the note (*La*) in the octave. The congregation then sings the *Agnus Dei*, "Lamb of God," a prayer petitioning for mercy and peace, corresponding to the note (*Si*). Both the *Sanctus* and the *Agnus Dei* belong to the Ordinary of the Eucharist.

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The next step, the receiving of the Communion falls within the interval (*Si*) and (*Do*). It is the other critical step in the octave progression, filled by divine grace. Here the Faithful may experience divine union with Christ. At the Communion a brief text or antiphon appropriate to the day, followed by a psalm may be sung by a choir while the Faithful proceed to the altar or Communion station to receive the elements. Finally, at the conclusion, corresponding to the note (*Do*) of the octave, the deacon (assistant to the celebrant) says or sings the words "*Ite missa est,*" "Go, you are dismissed," or "the Eucharist is ended, go in peace," to which the Faithful respond, *Deo Gratis,* "Thanks be to God."

Roger



Christmas Collections

Holy Trinity's Christmas Collections, and Trinity Times Christmas Card Amnesty raised £2168.95 for each of the following charities:

Echoes—A Childrens Bereavement Service at The Shakespeare Hospice



British Red Cross



BritishRedCross

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**Readings for Holy Trinity Stratford-upon-Avon, All Saints Luddington &
St Helens Clifford Chambers**

7th February Sunday next before Lent Quinquagesima

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Choral Evensong
2 Corinthians ch.3 v.12- ch.4 v.2	Exodus ch.3 v.1-6
Luke ch.9 ch.28-36	1 John ch.12 v.27-36a

10th February Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
2 Corinthians ch.5 v.20b-ch.6 v.10
Matthew ch.6 v.1-6,16-21

14th February 1st Sunday of Lent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Evensong
Deuteronomy ch.26 v.1-11	Jonah ch.3
Luke ch.4 v.1-13	Luke ch.18 v.9-14

15th February

7.30 pm Holy Communion
Leviticus ch.19 v.1-2,11-18
Luke ch.4 v.1-13

21st February 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Choral Evensong
Genesis ch.15 v.1-12,17-18	Jeremiah ch.22 v.1-9,13-17
Luke ch.13 v.31-end	Luke ch.14 27-33

22nd February

7.30 pm Holy Communion
Daniel ch.9 v.4-10
Luke ch.6 v.36-38

28th February 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00 [10.00 am TBA]	6.00 pm BCP Communion
Isaiah ch.55 v.1-9	Isaiah ch.55 v.1-9
Luke ch.13 v.1-9	Luke ch.13 v.1-9

29th February

7.30 pm Holy Communion
2 Kings ch.5 v.1-15
Luke ch.4 v.24-30



Compiled by John Cohen



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



MUSIC FOR FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday 7th – the Sunday next before Lent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Tallis O nata lux

Voluntary: Bach Prelude in f minor BWV 523i

410 286 HOAN 67
HOAN 29 HOAN 419

6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Tallis O nata lux

Responses: Radcliffe; Naylor

Canticles: Walmisley in d minor

Anthem: Howells Mine eyes for beauty pine

Voluntary: Bach Fugue in f minor BWV 534ii

383 84 436

Psalm 89.5-12

Wednesday 10th – Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Eucharist

Anthem: Farrant/Hilton Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake

Voluntary: Bach Jesu, meines Lebens Leben BWV 1107

Special order of service

Sunday 14th – the First Sunday of Lent

10am Parish Eucharist (Choir is on its half term break)

Voluntary: Bach Prelude in b BWV 544i

67 393 418 MP 590
420

6pm Congregational Evensong

Voluntary: Howells Saraband

333 244 445

Psalm 119.73-88

Sunday 21st – the Second Sunday of Lent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Whitbourn Give us the wings of faith

Voluntary: Mendelssohn Fugue in c minor op. 37

359 425 461 494 333

6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Farrant Hide not thou face

Responses: Smith; Stone; Naylor

Canticles: Gibbons Short Service

Anthem: Whitbourn Give us the wings of faith

Voluntary: Whitlock Prelude on Song 13 (Gibbons)

453 337 72 (t.466)

Psalm 135.1-14

Sunday 28th – the Third Sunday of Lent

10am Food4thought

Special order of service

6pm BCP Holy Communion

Motet: Wood Oculi omnium

Mass: Byrd Mass for three voices

Voluntary: Stanley Voluntary in a minor

468 63 64 376



Benedict Wilson
Holy Trinity's Musical Director

Rob Craven

Interviewed By Judith Dorricott



" Rob is justifiably proud of his long service in the shop..."

'Warm-hearted', 'Caring', 'Friendly', 'Reliable' were the words I heard most when I asked members of our congregation how they would describe Rob Craven. And this is how we will all remember Rob, who retired in December after running our church shop for eighteen years.

Rob was born into a church-going family in Rugby where he went to school. On leaving school, he joined Martin's Bank (which then became Barclays Bank) and moved around local towns, spending thirty years living and working in branch banks in Coventry and Solihull. In 1970, Rob married Jan, a teacher, and eventually they moved to Stratford-upon-Avon, where their two children spent happy days at school. Now both son and daughter are grown up; Andrew is a design engineer living in Warwickshire with his wife Sam, a social worker, their daughter Sophie, and another baby due this spring. Rob's daughter Penny followed in her mother's footsteps by becoming a teacher, and now works for the London Diocesan Board of Education, helping to open church-sponsored Free Schools. Penny has been married to Phil for many years and their children, Bethany and Eleanor are already in their teens.

Sadly Jan became ill in 2009 and died within six months of her illness being diagnosed. But God always has a plan for us, and Maureen, who had settled in Stratford after early years in Lancashire, had become friendly with Jan, and as time went by, Rob and Maureen's subsequent friendship blossomed into love. Maureen and Rob were married at Holy Trinity Church (where else?) nearly three years ago now, and have recently moved house to south of the River Avon. Maureen and Rob have many interests in common and Maureen has even persuaded Rob to apply for a new passport. In the last couple of years, they have visited Paris and Salzburg, while Iceland is on the agenda for the future!

Rob is justifiably proud of his long service in the shop, where he became Manager in 1997. The takings and the profits have increased tenfold over the years, which is a boost to church finances, as almost all profits are absorbed in the church accounts.



