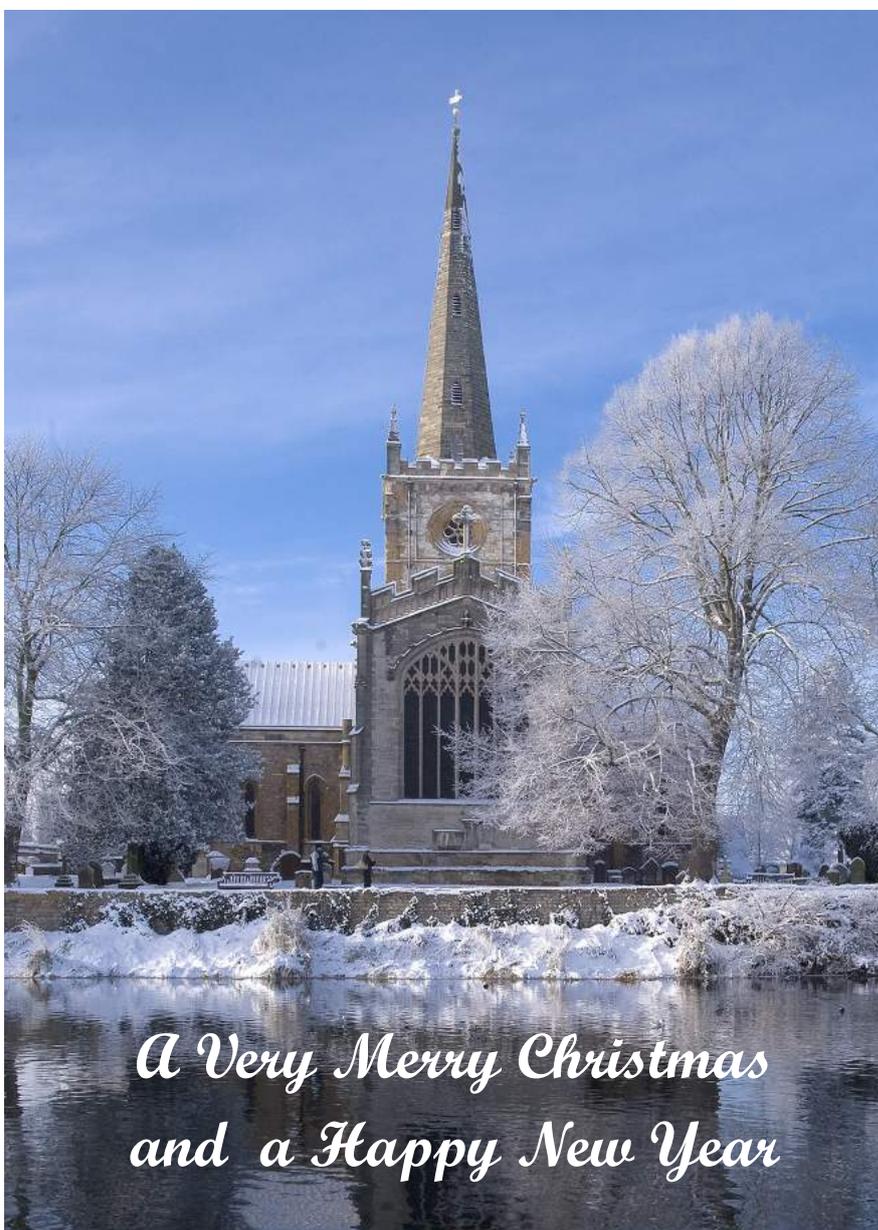


# TRINITY TIMES

DECEMBER  
JANUARY  
2016/17

£1



*A Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

Photo: Harry Lomax



**A History of  
Candles**

**Judith Dorricott**

**Page 26**



**Val Payne**

**Page 44**

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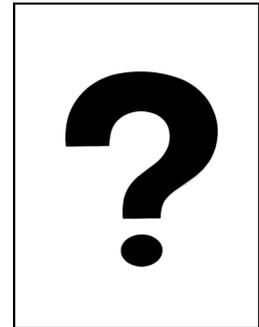
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Vicar



Associate Vicar



Revd Nicki Chatterton  
Curate



Mike Milburn  
Reader



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister



# Mike Writes...



## Presents or Presence?

Let me (probably) be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Advent is such a special time of the year – a time of waiting and preparation. But what are we waiting for? If you are a Christian then the answer is straightforward: the wait is for the thanksgiving and celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – it is about the presence of Jesus in the world and in our lives. Now I suspect that the majority of people reading Trinity Times are Christians, but I also have no doubt that there will be non-Christians reading this too; so what are they waiting for? Probably, presents. In this largely secular world, the issue is therefore whether we are waiting for presents or presence. Now there is nothing wrong with giving (or receiving) presents – the act of giving is an underpinning tenet of life as a Christian though, as I get older and probably curmudgeonly I baulk at the avarice that seems to prevail at this time of the year when, elsewhere, the world bleeds.

So, no matter whether you are a Christian or not, let me offer you just 3 reasons why we need Jesus. Firstly, **you have a past**: you can't go back, but Jesus can. The Bible says, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews: 13:8). He can walk into those places of sin and failure, wipe the slate clean, and give you a new beginning. Secondly, **you need a friend**: Jesus knows the worst about you, yet He believes the best. Why? Because He sees you not as you are, but as you will be when He gets through with you. What a friend! And thirdly, **He holds the future**: who else are you going to trust? In His hands you are safe and secure – today, tomorrow and for eternity. His word says, 'For surely I know the plans I have for you ...plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come to pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29: 11-13). \*

Finally then, in a world currently tormented by war and conflict; in a world where revenge and power often rule over compassion and love for one another; in a world where seemingly 'might is right', we need Jesus more than ever. Let me say that again: we need Jesus, we need His saving grace. The acceptance of the presence of Jesus into our lives is the single most important thing we will ever do. This Christmas, as you deservingly open your presents, just think about the presence of Jesus into your life; it is the best present you will ever get.

Mike

\* Source UCB Word for Today



## Welcome To The Revd. Kay Dyer



*On Advent Sunday we welcomed the Revd. Kay Dyer to Holy Trinity. Kay joins us on placement as part of her training and will be exercising ministry in this parish until just before Easter next year. I'm pleased to welcome her to the Ministry Team, particularly during this time we are without an Associate Vicar.*

*Patrick*

Hello. I have lived in Stratford since marrying Roy in 1971. Many of you might have seen me about over the years. We have three grown up children all of whom attended local primary and secondary or grammar schools. I have been a local Guide Leader and Scout Leader and am now the Padre to the Air Cadets (1289 Squadron). I taught at Stratford College between 1988 and 2004, first in Business and Computing and then in Public Services. After that I was a County Ecumenical Officer for nine years. I have attended St. Andrew's Church since moving to Stratford and was a Reader for five years, before being ordained Deacon in 2015 and then Priest in 2016, after studying at Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham. I have always been interested in the education and wellbeing of children and young people and recently became chair of governors at the Willows.



I was instrumental in setting up Bishopton Community Church with Denise Andreo and a team of willing volunteers, many of whom had been part of the Salvation Army Church that had been held there. After a while we started our Thursday Company and Cake venture which can see an average of sixteen people coming together to drink tea, eat cake and enjoy each other's company.

Since becoming a curate at Shotton St. Andrew's I have been involved in quite a lot of funeral ministry, as we had twelve funerals between August and early October in my first year. On a lighter note, I began leading a Bible Study, based on the Pilgrim materials, in the Bell Inn on Wednesdays between 11.00am and 12noon. I also helped one of our Readers set up a messy church style service on Saturday afternoon twice a term, and we now have a Friday under 5's group called Little Stars. More recently I have helped with our young people's Sunday evening worship called STAY Café, the music for which is led by our young people's music group.

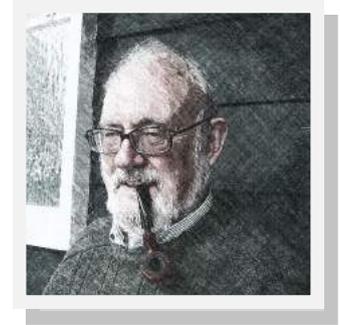
I look forward to my four months seconded to Holy Trinity, where I hope to learn much more about a large and vibrant parish, also to discover some of the joys and challenges of rural ministry in the villages. I hope to meet many new people and get to know those I have met before in a deeper and richer way, as we work together to serve God in this Parish.