The year 2010 was important for the shop because it had a total refurbishment. The heating was improved and the counter and till moved to the opposite side so that visitors would see a friendly face as they came into the church. Rob is proud of the fact that profits from the shop managed to pay for the total refurbishment within eighteen months. Rob had acquired the service of a Retail Consultant from the heritage industry, who advised him on the layout of the shop, as well as new lines and products he could stock, so the shop not only had a 'face-lift' but also became bursting with exciting new goods. If you are wondering what is the bestselling item, the answer is the small bust of William Shakespeare.

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I asked Rob what he would miss about the shop, and the answer was a definite "the people". He explained that no two days were alike as so many people, both church-goers and tourists came into Holy Trinity Church. In recent years, he has seen a rise in visitors from Russia, Japan, China, India and South America, as well as many people from Australia and the United States.

So, how will Rob fill his time now he has retired for the second time? He has some ideas and plans afoot, one of which is to set up Guided Tours of our church, so watch this space for more developments. Whatever he does, he will remain a faithful member of the Holy Trinity family, in which he has found happiness for the second time.

Judith



Children Receiving Holy Communion

Nicki



Holy Trinity has the practice of allowing children to receive the bread and wine instead of a blessing at Communion, if that is the wish of the parents and the child. However, we do request that the child is over the age of 7 years and has completed a short training into the basics of the Christian Faith and the meaning of Communion. During March, April and May we will be covering these things in the teachings for all the children in FAB (Faith at Breakfast). If you are interested in your child being accepted to receive the bread and wine at Communion it will not be necessary to be at all the sessions, but there will be some specific sessions that will need to be attended. For more information please contact me, the Revd. Nicki Chatterton.



FAB (Faith at Breakfast)

Are you passionate about young people growing as Christian disciples? We are looking for leaders for primary school age and year 7-10 group at FAB. If you feel that God may be nudging you towards serving our children and young people as a leader, please contact me—Revd Dr Steve Bate on 01789 299195. See page 13.

Soundbites



The lunchtime Soundbites recitals return on Wednesday 3rd February in the church from 1pm to 1.30pm.

Refreshments from 12.30. FREE ADMISSION—Organised by The Friends of the Music

Getting to Know Holy Trinity's Marketing Person

Marion Homer

It's hard to believe I have been working for Holy Trinity for almost 6 months now! I probably have the longest title of any of the staff (Marketing and Visitor Development Officer) and for the least number of hours; being employed for 10 hours a week. I usually work in the Parish Centre on a Monday but my place and time of work may vary depending on my projects. As many of you will know I am also manager of Stratford's Foodbank - another extremely rewarding position – and this helps both organisations as I often work with the same people.

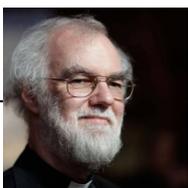


So what exactly do I do for Holy Trinity?! Well my primary focus is about developing the visitor experience. My work recognises the impact a visit to our church can have, and that this experience should be as rewarding as possible. I have recently led the process of creating a new logo for the church — hopefully you may have started to see evidence of this as the new branding rolls out into church communications. Another key area of my work is about encouraging families and schools to visit and stay longer.

On occasions, I have the honour of being Holy Trinity's spokesperson. This largely involves press relations and communicating with partners about visitor development. For example, it was my job to ensure that local media and schools understood about the day of prayer for refugees, which resulted in Patrick being interviewed on BBC Coventry and Warwickshire radio. Much of what I do is about encouraging local people to know and understand that, even if they are not members of the congregation, by virtue of its role as Stratford's Parish Church, they are always welcome through our doors to visit or worship.

As you can see there's a lot to keep me busy but I absolutely love it. What better job could there be for a Christian (I worship regularly at Stratford Methodist Church with my husband Tony and daughters Poppy and Scarlett), a history graduate and a lover of Shakespeare and the theatre! With the celebrations of 2016 fast approaching I am set to get even busier and I look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you.

Marion



Rowan Williams

Spend an evening with the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, on Friday 12th February at 7pm. The evening includes supper and a talk in a specially cleared and prepared Holy Trinity. Tickets are £10 per head, available from the church shop. All proceeds in aid of the St. Peter's Chapel Appeal.



Ed Mulryne's Page



It's time for me to consider what I can do to better myself this year, disreputable urchin that I am. I need goals, targets and missions to invigorate me and keep me on the straight and narrow; I can't let the grass grow under my feet. Therefore, I have compiled a series of actions to take which will point me in the direction of greatness.

The traditional thing to do in the new year is to go on a diet and get 'in shape'. I intend to do just this. But I plan to put a new twist on slimming. To coincide with my A Level English studies, I have purchased Charlotte Brontë's little-known dieting book 'Thin Eyre' and have begun to work my way through it. It is an informative and effective book which has already left me feeling plainer, repressed and very, very cold. So far so good.

Additionally, I hope to learn to play a new instrument this year; I'd like to add another – groans at the ready – string to my bow. So which one do I choose? I want to learn a handy instrument which I can whip out at parties in order to get a singsong going. So, which one? The harmonium perhaps? Yes, I like the sound of that. I'll learn to play all the hits of the last century on the thing, and soon I shall be the talk of the town. I shall let you know which town later. Popularity, wealth, and a BBC documentary here I come.



History is something I'm interested in too, so this year I think I'll try and further my historical knowledge. To help my learning I've ordered the boxset of my favourite comedy based around early 19th Century warfare – 'More War and a Piece of Cake' – from Amazon.

I've also set up my own historical society dedicated to the 'Wars of the Roses', which, in our house (situated in a very Quality Street) on Christmas day causes much distress. The general rule is that I get all the nutty ones that no one else wants. That reminds me I must make an appointment with the dentist! Ouch!

So there we go. Hopefully over the next year I can rise to the challenges I have set for myself. If not, that'll be it. Failure. I'll be finished. Until next year.

Must go, the man from Amazon might arrive at any moment.



Syrian Refugees

A Presentation at Holy Trinity

Thursday 4th February



Last year, pictures spread all over the media of three year old Aylan's body washed up on a beach in Turkey. His family had been making a final, desperate attempt to flee war-torn Syria. Although Syria has been at war for many years now, it was only at that moment that the world seemed to sit-up and take notice. Many people started to show compassion to refugees, people realised how bad it must be in Syria for parents to put their families in so much danger in the hope of safety.

The media tends to highlight the problems these refugees encounter on their journey. However, even when they reach the end of this journey, they are in a strange place, don't know anyone, possibly don't speak the language or understand the culture.

Two such refugees, Maya and Aboude, will be visiting Holy Trinity Church on 4th February at 7pm-8.30pm to share their story and talk about the help and support they have received from The Children's Society since arriving in this country. Entry is free and there will be a retiring collection to be shared between The Children's Society and Holy Trinity Church.

Roseann Thompson, of The Children's Society, gives some background:

'The Children's Society has worked with refugees and asylum seeking families and children for many years; we help these families and children to find accommodation, overcome language barriers and, most important, to rebuild their lives in new communities, surrounded and supported by friends. In Birmingham and Coventry we have a project called MYPlace; it is because of this project that I had the pleasure of meeting two incredible young people – Maya and Aboude. We met for a coffee and they have since been kind enough to share their stories with me. Although they are related, they are both in very different situations.

Maya and Aboude are both from Syria, which they speak of fondly, but for two young people, they have seen things that no one should have to, and dealt with situations that many of us can't possibly imagine. They are both living in Birmingham now, where at first they found themselves in a completely new place, not knowing any friends, without school or college to go to and speaking a different language. As I said, these two young people are incredible and after such a short time they are both doing well in their college courses, studying English (and speaking it very well), and trying to re-build their lives. Aboude was in his first year studying to be a dentist in Syria, so as you can imagine, his plans have had to completely change.

I am pleased to say that Maya and Aboude have both been helped by our MYPlace project to start re-building their lives, but they have both given back so much also. They have both been a part of various events at The Children's Society, Maya has become a volunteer speaker for us, sharing her story and our work with various audiences across Birmingham and they are both part of a group where they will be fundraising, campaigning and volunteering to raise our profile across the West Midlands.

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Maya and Aboude are two of many, many refugees from Syria. They hope that by sharing their first-hand stories they can give people in this country a better understanding of the realities of life as a refugee and encourage them to support charities, such as The Children's Society, so we can hopefully help more young people like them.



I hope that as many of you as possible will come along on 4th February to hear their inspiring and courageous story'.

Paul Lageu



Trinity Ladies



Our first meeting of the new year welcomed a good group of friends to what was a most interesting talk given by Revd Canon David Ellis relating to his childhood in Yorkshire. We were all fascinated. His father was a chauffeur to a landowner, and his mother was a maid on the estate. He had an older sister and a younger brother. His video showed wonderful scenery, reflecting the scenery of the Dales in its seasons. An amazing insight into life as it was and his memory of the time. He told how his father called them to listen to the radio, and hear Chamberlain say that war had been declared with Germany. The estate, like many others, was used by servicemen, and how it gradually fell into disrepair, David remembered seeing the beautiful house as a ruin, and seeing an architect buying it and restoring it. He has been back and stayed there as it is now a Bed and Breakfast establishment. If anyone has the opportunity to see and hear this video please do. Thank you David.

Ann Morris



FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH

St Peter's Chapel Appeal Latest

When you're going to the High Altar, look right. When you're coming back, look left. You'll see St Peter's transforming into a welcoming space, like a beautiful butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. Or whatever metaphor pleases you. In any case, toss your loose change into the donation box if you wish. We need even more help from an already-generous congregation and friends. *Ronnie Mulryne*

For more information

Contact

Jonathan Drake 01789 290128

Or

Ronnie Mulryne 01789 205774





January PCC Meeting 2016

A full time Children and Families Minister could be in post by September after the PCC voted overwhelmingly in favour of the position – and with funding for 2 years. It's hoped that the role will be advertised this month and interviews conducted in March. Reverend Patrick Taylor explained: "we reviewed our position and found we have sufficient finance to support this post for a longer period than we originally thought. We are able to do this in large part due to the generosity of our congregation. I am very pleased to say that planned giving has gone up by £10,000 in the last year and I am very grateful to all those who have reviewed and increased their stewardship. We do of course, still need to ask all those who haven't considered planned giving, to do so to help continue this vital ministry and support the other important work at Holy Trinity." Patrick also proposed some changes to the job description under the general information and person specification sections which were unanimously approved.

It was agreed that the interview panel should consist of Patrick as Chair, Reverend Steve Bate, a Church Warden, a representative from the Children and Families Team, Kath Parrington as a PCC representative and as the professional expertise Yvonne Morris, Children's Ministry advisor from Oxford Diocese would be invited to attend.

Chancel Donations

An amendment to September's Chancel donation increase was recommended by Patrick following feedback from Head Verger Paul Harris.

The revised rate was introduced at the start of January, but PCC heard that the three prices – for adults, concessions and students - was difficult to administer, particularly with large crowds.

Paul suggested that two rates of £3 for adults and £2 for concessions including students, would be easier to manage. PCC voted for the change.

South Side Extension

Mike Warrillow informed the PCC that the South Side extension remains on track for completion. Mike said, "The walls are up, the roof is on, the underfloor heating is going in and the floor will be laid in a few weeks time. We are looking at a handover date of Sunday 6th March, so it's very exciting." He also explained, "St Peter's Chapel will be ready by the beginning of April, in time for the Shakespeare celebrations."



Holy Trinity in the Community

Mothering Sunday gifts will be collected and given to The Refuge and Stratford Health Visitors for their distribution. A notice will be placed in the pew sheet asking for gifts to be brought to the 8 am and 10 am services (including Good News @10) on Sunday 6th March.

Mike Milburn says donations are gratefully received. "We would welcome in particular, jewellery, cosmetics, chocolate boxes and toiletries like soap, shampoo, conditioner, flannels, toothbrushes and toothpaste. All gifts should also be in date."

All contributions can be delivered to the office beforehand if you are unable to attend on Sunday 6th.

Continued on next page...

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PCC Vacancies

There are four PCC vacancies available – one position for two years and three positions for 3 years. All those interested need to be on the electoral roll and elections (including those of the wardens) will take place on Sunday 10 April in the Parish Centre, following the 10am service at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM).

Holy Trinity Café Project

An exciting new café project called “Trinity Coffee Stop” will be launched at the Parish Centre on Saturday 20 February. Tea, coffee, homemade cake and biscuits will be on offer for all ages from 10-12pm.



The café will be self-funding, with any surplus given to a church project and it will operate every third Saturday of the month. Sian Wade and Lilian Hopkins are the project leaders.

Hosanna Rock

Benedict Wilson provided a brief review of the musical nativity ‘Hosanna Rock’, where 40 pupils from Stratford-Upon-Avon and nearby villages came together to perform at Holy Trinity before Christmas. The Music Director said it had exceeded everyone’s expectations and is something they would like to do again. PCC members Ruth Poulten and Esther Rambaud’s children participated in it. Esther said, “My daughter Myriam loved every minute and even sang the songs in front of her class back at school.” Ruth agreed, “My eldest son doesn’t normally enjoy singing, but Benedict’s infectious enthusiasm had an amazing impact!”