*Kay*

# *Anthony Woollard's*

## Window on the World

*" There is always light in the darkness..."*

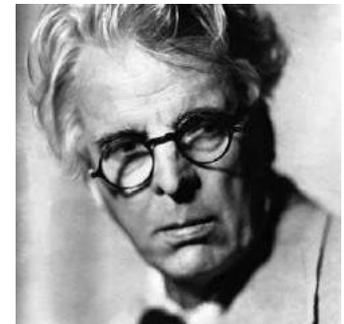


So, barring something quite unforeseen, the next President of the United States will be Donald Trump.

We may well be facing a crisis of "Western civilisation". (But remember what Gandhi said about Western civilisation? He thought it would be a good idea.) In country after country, those who feel left behind by that civilisation are protesting against their abandonment by voting for causes and leaders which are anti-rational and extremist. They are rejecting the existing power elites; and that includes many of us, because, though we may not feel powerful or rich, we may have far more wealth and power than the majority of our fellow-citizens. The left-behind feel they have been betrayed by the "experts" who are running the show (remember Michael Gove's comment during the Brexit campaign), and respond in the only legitimate way – through the ballot box. This is a hard fact of modern life, and it will not quickly or easily go away.

Of course we have been here before. Remembering the period after the First World War and the rise of Fascism, I go back to my favourite quotation from W B Yeats:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are filled with passionate intensity.



But we thought we were over all that. We were wrong. We, whose privileges give us a huge responsibility for all our fellow human beings, have indeed lacked conviction, and we have lacked wisdom. We have failed to generate a vision of a good society which would include everybody – the former industrial worker with no future; the zero-hours survivor of the gig economy; the inadequate, the disabled, the victims of war and poverty migrating across borders in search of any kind of life.

We have failed to communicate that vision and build the alliances across party, class and creed which could have made it a reality. Those of us who are older, who had dedicated our lives to ideals utterly opposed to Trumpism, feel that failure most painfully of all.

Continued from previous page...

My immediate reaction to the news from the US was “Will the last person to leave Planet Earth please turn out the lights?” Rather apocalyptic perhaps. But many will remember Patrick’s recent sermon on the subject of Apocalypse, which perhaps now takes on a new resonance.

And in the middle of all this, we are about to celebrate the birth of a baby. A baby, one of whose names is the Wisdom of God. That Wisdom is still at work, even if we are blind to it and fail to respond. Scripture, and the history of our Church and our society, show it at work through the most unlikely people; Persian warlords, Roman governors and emperors, and other powerful figures of all shapes and sizes, many of them cruel and some of them mad, yet proving in the end to be God’s instruments in history. Could that conceivably even be true of Donald Trump? It seems utterly implausible, but so is the claim that that baby is Lord of all.

There is always light in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. Thus John Betjeman:

And is it true? For if it is.....  
No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this simple Truth compare –  
That God was Man in Palestine  
And lives today in bread and wine.



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# *Worship in December*



## **SUNDAY December 4th Holy Trinity 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am Holy Communion**—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**10.00am Parish Eucharist**— Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**Parish Centre**—GoodNews@10 Christingle Revd Patrick Taylor

**6.00pm Choral** —with Revd. Graham Wilcox

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Family Worship Diane Patterson

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion BCP—with Revd. Jenny Rowland

## **SUNDAY December 11th Holy Trinity 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am Holy Communion**—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

**10.00am Parish Eucharist**—Revd. Patrick Taylor

**6.00pm Congregational Evensong**—Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**Parish Centre 10.00am FAB**—Phil Harper

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 10.45am Holy Communion—Revd. Jenny Rowland

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd. Canon John Graty -  
-then, at 3.30pm, Christingle with Phil Harper

## **SUNDAY December 18th Holy Trinity 4th Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am Holy Communion**—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

**10.00am Parish Eucharist**—Revd. Canon Andrew Dow

**6.00pm No Service**

**9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird**—with Phil Harper

**Parish Centre** 10.00 am—FAB—Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** No 9.15 Service. 6.30pm Carol Service with Mike Milburn

**All Saints' Luddington** No 9.15 Service. 3.45pm Carol Service, with Revd. Patrick Taylor

## **SATURDAY December 24th Christmas Eve Holy Trinity**

**2.45pm**, Christmas Organ recital by Stephen Dodsworth

Oliver Edwardes and Benedict Wilson

**3.30pm**, Christmas Carol Service

(It is suggested you arrive early!)

**6.00pm**, The Big Nativity—a service for children & families

11.30pm, Midnight Mass

## **SUNDAY December 25th Christmas Day Holy Trinity**

**8.00am Holy Communion**—Revd. Patrick Taylor

**10.00am All Age Christmas Eucharist**—Phil Harper

**St.Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am—HC Trad with Revd. Diane Patterson

**All Saints' Luddington**9.15am—Holy Communion—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton  
& Revd. Kay Dyer



## *Worship in January*

**SUNDAY January 1st Holy Trinity** *Naming & Circumcision of Jesus*

**8.00am Holy Communion**—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**10.00am Parish Eucharist**— with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**Parish Centre**—No Service

**6.00pm** Congregational Evensong—with Mike Milburn

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

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion BCP—with Revd. Graham Wilcox

**SUNDAY January 8th Holy Trinity** *Epiphany*

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd. Patrick Taylor & Revd. Kay Dyer

**10.00am** Parish Eucharist—with Revd. Patrick Taylor, Preacher Mike Milburn

**6.00pm** Evensong—Revd. Canon Andrew Dow

**Parish Centre 10.00am** FAB—Phil Harper

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 10.45am Holy Communion—Revd. Canon John Graty

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd. Jenny Rowland

**SUNDAY January 15th Holy Trinity** *2nd Sunday of Epiphany*

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd. Kay Dyer

**10.30am** Joint Service with Methodist—Revd. Patrick Taylor

**6.00pm** Choral Evensong, with Revd. Graham Wilcox

**9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird**— with Phil Harper

**Parish Centre 10.00 am**—FAB—Revd. Kay Dyer (?)

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Morning Worship—with Mike Milburn

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

**SUNDAY January 22nd Holy Trinity** *3rd Sunday of Epiphany (Unity)*

**8.00am Holy Communion**—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

**10.00am** Food4thought— Revd. Canon Andrew Dow

**Parish Centre**—FAB, with Phil Harper & Revd. Kay Dyer

**6.00pm** HC BCP and Compline—with Revd. Patrick Taylor & Revd. Kay Dyer

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am HC Trad—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd. Canon John Graty

**SUNDAY January 29th Holy Trinity** *Candlemas (5th Sunday)*

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd. Canon Andrew Dow

**10.00am** Whole Parish, Revd. Canon Andrew Dow, Revd. Jenny Rowland & Revd Margaret Sweet

**6.00pm** Special Service—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

**Parish Centre 10.00am** FAB—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers NO SERVICE**

**All Saints' Luddington NO SERVICE**



# First of the Winter Wine!



Pat Pilton



A Taste of Chilly might have been a more appropriate title for Hazel Tattersall's Chilean wine tasting evening at Holy Trinity Church last month. With the church's heating malfunctioning, the temperature was way below the "served chilled" recommendation found on the bottles.

Mike Warrillow, who organized the fund-raising evening for The Friends of Shakespeare's Church, jokingly told a well wrapped up audience: "We will only be serving chilled white wine tonight." And when Hazel asked how they might bring the red up to temperature, he helpfully suggested: "Put it in the fridge!"

The temporary heaters did their best but, really, all that was needed was another glass of the richly varied and superb wines served up by Hazel, such a knowledgeable and entertaining wine educator. Strangely the more wine we sampled, the less we noticed the temperature!

With 62 tickets sold it was the largest wine tasting evening Hazel has delivered in church and more than £600 (excluding Gift Aid) was raised for the St. Peter's Chapel Appeal. Mike thanked John Cohen, who donated a sparkling wine aperitif, Ann Morris who prepared delicious canapes that perfectly complemented the wine and, of course, Hazel Tattersall for her "wonderful explanations" and for also donating her contribution from the Chilean Wine Trade to offset some of the cost.



Hazel said: "Fifteen years ago Chile's wines were considered 'bargain basement' wines but in recent years the country's international reputation has grown as quality has improved. Its wines are now enjoyed for their pure, clean and abundant fruit." We will drink to that! The First of the Winter Wine was a huge success.

Pat





## Phil Harper's Page...



### An All Age Advent Adventure!

At the last Holy Trinity@Rosebird service we began our Christmas preparations by collecting supplies for an *Advent Adventure*.

- A candle to light our path
- Bible readings to show us the way
- A star to write a prayer on to lead us to Christmas
- 'Get ready' lists to help us on our way
- Two tea bags to brew with a friend
- A star biscuit to break and share



With the never ending lists of things to prepare for Christmas, the season of Advent can easily get overlooked. We are so busy preparing food, decorations, parties, Christmas cards, gifts (especially illusive Hatchimals) that we forget to prepare ourselves and give time to God.