Benedict said that two more similar outreach events were planned.

Art Exhibition



Tuesday 9 February will be the preview date for press and all interested buyers for the “Seven Ages of Man” art exhibition – but a venue is yet to be confirmed. Church Warden Mike Warrillow informed the PCC that the exhibition, to celebrate 400 years of William Shakespeare’s legacy, is progressing well and the artwork will be hung on the columns in Holy Trinity on Sunday 10 April.

Shakespeare Luncheon

For ease of processing the Gift Aid content, it was agreed that the table collection from the Birthday Luncheon would again be in Holy Trinity envelopes, with half being donated to the Shakespeare Hospice. Donations from the luncheon raised over £10,700 for the church in 2015.

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT)

The PCC heard how the SBT and Holy Trinity had mutually agreed not to renew the partnership contract, as it was not in each organisations financial best interests.

Ruth Poulten





St. Helen's News

Angela Wylam Writes...

EPIPHANY AT ST HELEN'S

On a cold, wet January Sunday, a camel's soft, wet nose pushed open the ancient door of St. Helen's and three weary men shook the rain off their parkas as they plodded up to the crib on the altar steps, to join Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and, most importantly of all, the baby Jesus. The Three Kings had made it!

After the story, read by the Reverend Diane, we were full of anticipation, so we guessed that the gifts they were bringing were not run-of-the-mill: no baby grows or teething rattles from them! The gold ingots were quite small (so as to be safely packed in the camels' saddlebags), the Myrrh didn't look much, but the Frankincense smelt delicious when Pauline had set fire to it with her special lighter.

Once the excitement had subsided, the Reverend Diane thought it might be a good idea if we thought about what gifts we would bring Jesus. She gave the children some lovely gold gift tags to hand round to everybody and we wrote what we'd like to give Him. These were some of the things we wrote: a blanket and a cuddly toy, love, more of my time, more prayer and concentration and someone wrote: "*I think Jesus might like a toy*". Then we hung the tags on our special tree.



Hazel Tattersall's Wine Column

A Taste of Italy



"Hope you can explore some new wines and 'salute' to you all."

From the Alps and Dolomites in the north, down to southern Puglia, grapes are grown throughout this 750mile long peninsula. Climate and vineyard terrain vary considerably over this distance. So not surprising then, the choice of different wines and grape varieties is immense. It's so easy to stick to the grape varieties and wines we recognise. However, since there are over 350 officially authorised grape varieties (and known to be at least 500 more), then it's worth exploring something you haven't tasted before. Perhaps a variety from a region unfamiliar to you?

The Pecorino grape is one such example. Originally from Abruzzo, this ancient Italian grape (no relation to Pecorino cheese) has a delightful bouquet of tropical fruits with floral hints. Fresh, fruity, surprisingly quite full-bodied, it is a versatile white wine to enjoy with seafood, poultry and cheeses. Since winter is here, a hearty red might be on your list. Puglia's Negroamara grape produces deep, rich flavoursome red wines. Campania's Aglianico del Vulture, a grape brought by the Greeks, is rich, fruity with some spice. Dolcetto (little sweety) from Piedmont is a softer variety.

By contrast, furthest north are the regions of Trentino and Alto Adige. The Alto Adige valley forms a corridor into the Alps, linking Italy with Austria's Tyrol. Vineyards are planted on the steep mountainsides, with stunning scenery. An area of truly cool climate winemaking, so Pinot Grigio from Trentino region is very different in style from that produced in warmer areas further south. Next time you buy a bottle, look out for Trentino on the label.

In the Alto Adige, German is the most common language. Some years ago, I took part in a fascinating study tour here. We sat in lectures, visited producers, but one particular tasting still stands out for me. A morning of winery visits, an afternoon at the local wine trade fair then finally at 6pm, a visit to one of the biggest cooperatives in the area. Somewhat wearily, we got back on the coach again! However on arriving, the director of the coop came on board to say that he was sure we had seen enough wineries, vats and barrels so was taking us to visit some of their growers. At our first stop in the foothills of the Dolomites, we were led down through the vines to a clearing where a table was laid for a tasting. The grower presented his wines produced from the vines surrounding us, quite fascinating. Back on the coach, we were to visit 5 more producers in this way, travelling further up the mountainside each time. As the light dimmed, the views as we climbed higher were breathtaking. Thankfully, some 'nibbles' were also provided to help our 'clear' our taste buds for the next flight of wines.

We tasted red varieties, Teraldego Rotaliano, Lagrein, Schiava, and whites, Sylvaner, Riesling, Traminer, Nosiolo. A fascinating tasting.



Photo: www.altoadigewines.com

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HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton & Steve Newman



A group of disorderly students playing a raucous game of hide and seek in the Harris Fine Arts Centre at 11pm caused a faculty member to call the university police. The police arrived but were unable to find the students.

USA Varsity Mag quoted on BBC's News Quiz

Sign seen on a high street: Due to roadworks these toilets are not operational. Please use the pavement on the other side.

Up to 50,000 horses disappeared across Europe and probably ended up in our food during the horse meat scandal, food safety experts have claimed. The astonishing revelation was made at the *Fighting Food Fraud Conference* held at Doncaster Racecourse.

Our youngest daughter spent £60 on text messages in one month — mainly to a girl in the next bedroom at school asking if she was ready to go to breakfast.

Letter to The Times

A man who stole an accordion in Alfriston, Sussex, was stopped by police. He told them he was a busker, but ended up behind bars when they discovered he couldn't play the instrument.



"It's very good of the vicar, allowing him to use it to supplement his small church-organist's salary in this way."

ONE-LINERS

THEY SAID IT

Nostalgia: How long's that been around?

Bill Bailey

I saw a documentary on how ships are put together. It was riveting.

Stewart Francis

One time a guy handed me a picture and said: "Here's a picture of me when I was younger." Every picture of you is when you were younger!

Comedian Mitch Hedberg

We must use time wisely and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right.

Nelson Mandela

A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.

Charles Darwin

My favourite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.

Steve Jobs



Continued on next page

LOVE IS...



... when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and takes a sip of it before giving it to him to make sure the taste is ok.

Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you've left him alone all day.

There are two kinds of love — our love and God's love. But God makes both kinds of them. Love is important to God.