But perhaps this year we could all go on an *Advent Adventure* as families and as individuals. As the doors on advent calendars are opened a short prayer could be said. As your advent candle burn downs each day it gives an opportunity to stop and to think about where God is present in your life, or to read part of your bible. When you decorate the Christmas tree, give thanks for God's gift of creation. Whilst writing each Christmas card pray for the person who will receive it.

At the end of your *Advent Adventure* everyone is welcome to join us for our Christmas celebrations. We are especially looking forward to welcoming the children prepared earlier this year to receive Communion before Confirmation, to their first Christmas Day Holy Communion (We will be running another set of preparation classes in the New Year, more details soon). If you're coming to our All Age Christmas Eucharist on Christmas Day at 10:00am please bring your favourite present to show me in the service, as at my age the number of toys I get is severely lacking!!



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, **Christingle** at All Saints, Luddington 3:30pm

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December **Holy Trinity@Rosebird with Nativity**

The Rosebird Centre, breakfast from 9:00am, service from 9:30am

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, **Christingle** at St Helen's Clifford Chambers 5pm

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, **The Big Nativity** 6pm at Holy Trinity (*Come dressed as your favourite Nativity Character*)

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, **All Age Christmas Eucharist** 10am at Holy Trinity (*Bring your favourite toy to show Phil*)



## *Two Poems*

### **Field at Midnight**

I went to the field at midnight  
hoping to find a lost sheep,  
but instead of a lamb, starlight  
flooded the sky with its peace.

How could I sing when the angels  
sang of a story so vast  
my small voice had no rhythm,  
my music no notes that would last?

I limped to the crib with the shepherds  
looking for space to undo  
the times when I'd treated as lepers  
those beating my door to come through.

I waited till wise men came calling,  
please may I stay here with you?  
you can share my myrrh said the sad king  
and offer your tears as I do.

*Dallin Chapman*



### **Through This One's Eyes**

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

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

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

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

*David C Ellis*



## PCC report Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November Ruth Poulten

All 36 teams at Holy Trinity will be invited to discuss how “faith is nurtured” at our church. It follows the results of the Healthy Churches survey which were presented in church in October and displayed on the website. Holy Trinity was shown to be strong on Fellowship but weaker on Inspiring Worship.

### ***Vision Team***

The Reverend Patrick Taylor explained, “the vision team met to discuss the results of the survey and decided to go back to the cycle of growth and focus on how we nurture faith. A paper about developing nurture at Holy Trinity has been prepared and will be circulated and presented to all our teams, as we seek ideas from the church community about how to make progress in this area.” The results of these conversations would be discussed at the January PCC.

### ***Draft Budget***

PCC agreed to adopt the proposed budget for 2017 which treasurer Anthony Woollard had presented. But while he was optimistic for the short term, Anthony also outlined a number of concerns.

“Although there is a healthy trend upwards, stewardship is levelling off running 8 percent ahead rather than 10 percent as previous. The key issue I want to draw attention to the most though is that of our village churches. St Helen’s Clifford Chambers, and to a lesser extent All Saints Luddington, are spending more than they are getting, and this needs addressing urgently. As a contribution to this, I am proposing a reduction in the requested administrative contribution from both churches, and we have also discussed ways of increasing giving and possibly cutting costs. However, there are some big positives for the parish as a whole – in particular that of there being no loans outstanding on the new south side extension.”

### ***News in Brief***

Michael Sadgrove, former Dean of Durham has been confirmed as speaker at the Parish Weekend Away, 6-8 October 2017.

PCC agreed to adopt the Legacies policy.

Kate Corfield has offered herself as a communion assistant and will be put forward to the Bishop for authorisation.

Continued from previous page...

The vacant Associate Vicar post will be re-advertised again in mid to late January. Patrick is exploring the possibility of an interim appointment of an Associate Minister on a short term basis to help during the vacancy.

PCC agreed for The British Red Cross, Echoes (Shakespeare's Hospice, children with cancer) and Mar Ephraim School in Bethlehem be Holy Trinity's Christmas Charities this year.



## Dallin Chapman's Tree of Shadow

### A Personal Reflection by Graham Hopkins



One thing about artists is they have different ways of looking at things, and the ability to express themselves.

This is what happened when I read *Tree of Shadow*.



It's as if the reader is taken through a black hole into some kind of other existence where, in turn, the leading characters have similar experiences.

Here we have a strange tale of two men living in different worlds which seem to run in parallel. Galen exists in a world filled with harmony and love, whereas Lukas lives in a fallen world rather like ours. There are clear reflections of the Genesis story with both men driven to pursue knowledge they perhaps should not have. And, as the book cover reveals, there is a price to pay for succumbing to temptation.

What a story. Dallin entertained me, intrigued me, fired my imagination, tied my emotions in knots and then left me all chewed up at the end.

I struggled at first, but then the story took over and accelerated at quite a pace. It really is a page turner.

As well as a great story, the work demonstrates Dallin's artistry with words, with a strong emphasis on spirituality and morality. It may challenge one to reflect on whether too much time is spent chasing knowledge one perhaps should not pursue.

Well done Dallin! I can't wait to read the second volume.

**Tree of Shadow is available to buy in the Church Shop**

As many of you will know Trinity Times' advertising man, Brian Vince, was taken rather poorly a couple of weeks ago. We ask that you hold him in your hearts and continue to pray for his recovery.

*Steve*



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

## 4<sup>th</sup> December                      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Choral Evensong	
Isaiah ch.11 v.1-10	1 Kings ch.18 v.17-39	Psalm 11
Matthew ch.3 v.1-12	John ch.1 v.19-28	

## 11<sup>th</sup> December                      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Congregational Evensong	
Isaiah ch.35 v.1-10	Isaiah ch.5 v.8-end	Psalm 12
Matthew ch.11 v.2-11	Acts ch.13 v.13-41	

## 18<sup>th</sup> December                      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm	
Isaiah ch.7 v.10-16	Joint service at the Methodist Church	
Matthew ch.1 v.18-end		

**Luddington**                      Carol Service                      3.45 pm  
**Clifford Chambers**                      Carol Service                      6.30 pm

## 24<sup>th</sup> December                      Christmas Eve

3.30 pm Carol Service	11.30 pm Midnight Mass	
6.00 pm The Big Nativity	Isaiah ch.52 v.7-10	
	John ch.1 v.1-14	

**Luddington**                      Carols on the Green                      7.30 pm  
**Clifford Chambers**                      Christingle                      5.00 pm

## 25<sup>th</sup> December                      Christmas Day

8.00 am Communion with hymns & 10.00 am All age Eucharist	
Titus ch.3 v.4-7	
Luke ch.2 v8-20	

**Luddington**                      Holy Communion 9.15 am  
**Clifford Chambers**                      Holy Communion 9.15 am

*Compiled by John Cohen*

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS 2016 – DONATIONS TO CHARITIES

Your donations for the Christmas period, including the Christmas Card Amnesty on p.23, will be divided equally between the following 3 charities: Please give generously.

### ECHOES – THE CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT SERVICE AT THE SHAKESPEARE HOSPICE



Echoes supports children and young people facing or experiencing loss. We offer support to children, young people between the ages of 5 and 18 when someone close to them is seriously ill or has died. We also provide support to a child's carers and family members. The service is made up of experienced practitioners and trained volunteers, who have an in-depth knowledge of the effects bereavement and serious illness can have on children and their families. We offer a flexible, holistic service which aims to support every child and young person individually depending on their own needs. For more information see: [www.theshakespearehospice.org.uk](http://www.theshakespearehospice.org.uk)

### THE BRITISH RED CROSS



**The British Red Cross helps people in crisis, wherever and wherever they are.** We are part of a global voluntary network, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies. **Thousands of people are fleeing conflict, violence and persecution. They are facing horrific journeys to reach Europe. Tragically, thousands of people have died crossing the Mediterranean this year.** Red Cross teams are giving people food, water and health care when they arrive. **We don't just respond to emergencies – we also prepare for them.** Being prepared makes a huge difference in saving lives and protecting people's livelihoods. For more information see: [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

Land being prepared for the new extension.