Kidisms from romanceStuck.com website



BULLETIN BOARD

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon to-night: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Max Bowen

How Fortunes Fall

I was asked to be our good Queen's dresser
The details of which I'll not divulge
For it would distress her

I helped not once but twice
And she was oh so nice
And bore with great stoicism and charm
As I tried to do no murder
Whilst hair and crown were firmly dealt with
'Mind my pate' was her gentle murmur

The sash and jewels were fixed to her direction
With hand behind for her protection
I thought I had a post well paid and was quite able
But I was wrong and change was nigh
And I was sent away. Ah, don't cry
To the Royal Mews to be—a kennel maid
Down in the stable

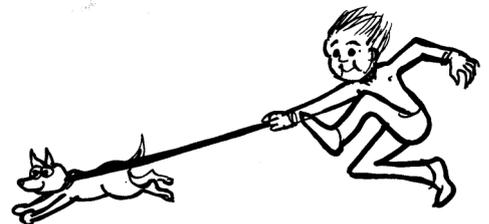
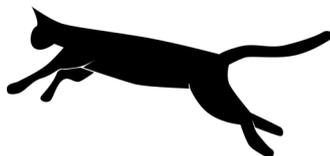
Gone to the dogs went through my mind
How could she—so unkind

Still corgis are quite cute, if rather snappy
The pup I had needed a nappy
And I was glad it was raffled
But that left me down at heart
Where next—I am really baffled



Cilla Burgess

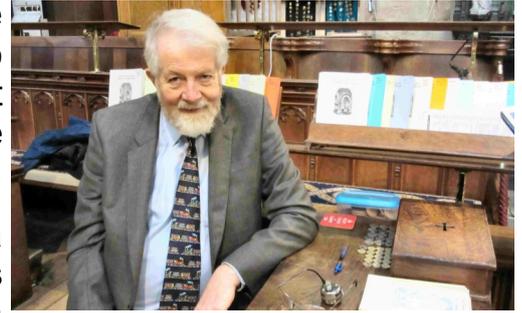
Cilla first performed this poem at the end of Trinity Players' production of The BFG



On the Chancel – Tales of Meet and Greet

Peter Rowland

Every Tuesday afternoon (more or less), finds me sitting at the seat of custom by the choir stalls talking to our visitors and taking their donations to visit Shakespeare's grave. It is a fascinating job - anyone can do it. *And we do need more volunteers.....!*



What does it involve? All one needs to do is to give a friendly greeting, share a few words (language skills and time permitting), take their donation, give out a copy of the guide and occasionally answer their questions. None of this is particularly onerous! You meet people from all over the world. Recent additions to my personal 'visitor list' are Bolivia and Belarus. Many visitors are keen to try their English skills, and with goodwill on both sides we normally get there.

The money side is straightforward: just sort the cash out into the till pots and, if time permits, bag it up. We have visitor leaflets in over 30 languages. "Where are you from?" usually provides an answer which allows you to give out one in the visitor's mother tongue. Most questions are quite mundane, "Where's the nearest toilet?", "Has he always been buried there?", "Is this a real church?"(??). If you don't know the answer, there is always someone else in the building to whom you can refer the enquirer. Visitors appreciate that.

There are the occasional highlights. On one occasion, I was approached by a family group. Dad, Mum and a number of children. It turned out that they were from Bulgaria and they were all incredibly delighted to get the guide in their language. They'd been in the UK for a while and this was the first time they had encountered this. On another occasion a lady (who was from Santiago in Chile) burst into tears whilst we were talking. She had been teaching English for years and was quite overcome by being so physically close to her literary hero. This sort of thing is quite humbling for the 'meet and greeter' and gives huge job satisfaction.

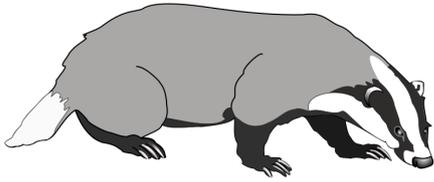
If you like to talk more or volunteer, speak to Paul the Verger, either in Church or on 01789 266316 or e-mail paul@stratford-upon-avon.org. (Or for a bit more 'low-down', I'm on 01789 415548)



FAB (Faith at Breakfast) For Children & Young People

FAB is held in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, starting at 9.30am, with croissants and drinks with parents, and finishing by joining the Parish Eucharist in church.

Worship, Learn & Grow Together with Jesus



All Saints' News Carol Cholerton Writes...



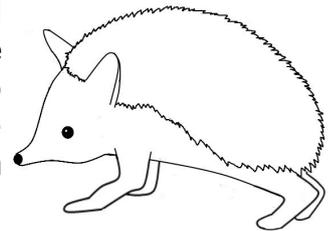
LUDDINGTON NATURE RESERVE

An Update 2014 – 2015

The *badgers* remain active, opening new holes and re-opening old ones, and since their return to the Reserve in 2011 they've shown no inclination to move back into the field. An adult was killed on the road earlier this year, but thankfully that doesn't happen as often as it used to. Perhaps the route across the road is no longer one of their regular pathways.

The plan to put up some kind of hide or screen to watch the badgers has still not been realised and it's looking increasingly unlikely for the future. The shape and position of the sett is awkward, making it almost impossible to find an appropriate location. This is all the more frustrating because the sett is so active – there would be much to see. One rather exciting thing happened this year however. A close neighbour managed to capture some wonderful images, plus a *fox* on another occasion and a fleeting glimpse of a *deer*; a real privilege to get sight of these night-time animals going about their business.

Staying with mammals. Whilst clearing near the pond last autumn I came across a perfectly formed *harvest mouse* nest woven into the standing grasses. What a delight and a first for the Reserve. I also found *hedgehog* poo near the gate this springtime. Who would have thought that finding signs of *hedgehogs* would be remarkable, an animal once so common but now sadly in decline.



Summer migrant birds have done well again with *blackcaps* and *whitethroats* breeding throughout the Reserve. *Willow warblers* and *chiffchaff* usually pass through, using the site to feed up as they go, but this year a singing *chiffchaff* was heard in the middle of summer, it may well have bred.

We now have the pleasure of looking out for winter visitors: *fieldfare* and *redwing* feed off the hedgerow berries before descending into the adjoining fields to look for invertebrates and it's always worth scanning the flocks of mixed finches for *brambling*. So far I've had no luck with the *brambling*.

Buzzards are often seen flying overhead but this year they regularly visited the Reserve itself, usually seen perched in trees but sometimes on the ground. It's quite likely that the small increase in the rabbit population may have attracted them.