### THE MAR EPHRAIM SCHOOL, BETHLEHEM

A Syrian Orthodox Christian School and Community

The Mar Ephraim School is providing a wonderful education for children mainly from the Syrian Orthodox Christian Community as well as a Community Centre for their families. It is a 'beacon of hope' for Christians in Bethlehem and beyond. With the continuing high unemployment and an 8-metre high wall surrounding Bethlehem, life remains difficult for the Community. Many families are struggling to access the very basic needs of living. Your donation will: help families to stay together as a unit; provide young people with a good education; encourage other Christians in the Holy Land; increase respect for a marginalised Christian community; and encourage a rapidly dwindling Christian community to remain alive in the birthplace of Jesus. For more details email John Radford at [hjradford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hjradford@tiscali.co.uk)



# Benedict Wilson

## Holy Trinity's Director of Music



### MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 2016

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December – the Second Sunday of Advent

##### 10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: arr. Ferguson *People look east*

12 8 (t.128ii) 5

Voluntary: Bach *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 599*  
*Gott, durch deine Güte BWV 600*

HOAN 123 7

##### 6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Willcocks *The Cherry Tree Carol*

16 10 18

Responses: Smith; Stone; Naylor

Canticles: Gibbons *Short Service*

Psalm 11

Anthem: Archer *The Angel Gabriel*

Voluntary: Walther *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December – the Third Sunday of Advent

##### 10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Skempton *Adam lay y bounden*

3 HOAN 664

Voluntary: Bach *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645*

AHON 517 HOAN 494

HOAN 557 HOAN 108

##### 6pm Congregational Evensong

11 322 5

Psalm 12

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December – the Third Sunday of Advent

##### 10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Wood *O Thou the central orb*

10 19 HOAN 182i

Voluntary: Gigout *Toccata*

HOAN 494 1i 11

**No Evening Service at Holy Trinity** – the Choir is singing  
 Carol Services at Luddington, 3.45pm, and  
 Clifford Chambers, 6.30pm

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

**2.45pm Christmas Organ Recital** - by resident organists

**3.30pm The Christmas Carol Service**

Special order of service

**6pm The Big Nativity! A carol service for children**

Special order of service

**11.30pm Midnight Mass**

Special order of service

Motets: Skempton *Adam lay y bounden*

Hewitt-Jones *What child is this?*

Voluntary: Bach *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605*

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

**10am All Age Christmas Eucharist**

Special order of service

Motets: Stopford *A Christmas Blessing*

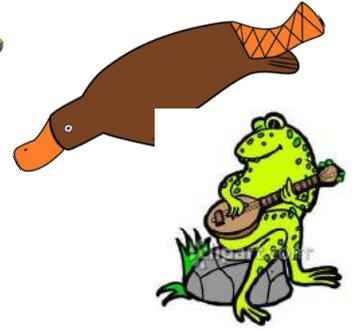
Rutter *Candlelight Carol*

Voluntary: Willcocks *Finale on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Benedict*



## Ed Mulryne's Page



“ I may not be a dishy chap...”

My favourite animal is the platypus. There you go I've admitted it. Out of all the animal kingdom, from the lion to the vole, the platypus gets my vote every time. If I had written the latest John Lewis Christmas advert, it would have been a young platypus who gets to jump on that trampoline, and not foxes and badgers, and that dog! Truly, no other animal is as cuddly, attractive, wise or erudite as the platypus; and it can also be used as a spoon.

Initially, people were very apprehensive and found it hard to believe that this legendary specimen was real. When it was first discovered in its native Australia, the platypus was thought to be a hoax made from parts of a beaver, a duck and an otter. But after careful examination they were eventually recognised as the beautiful creatures they are – they are even immortalised in Australia's currency now, such is their importance to Australian culture. I love platypuses so much that I've written a song about them....

*A new discovery has just been made, but scientists are not convinced.*

*Darwin swore and kicked a wall. A room full of Biologists winced.*

*This patchwork shambles of an animal was prodded, poked and pinched.*

*But then it opened its bill and had something interesting to say:*

*“I may not be a dishy chap but you'll find a lot of time for me.*

*Especially If you pick me up unexpectedly.*

*I'm that mistake God made late in the day.*

*So just put me down gently before I bite your head off!”*



Now you might be wondering why I am going on about platypi (there is no universally-recognised plural). Well, at this time of year I think it's important to reflect on the fact that it's easy to overlook certain people...and animals. This is because they are usually small and quiet and are not part of our everyday lives, and do not really affect us. Well, now is the time to think about these people and animals. Perhaps you might like to seek them out and say hello to them – as long as it's legal and polite of course. Last week, for instance, I stopped a major television actor in the street and said how much I admired him. I think he appreciated the gesture, although I had quite a job getting his hands away from my neck.

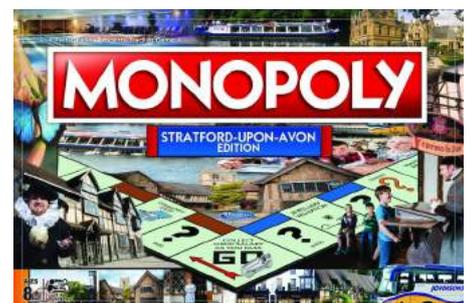
Eventually I plan to adopt a platypus and call him (or her) Sylvia. I shall keep it in my top hat and teach it to play the mouth organ. Then we could go on the road and do little variety shows. Oh, did I mention the banjo playing frog? He's very talented. Once Sylvia has learned to play the mouth organ we're on our way. Then there's the sax playing dog from next door, and the cat that writes poetry....*Agggghhh!*



# Holy Trinity Church Shop



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# Whole Parish Away Weekend

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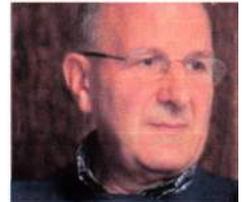


6th to 8th October 2017



Speaker

The Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove  
Dean Emeritus of Durham



*"I'm really excited about our Away Weekend. It promises to be a time of relaxation, renewal and a great way to get to know each other better. We have an inspiring speaker and wonderful venue lined up—all we need now is YOU!"*

*Patrick*

Hothorpe Hall, is a Christian Hotel in Leicestershire. All accommodation is en-suite with Freeview TV. There is also free wi-fi, and a fully licensed lounge bar. The extensive grounds have a multi-use outdoor games area as well as children's adventure apparatus. Further details of the hotel can be found at [www.hothorpe.co.uk](http://www.hothorpe.co.uk).

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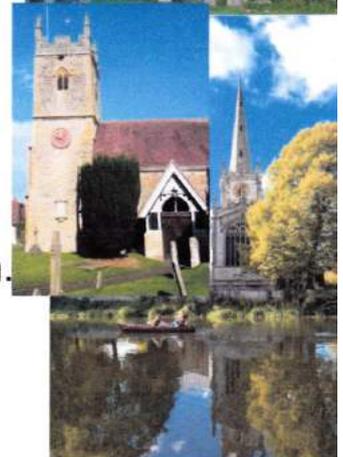
£ 160 per adult

£ 400 per family (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) with full programme for children

Booking Forms are available at the back of church.

A deposit of £50 per person will be required at the time of booking to secure your place.

For further information, please contact:  
[hilnewman1945@gmail.com](mailto:hilnewman1945@gmail.com)

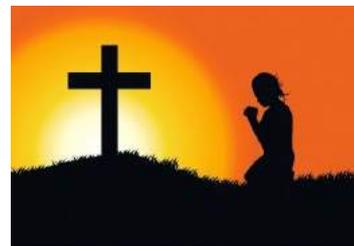


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# Prayer Ministry Training

Keith Payne—Lay Chaplain



Following an initiative from Patrick and the Clergy Team, a Prayer Ministry Training Course was set up for all lay people in the church operating in some form of prayer ministry. This included Lay Chaplains, Prayer Ministry Team and Healing Team members. Also the course was open to anyone in the church interested in learning more about this vital ministry.

The course was led by Rev Wes Sutton who is the Director of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation which comes under the Diocese of Chichester.

In the first session we explored the premise that 'Our engagement in prayer on behalf of others is predicated on what we believe and live as reality.' We looked at areas of belief that seem obvious such as God is good, he listens and will intervene in response to prayer! We needed to highlight these areas in our thinking in order to step out to pray in faith. We learned that an essential development of faith is greater CONFIDENCE - Faith is belief put into action – Trust is the only evidence of faith.

Session two looked at some useful 'tools' that we may find occurring in a Prayer Ministry context such as:

- A gift of faith: An injection or explosion of trust in God above and beyond what is normal for us in our daily walk with God. (Different from 'salvation' faith)
- Word of knowledge: information from God about the best way to pray
- Discernment: an understanding of the source or cause of someone's problem

In the next session four characteristics of a RICH ministry were discussed namely: RESPECTFUL, INCLUSIVE, COMMUNITY and HOLISTIC.

We need to convey the deepest Respect to the person asking for ministry whatever their background or history. This includes asking and remembering their name and requesting permission for any physical touch during prayer.

Our ministry needs to be cognisant and Inclusive of medical care and other caring professions which should be regarded as being part of God's work.

This ministry needs to be carried out within the context of a caring Community (church), and not regarded as the work of an individual specialist.

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Holistic: we need to listen and to attend to the whole person in body, mind and spirit.

The last part of this session dealt with a four step practice model including safe guidelines.

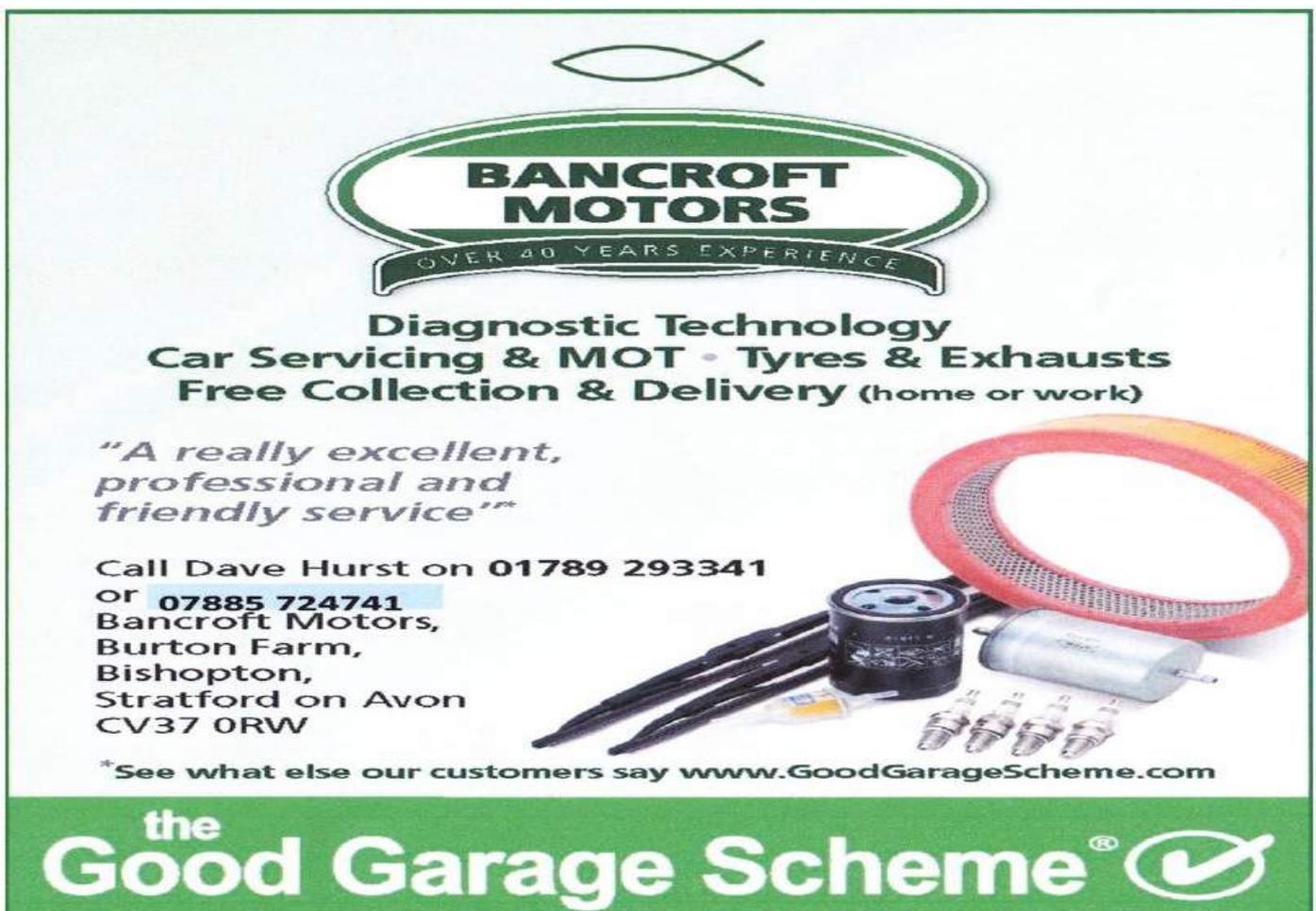
We then put into practice what we had learned by praying for each other in a group context.

There was a final short service of anointing and commissioning.

All participants on the course were encouraged and further equipped in this ministry.

I hope that this explanation of our training will help members of our congregation to have a greater understanding of and confidence in the prayer ministry on offer at the end of most 10 o'clock services and during the third Sunday services.

Keith



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Please note, due to technical problems, there will be no **Film Night** until February 2017. Please accept our apologies.



# *A Very Happy Christmas from all your friends at Holy Trinity*

*Jenny & Peter Rowland  
Dallin & Peter Chapman  
Beryl Dyke Joan Forbes  
Brenda & Paul Lageu The Cottrell Family  
Pam Howes Hilda & Jon Craig  
Gillian Nunn Val & Mike Milburn  
Miriam & Andrew Dow Margaret & John Sullivan  
Margaret & Graham Wilcox Judy & Paul Standing  
Anne & John Grady Lilian & Graham Hopkins  
Annie & Paul Harris Jill & Colin McDowall  
Margaret Edwards Sarah Gretton  
Sheila & Neville Beamer Helen & Mike Warrillow  
Hilary & Steve Newman  
Pete & Val Cubitt  
Diane & Alan Patterson  
Pauline Tate  
Andrea Blood, Natalie  
Crook, Abi, Ben & Noah  
Shirley & Jack Crimp  
Sheila Wolstenholme  
David Wilson  
Jan Walker & Graham Poole  
Laura, Patrick, Beatrice & Edmund Taylor*

*All donations will go to the  
three chosen Christmas Charities  
See page 16...*



Holy Trinity Parish Centre

JOIN FRIENDS AT THE

# Trinity Coffee Stop

For Coffee, or Tea, and maybe a naughty slice  
of homemade cake!



Saturday 17th December

10am—12 Noon

Everyone Welcome!

## *TRINITY LADIES FELLOWSHIP*



### *Diane Patterson*

Our AGM took place at our November meeting when we looked back together over the highlights of the past year, notably our 70th anniversary celebrations a year ago and a lovely summer outing on the river followed by tea and scones at the theatre, all organised by our Chair Ann Morris, now sadly stepping down after four years. Ann reminded us of the importance of laughter and told us of a funny incident which had happened to her in the supermarket, which started us laughing again. Ann was thanked warmly and applauded for all she has given to Trinity Ladies and we presented her with a plant and candle holder. Also stepping down from helping with refreshments over several years were Molly Whateley and Freddie Reynolds who were thanked and presented with M & S vouchers.

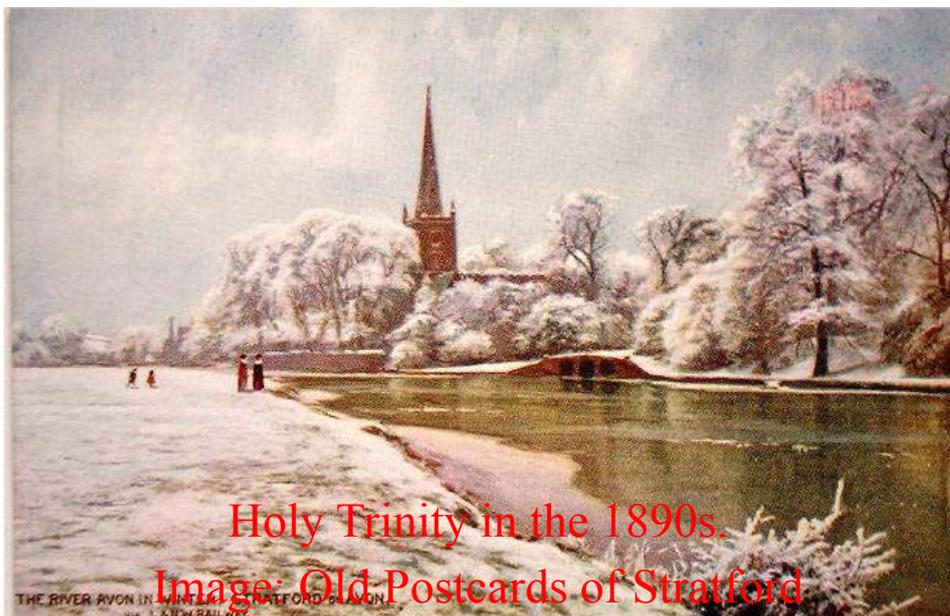
Sadly several members were unwell and unable to attend and we heard news of them.

On the new committee I am Chair, with Gina Lodge Speakers Secretary, and Val Milburn Treasurer, while Sheila Wolstenholme continues as Secretary and Pat Wood as Almoner, while Jan Ferris joins the Refreshments team.