In the summer of 2014 there were three sightings of a *turtle dove* taking grit from the side of the road near Sandfields Farm entrance. These beautiful summer migrants have suffered a rapid decline and have now been put on the conservation 'red list', indicating that urgent action is needed unless we are to lose them completely. So this sighting was very exciting. Sadly, I saw nothing last year. I would be very interested to know if anyone else has seen *turtle doves* recently.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page

The butterfly year was mixed. Despite the miserable summer all recorded species for the site were present, apart from the *white-letter hairstreak*. This is now the third year running that it hasn't been seen, although this doesn't necessarily mean that it has disappeared. There was only ever a small colony, only sightings of singletons or pairs, so it might just be that we've been unlucky not to spot them - they are quite difficult to see! We were however fortunate to get a visit from *scarlet tiger moths*. There were several local sightings of this large, colourful, day flying moth, and we had four.

The flora in the grassland is still a little disappointing: *black knapweed*, *yellow rattle* and *red bartsia* have all spread really well, but the planted *field scabious*, *meadow cranesbill* and *wild carrot* are somewhat slower to take off and the *lady's bedstraw*, given to us by Steve Loquens, is strong but has yet to flower. The *cowslips*, however, have self seeded and are spreading nicely along the site, some possibly coming from Steve's meadow. In 2014 we decided to hand cut the grass with a scythe instead of mowing. The ground is very uneven and there are many ant hills so it wasn't the easiest or quickest job, but it leaves a much lighter footprint on the land than mowing, so it has to be worth the effort. We began at the end of September but had to abandon it until October because we were disturbing so many toads!

This year we had some help from a Stratford High School pupil from Luddington. She needed to fulfil her sixth form commitment to volunteering and decided she wanted the work to be in nature conservation. She helped with practical tasks such as scrub clearing and hedge maintenance and we also did several bird surveys. The Reserve is an excellent resource for this kind of thing, easily presenting opportunities to fulfil obligations to voluntary work.

Plans for the Winter



The winter months present ideal conditions for certain jobs; the pond, for example, is usually empty and easy to work around so now is the time to tackle the *yellow irises* again! We planted these in 1996 and although a positive addition to the pond they do rather threaten to take over so they have to be pegged back every now and again. Also the *goat willow* that stands on the pond edge has become very large and is casting too much shadow across the water, so Ed from Sandfields Farm is coming with a chain saw to take down a couple of branches. The wood will of course be left in piles to rot down.

I would like to say here a heartfelt "thank you" once again to Sandfields Farm for all the practical help they give us and for the generous donation that pays our Public Liability Insurance. Their continued interest and involvement is invaluable.

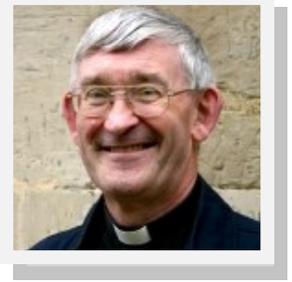
If anyone would like to help with the work on the Reserve or would simply like to come and visit please do get in touch with either myself or Jo White. We would be delighted to show you around.

And finally, George Wood moved out of the area this year. George has been involved with the work on the Reserve right from the beginning and for these last 18 years he has been a 'rock' and I miss him enormously.

Carol

The Religious Characters in Shakespeare's Plays

Part 5: "O, What Learning Is..."



The Dissolution of the Monasteries may have been a past event as far as Shakespeare and his audiences were concerned. Even so, the tradition of those houses of prayer, hospitality and spiritual teaching clearly inspired Shakespeare to develop characters from the religious life whose inclusion in the respective plays again shows that they play a vital part in the drama. Three such characters will be discussed in this issue.

AEMILIA - ABBESS OF EPHESUS. ("The Comedy of Errors")

The only Abbess to be introduced by Shakespeare, her character is described by the author Charles Dyson as "stern and peremptory ...and embodying the resolution of the play's complexities". She may only have 72 lines but her spiritual presence plus a dramatic surprise (which I am not going to reveal for those yet to see the play!) ensures the happy ending which the original audiences of Shakespeare's time had come to expect. Suffice it to say, Aemilia ensures reconciliation and new hope, providing at the same time hospitality to all.

FRIAR FRANCIS ("Much Ado About Nothing")

He also ensures new beginnings and reconciliation within the hospitality provided by the church in which he ministers. Shakespeare gives him 82 lines which include a detailed speech providing pastoral/spiritual advice to a jilted bride and her family. Indeed up to this point in the play, audiences might be forgiven for thinking that Shakespeare had changed his mind and was changing a light (and at times farcical) play into a tragedy. The Friar's character not only provides new hope, but also (through his inclusion in the last scene of the play) a touch again of sly wit:

"All this amazement can I qualify...meantime let wonder seem familiar".

FRIAR LAURENCE ("Romeo and Juliet")

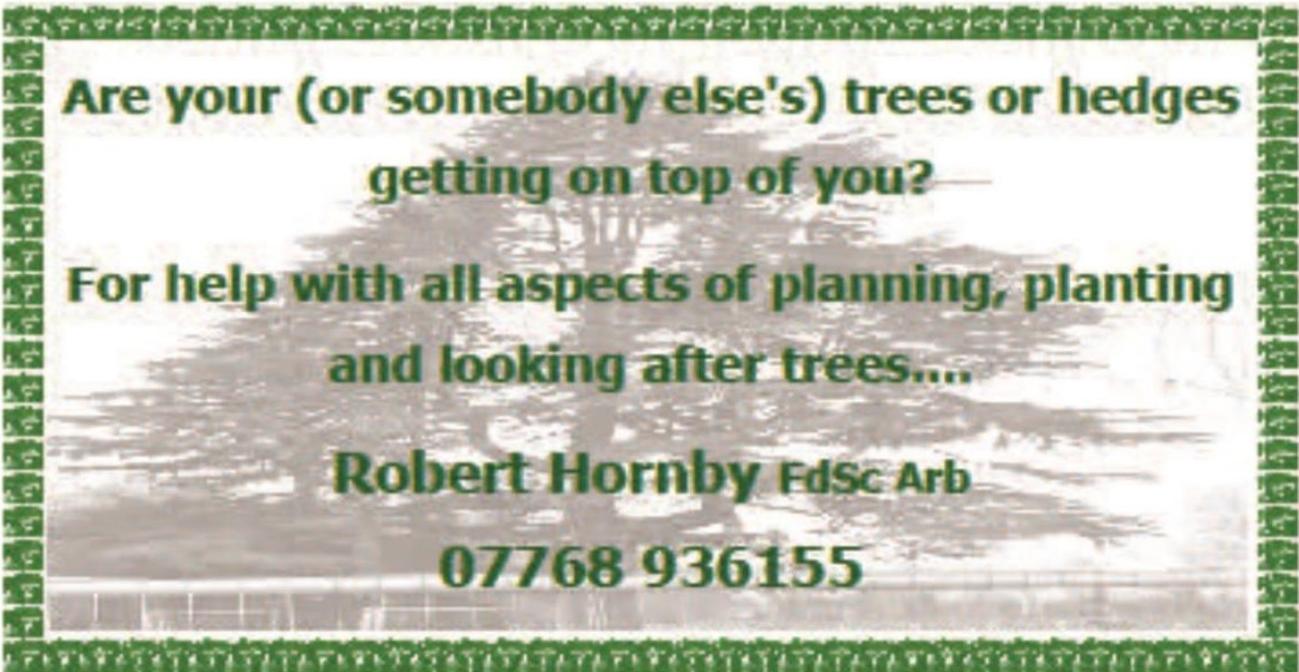
With 351 lines, his is the third largest part in this tragedy and if Aemilia and Friar Francis are each given a significant speech, his holy father is given no less than six! With the exception of the last one, each provides either pastoral/spiritual teaching and advice and it is one of these which causes Juliet's Nurse to utter the words which form the quote referred to in the title to this article.

The Friar's last speech is quite different. No pastoral or spiritual teaching but a confession of guilt and, at the same time, a further instance of Shakespeare's dramatic gifts. Not only does this speech inform the other characters on stage what has happened to lead to the untimely death both Romeo and Juliet, but it also reminds the audience of significant events in the play which they have already witnessed. In other words, almost the story of the play in 41 lines.



Long speeches are not confined to this one religious character, as the next article will consider even longer (but certainly not verbose) speeches given to further clerics who venture to play the power game.

Tony Boyd-Williams



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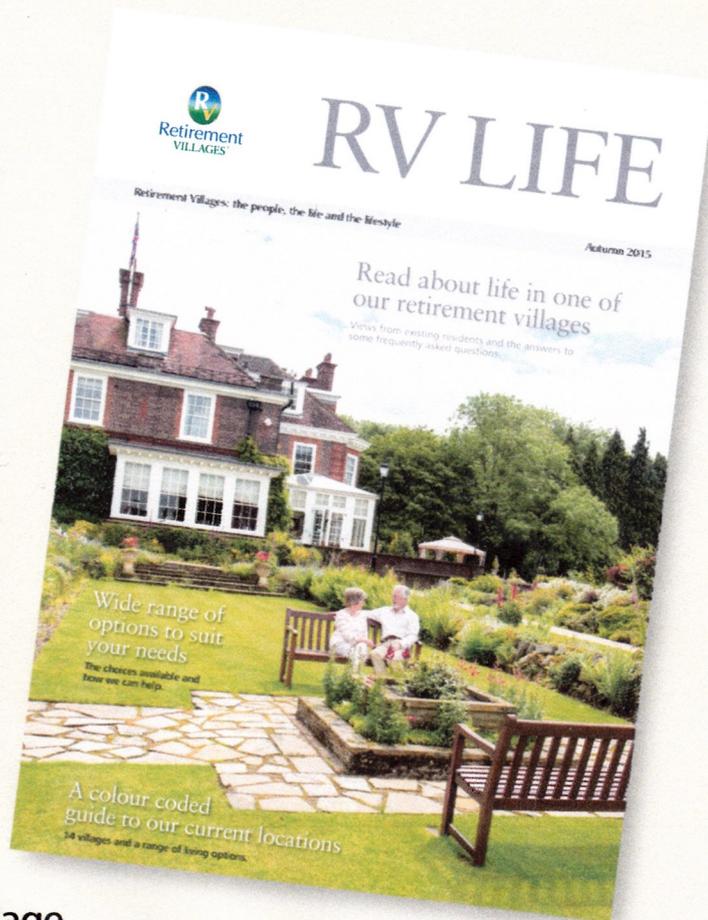
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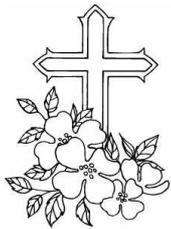


Christenings

December 27th Amy Astrid Isobel Lilly
January 10th Sophia Zoe May Cookson
24th Arthur George Rose
24th Frederick Savage-Wilson (Luddington)
31st Emelia Louise Hinton-England

December 28th Richard William Butler and
Rebecca Olivia Waite

Weddings



Funerals and Ash Burials

December 3rd Kay Mallender (Luddington)
22nd Joan Bradley
29th Ian Martin (Ash Burial)

January 5th Mary Glover
7th Marjorie Brain
13th Shirley Mary Garvie
14th Edna Hughes

18th Kathleen Barr
22nd Irene Coldicott
22nd Pauline Emily Ulyatt
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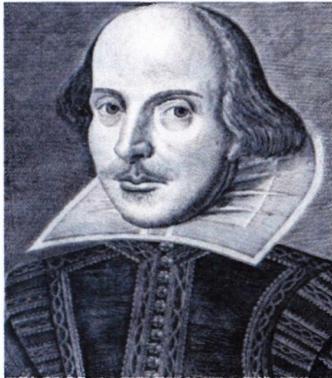


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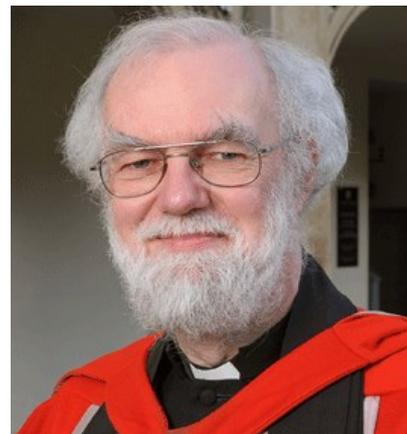
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For more information contact
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01789 204923

Three Cheers for our Choir!

...and Benedict, Stephen, James, Lucy...

Hilary Newman

Our first 'cheer' is for the treats we had over the Christmas period from all our musicians. We began with a wonderful recital from our organists as throngs descended on Holy Trinity for the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. Such pieces as John Ireland's 'The Holy Boy', a selection of Christmas Chorale Preludes by J.S. Bach, as well as a plethora of other beautiful organ music made us all feel that warm Christmas spirit begin to surround us.