Our next meeting on **14th December will be our Carol Service led by Rev Jenny Rowland.** We would be delighted to see any visitors to what will be a lovely occasion.

On 18th January Rev Canon David Ellis will be talking about 'A Journey through Jordan and Syria' and £5 subscriptions are due that day, please. We would love to have some new members so please get in touch if you might be interested or just turn up.

*Diane*



*Holy Trinity in the 1890s.*

*Image: Old Postcards of Stratford*

# *CANDLE POWER AT CHRISTMAS*

*Judith Dorricott*



**Have you ever wondered how many candles we use at Holy Trinity Church over Christmas?**

The answer is 1500, which our Head Verger Paul Harris has just ordered for the festivities. These small candles will be lit during the Advent Carol Service, but used again during other services before Christmas. Many of us love the candle-lit carol service, as well

as the popular Christingle Service on Christmas Eve when the children all hold an orange with a candle firmly pushed inside it and a red ribbon around it. Paul says he is always ready with a tea-towel and some water at hand during this service!

**Our beautiful Advent Wreath** is an important part of the preparation for the Coming of Christ. This evergreen wreath has five candles: four are lit on the four Sundays before Christmas while the fifth one, in the centre of the wreath, is lit either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The colours of the candles are purple for the first week, symbolising prophecy and hope, purple again for the second week, symbolising love and preparation, then a rose candle, (often called the Shepherds' candle) for the third Sunday, called Gaudete Sunday, to symbolise rejoicing. This rose candle reflects Luke's words "The angels sang a message of joy". Another purple candle on the fourth Sunday is lit for peace. On Christmas Eve or Day, the central candle, white for purity, and called Christ's candle, recalls the words in the first chapter of the Gospel according to John, where it is written "Jesus is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God".



**The church shop** sells Advent candles of course and a range of Christmas candles, scented with frankincense and myrrh, which Heather White, our shop manager, says are increasingly popular.

**After Christmas, we look forward to Candlemas**, sometimes called the Festival of Light, when all the church's candles are blessed. This festival commemorates the purification of Mary after the birth of Christ. Usually the decorations in the church are taken down on twelfth night, but any remaining, such as the Christmas Trees, will stay until Candlemas.

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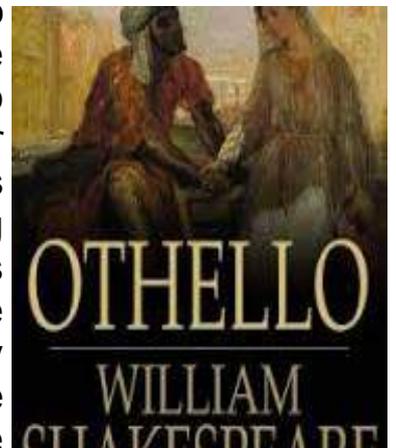
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**What is the history behind candles?** They have been used for illumination and celebrations for thousands of years, and we know that the Egyptians used tall lights made of rushes soaked in melted fat. From about 500 BC, the Romans used wicks inside rolled papyrus which was then dipped in melted tallow or beeswax and at the same time, in the far east, the Chinese developed a system of using rolled-up rice paper filled with wax from indigenous insects.

Early forms of candles existed across the world. At Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of light, it was, and still is, important to light candles - a tradition which dates from at least 160 BC. The Emperor Constantine, in the 4th century AD, is said to have lit candles during an Easter ceremony and this may have been the start of our Christian custom. We may also wonder if early Christians used candles to light their way as they met and prayed in the Roman catacombs, so these lights could have been both practical and symbolic.

**In our homes, candles have been used for centuries.** In the Middle Ages, candles were made from tallow (rendered animal fat) which was cheap but which had a repugnant aroma. When beeswax candles were introduced, these were used in church and for ceremonies, but beeswax was too expensive for ordinary use, so the acrid smell of tallow stayed in the family home. The Tallow Chandlers Guild was formed in the 13th century and chandlers went from house to house making candles from the animal fat that families had collected.

**"Put out the light, put out the light"** Othello says to himself, as he approaches Desdemona asleep in bed. Here Shakespeare gives us a double meaning as firstly Othello needs to blow his candle out, but he also intends to murder his wife Desdemona for her alleged infidelity, thus extinguishing her life. In all Shakespeare's plays, lighting was of great practical (as well as textual) importance, as once plays started being performed in indoor theatres at the beginning of the 17th century, the action was seen by candles and torches placed around the edge of the playhouse with its thatched roof. Floats of candles were often placed in a trough at the foot of the stage, and while these may have enhanced the magical effects of the play, the risk of fire increased too. As we admire the flickering effects of the candles at Holy Trinity Church around Christmas, we must be grateful that our roof is not thatched!



**The increase in whaling** in the 18th century brought a big change to society; the wax obtained from the whale oil became available in quantity and households benefitted from the increased production of candles and a cheaper price. The 19th century brought more innovations as scientists found paraffin wax was a better product than tallow or whale-oil, while the introduction of machinery to manufacture candles brought the cost of candles down immensely.

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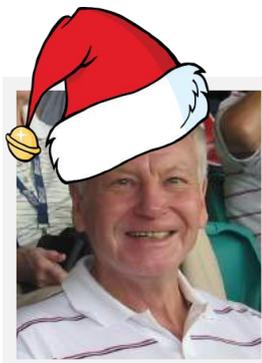
**A German tradition reached Great Britain** in the 19th century. On Christmas Eve in central Europe it was customary to decorate a fir tree with candles, weighed down by apples. This symbol became popular when Prince Albert gave a Christmas tree to Queen Victoria in 1834 - and now most houses in Great Britain have a Christmas Tree.



**Gas lighting, followed by electricity**, arrived as the 1870's brought the invention of the light bulb, so the use of candles quickly diminished. Candles have remained popular however, and are always used for celebrations and ceremonies. A candle-lit dinner will always symbolise romance is in the air. We still buy tapers, tea-lights, floating candles and birthday candles to name but a few, and it will not surprise our readers to learn that 90% of candles are bought by women!

**Let's return to Christmas at Holy Trinity Church.** As we go into the church during our festivities, the flickering flames from the many candles on the windowsills give a magical effect. This tradition was started twelve years ago by Jane Hornby, and she continues to arrange the candles to give our church a wonderful atmosphere for services. Jane uses hundreds of candles and says "I see each candle as a prayer, and I feel we are lighting a candle to remember someone".





# CHRISTMAS HOWLERS!



Compiled by Pat Pilton

Henry Christmas spent almost 50 years researching his ancestors — and came up with 10,000 people who shared his name. He traced his own roots back more than 400 years to yeoman Thomas Christmas from Hampshire who died in 1589. The family tree that Henry created was 24 feet long. *The Sun*

**Switched on traffic police in Kent celebrated Christmas by sending out advent calendars featuring 24 speed cameras.**

*From You Really Couldn't Make It Up*

A visiting choir was due to come and sing The Messiah at our church just before Christmas. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister put up a sign outside which read: "The Messiah is postponed - due to snow."

*Parishpump website*

There were so many productions of *Snow White* being performed one Christmas that some pantomimes had to make do with five dwarves. The Revd Peter Ramsden of Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, reported an easy way of getting round the problem. In a letter to *The Times*, he wrote that St. Bartholomew's Parish Church had produced *Snow White and the Beanstalk*.



Mississippi's literacy program shows improvement



"Of all the cheek! Rides up on his sleigh in his flashy red suit, pushes to the front of the queue to the stable shouting 'Ho! Ho! Ho!... who DOES he think he is?!"

Why did Santa's helper see a doctor? Because he had little elf esteem.

**Tinselitis — what you get if you swallow a Christmas decoration**

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth; Goodwill to Men and Batteries not included.

**So I saw this genie. He said why am I so frightened? I said it's obvious, you're bottle's gone.**



**OUT OF THE MOUTHS...** Seven year old Lee was asked to say a prayer of **thanks for the** Christmas dinner. As the family bowed their heads in expectation, Lee began his prayer, thanking God for his mummy, daddy, brothers, sister, grandma and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding and even the cranberry sauce. He paused and everyone waited — and waited. After a long silence the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked: "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know I am lying?"

# All Saints' Luddington

## Jane Beeley Writes...



*" Carol Service at 3.45pm on 18th December..."*

On 7th December we will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Then at 3.30pm on the 11th December we will be holding our Christingle Service. This year the Service will be led by Phil Harper the new Children and Families Minister at Holy Trinity. The service is primarily for young children but we find that children of all ages enjoy the service (whether or not they attend with their grandchildren). If you have not been to a Christingle service before please do join us. All the monies donated at the Service go to the Children's Soci-

On the 18th December, the last Sunday before Christmas we will be holding our Carol Service at 3.45pm when we will be joined by the choir from Holy Trinity.