As the candlelit procession moved through the church, we heard the pure voice of one of our junior choristers, Theo Sampson, sing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City – and so the magic began. As the service proceeded and the Choir began to sing, the magic grew and grew, reaching a peak with the final joyous Choir carol, 'Ding Dong! merrily on high'. Then, just as we thought things couldn't get any better, we heard the beautiful and moving music by Philip Stopford, and words of 'A Christmas Blessing'.

The Choir was in its finest voice that I, and many others I spoke to, have ever heard, and we have to thank Benedict, and every member of the Choir, for beginning our celebrations in such style and joy. We must also thank them for their hard work and commitment to all the Christmas services, and indeed for leading our singing throughout the year.

The next 'cheer' is for the wonderful Burns Night, organised once again by Benedict and the Choir, last Saturday, 23rd January. To any of our readers who have never been to a Burns Night, I would advise you to make a note to look out for next year's event! After enjoying a three-course 'Burns' meal, thanks to Martin and Kate Corfield, including the compulsory 'Haggis, tatties and neeps', and during which some of us had to read extracts of Burns' work, including an hilarious monologue by Robert Kingdom as 'Tam the Chapman', complete with red wig and Tam O'Shanter, and completely incomprehensible – sorry Robert, it really was great! – we pushed back the tables and thoroughly enjoyed the ensuing 'Ceilidh' ably led by a great ceilidh band. An exhausted, happy band of dancers, wended their way home minutes prior to midnight, and appeared slightly stiff-legged and bleary-eyed at the service on Sunday morning! Thank you all for an excellent night – more please.

The third 'cheer' is a little premature, but is for the preparations we know will be quite challenging for all those involved in the Choir's visit to Canada this coming summer – good luck and may God be with you throughout.

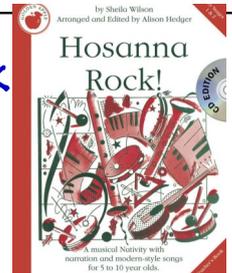
If you would like to support this tour, further fundraising events are taking place, namely *In a Consort of Voices: Songs of Love and Loss* at the Guild Chapel on Saturday 20th February at 7.30, tickets £10; *Taste the Grape: a Fun Evening of Wines and Cheeses* in Holy Trinity on Saturday 21st May, tickets £15; and of course you can still purchase *A Year at Shakespeare's Church: English Choral Music*, the choir's recent CD.

A few Burns Night photos on next page



The Snowman & Hosanna Rock

Thursday 3rd December 2015



Putting on a show that works well is one of the hardest things to do. Putting on a show that works superbly well is even harder. To do either, with minimal rehearsal, can also be very risky to say the least. But when it works the results can be hugely moving and joyous.

Such was the case with Benedict Wilson's simple but immensely moving setting of Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman* - with music by Howard Blake - which made us realise yet again what a superb organist Benedict is. It also brought into relief the singing talents of young choir member Theo Sampson, with the story told clearly, humorously, and dramatically by Stratford actor Paul Curran. It just worked.

The same was true of Benedict's and Rebecca Sampson's exuberant interpretation of Sheila Wilson's classic *Hosanna Rock*. The kids involved—from most of Stratford's primary schools—took to it as if it were in their DNA, creating powerful chorus sections supported well with spirited solos and narrations.

Eleanor Holland, Mathew Allcock, George Crossthwaite, Archie Cullen and Will Pouten must take a bow as Mary & Joseph and the Three Wise men.

It was well supported by a splendid orchestra that had Benedict on piano, Patrick and Laura Taylor, and Rory Sampson on recorders, Stephen Dodsworth and Roger Taylor on Xylophones, and Pete Cubitt on drums.

The final standing ovation was well deserved.

I only hope that a lot of the kids involved sign up for Holy Trinity's choir!

Steve Newman

A Great Burns Night 2016



Robert Kingdom as the incomprehensible 'Tam the Chapman'

Photos by Hilary Newman



The toast to the Haggis



The Toast to the Lassies...

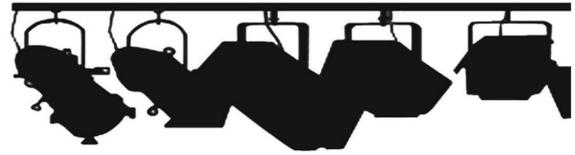


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01789 204923

01789 299195

07769 871237

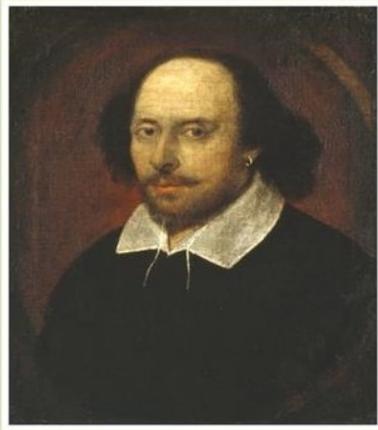
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Welcome Team— Helen Warrillow 01789 298928



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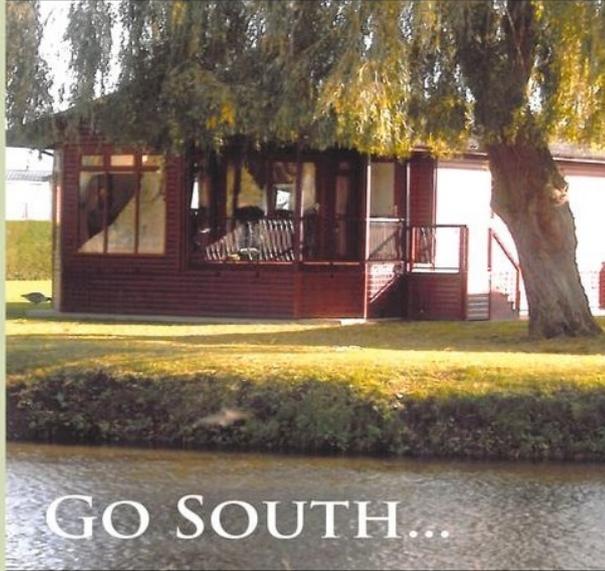
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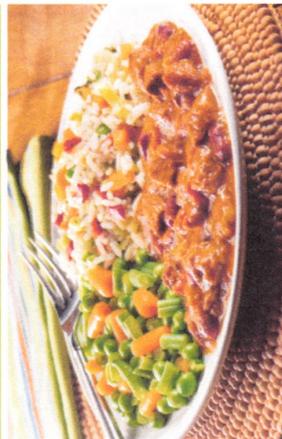
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