In the New Year we are hoping to redecorate the interior of the Church. Numerous repairs have been undertaken to cracks in the walls and there are places where the old paint is lifting away from the walls. Our challenge for 2017 is to find an affordable solution to the surface of the Church footpath.



### **LUDDINGTON WI**

Luddington W.I. meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7.30 pm. in Luddington Village Hall.

Please come along, you can be sure of a warm welcome.

**For more information call Lyn on 01789 268312**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST  
WISHES FOR 2017**



# St Helen's Clifford Chambers

## All Souls—A Service to Remember

Sarah Crang



Autumn is usually a time for quiet consideration and a chance to contemplate the year that has passed. Coinciding with this is All Souls; the season in the church calendar when Christians remember loved ones who have departed this life.

On Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November at 6pm, St. Helen's Church hosted its first All Souls Tide service; which proved to be personal, touching and poignant. The service was attentively led by Reverend Canon John Graty and featured a moving reading by church warden Pauline Newbury.

A whole host of people had gathered to celebrate the lives of their loved ones, whose names were respectfully recited by Tony Reason. The congregation were then offered the opportunity to light candles in memory of those they had lost, whilst the choir from Holy Trinity sang Fauré's *Requiem*; a hauntingly beautiful accompaniment for individual reflection.

From out of darkness comes light; despite the serious, contemplative nature of the All Souls season the initial service of its kind at St. Helen's was both uplifting and enlightening.

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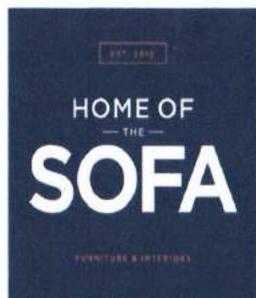


#### So, why are we different?

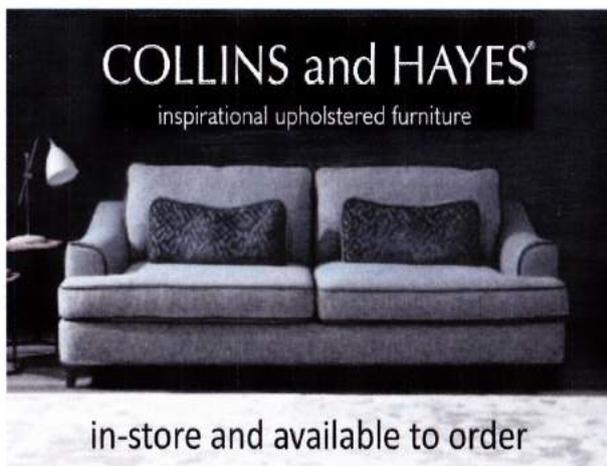
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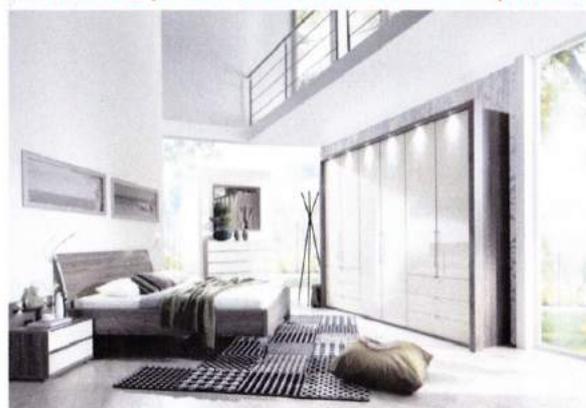
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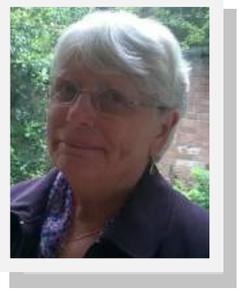


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# Inside Shakeshafte



Jane Taylor



The challenge of performing Shakeshafte was first put to the Trinity Players after a visit by its author, Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, to Holy Trinity Church in February of this year. Director Ursula Russell described it as a “daunting task” but after a read through in the Lounge one Saturday evening in May the project became a little clearer.

Then it was decided that a short film should be made to run at the start of the play in which the historical background of the drama would be summarised. This would set the scene for all members of the audience whether they were historically well informed or not. The production was on its way.

Many thanks are due to Wayne Bartlett and Callum Jackson for producing the film and to Margot McCleary for writing the script. In addition, Margot’s

mellifluous tones could be heard narrating the script and describing the Catholic household living in Hoghton Tower, Lancashire, whose lives were about to be thrown into disarray.

Although Catholic priests from English seminaries in Reims and Rome had been roaming the country for a number of years, staying under cover in Catholic households and endeavouring to strengthen and rekindle the Old Faith, 1580 was the first year in which Jesuit priests arrived.

The Protestant Government of Queen Elizabeth I was greatly alarmed by this influx of intellectual priests such as Edmund Campion. The Jesuits already had a formidable reputation as missionaries and could be found in far flung places such as Japan and South America. They were ideally suited to the English mission being physically toughened by self-imposed hardships and mentally toughened by long periods of solitude and meditation. The Pope and King Philip of Spain regarded the Jesuit mission as an important contribution to what they referred to as “The Enterprise of England”.

The Government of England’s fledgling Protestant State regarded the missionaries as traitors for it was believed that they sought to turn the people away from their allegiance to Queen Elizabeth and must by dint of association support the threat of invasion by Catholic Spain.

Throughout the 1580s, as well as increased vigilance on the part of the local magistrates, there was a marked rise in the number and the activity of secret agents who were priest hunters and known as “pursuivants”. It was a lonely, terrifying, wearing existence for men like Campion constantly living in fear of the knock on the door. If captured, painful torture and a brutal traitor’s death would undoubtedly be their fate.

Continued from previous page...

Early in the play Will Shakeshafte arrives at Hoghton Tower from the Midlands to act as tutor to the children there. Local legend has it that this is Will Shakespeare who would have been sixteen years old in 1580. Edmund Campion also comes to stay in the house on his tour of the North and Rowan Williams imagines conversations that the pair might have had. Tim Raistrick as Campion and Louis Osborne as Will brought a complex, demanding script to life and the atmosphere between them was electric. How they did it was nothing short of miraculous. Tim remarked that his part was quite easy to learn. (Really?) The difficulty, he said, lay in remembering when and in what order to say it!



The assistant director Chris Cornford ably created the opening tension when his character, Thomas Hoghton, wakes the household at night with the bad news that a priest known to them has been taken “down south” in the Midlands. The priest was Jack Cottam, brother of William Shakespeare’s schoolmaster and this set the scene for Will to come to them as a sort of refugee.

The play has a range of colourful characters all of which were cleverly portrayed by other accomplished actors in the cast. Graham Wilcox played the aging master of the house, Alex Hoghton who was very ill, soon to die, but full of courage and black humour. He was curmudgeonly at times but funny and clearly beloved of his people at Hoghton Tower.

Ruthie Copeman played his unpleasant illegitimate daughter, Margaret. Ruthie created a character who was compelling in her vindictiveness and who, under the impulse of her Puritan upbringing in another family, was impelled to betray her father’s household.

Alex’s loyal steward Roger Livesey was skilfully played by Mark Spriggs who is always highly professional and completely believable. He created a dour, brusque and anxious man who was nevertheless 100% loyal and intent upon making his master’s last days as easy as possible.

John Ryder, playing a local tenant farmer, brought a touch of authenticity as the only member of the cast to come from Lancashire. Thanks are due to him and to Hilary Newman for advice on pronunciation. Similarly, Stanley Holloway and George Formby made their contributions in this respect by way of U-tube.

The incomparable and versatile actor Cecilia Kendall White made a welcome return to Trinity Players to play the young maidservant Margery. Margery tries hard to understand Will and introduces a tension that would surely have been felt between the young poet and his bewildered contemporaries.

Orion Johnson and Helen Warrillow played two other young female servants and both brought humour to the piece as well as the anxiety felt by the introduction of dangerous strangers into the house.

Continued from previous page...

Another bewildered youngster was Fulk Gillom played so well by Wayne Bartlett. Fulk comes to the house with Will to fulfil the same function as tutor and he brings his wonder at the power of drama and the regret so deeply felt by many at the passing of the church Mystery Plays which had been rejected by the authorities as too "Papish".

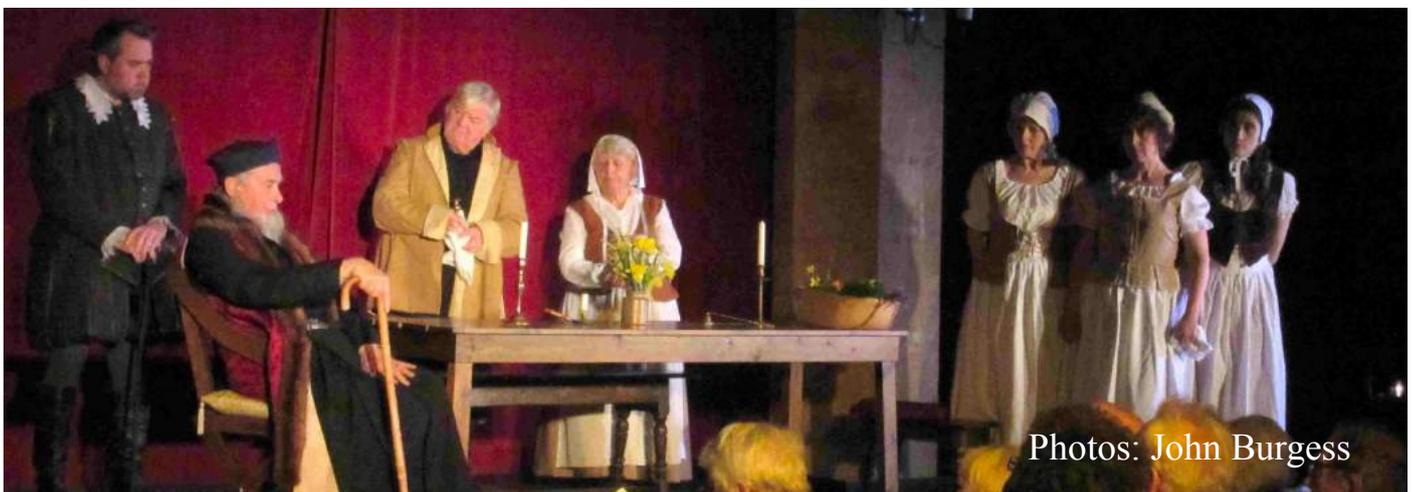
It was the first time that Roger and I had been in charge of locating and making props. I had fun staining paper with tea to make it look like parchment and fashioning seals out of white Blu-tac and red nail varnish. The whole play took place in one room of Hoghton Tower but covered a period of time from Autumn 1580 until May 1581. We decided to indicate the passing of the seasons by changing the display of foliage and flowers on the long table. We servants had a busy time of it: lighting candles, snuffing them out, carrying on ale, removing the ale, carrying on wine, removing the wine, carrying on fruit, changing the flowers and finally retrieving the goods after the agents had flung everything to the four winds. If you find the odd apple under your pew it's the one that got away. We had to do that without tripping up the poorly lit steps or falling down them in long skirts and, for me, without the benefit of varifocals.

We were accompanied throughout by the beautifully calming music of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Hats off to our talented musicians Angela Farr (violin), Jasmin Earnshaw-Brown (recorder), Sue Olver (cello) and Andy Olver (guitar) who had to contend with very low temperatures in a church in which the temporary heating was too noisy to keep on during the performance. How they kept their instruments in tune and their cold fingers working is a mystery. Yet they always exude good humour, calmness and confidence, skill and enthusiasm.

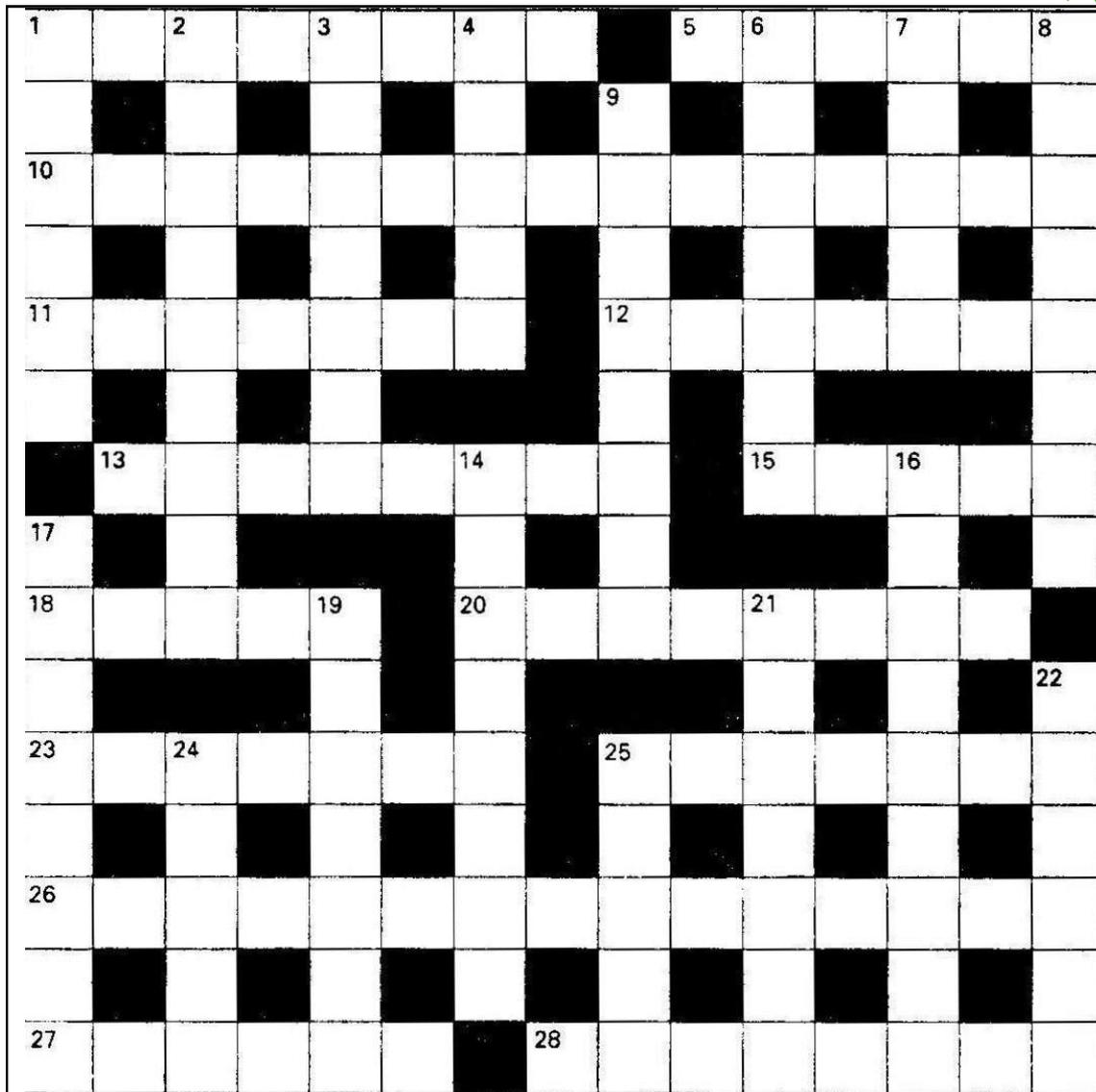
The young female servants sang a three-part version of "Jolly Robin" most skilfully and the men in the cast gave a rousing rendition off stage of "Pastimes With Good Company" which sounded suitably drunken and raucous but at the same time very musical.

Two ladies who never seek the limelight but certainly deserve a place in it are Cilla Burgess and Jill McDowall. Their needlework skills are always on hand to make costumes before the performance as well as to run repairs and help with changes during the show. (That reminds me I must return those precious safety pins). Many thanks to both of them.

The limelight was provided in the modern electrical sense by Tony Guy and as well as his skills in the appliance of science his hard work was also in evidence in the building of the set. Trinity Players are very grateful to him and to John Burgess.



# Christmas Crossword



**ACROSS** 1 Herod's revenge (8) 5 Bush shelter for the Magi? (6) 10 Carol's ice image (5,4,1.5) 11 Tell the tale of Christmas perhaps (7) 12 What Joseph's dreams did for him (7) 13 How Mary treated Gabriel's prophecy (8) 15 What Mary humbly never expected to be (5) 18 Give consent to (5) 20 Revealed in the incarnation and in our mission statement (4,4) 22 Jesus' fall, passed down from Adam (7) 25 Joseph's carpenter's class(7) 26 Where Jesus was before he was 'amid the winter's snow' (4,3,8) 27 Not like (6) 28 Today's mobile counterpart of the Magi's saddle bags? (8)

**DOWN** 1 Where the manger's hay came from (6) 2 'While shepherds washed their socks' kind of carol (9) 4 The carol says Jesus came to do this to the sons of earth (5) 6 Traditional conveyors of treasure to H.M. the King (7) 7 Appoint by invitation (2-3)

8 A story from Mary's memory? (8) 9 What the angels did with the Gospel (8) 14 The way Wenceslas and his page went (8) 16 The obscure Godhead prior to being 'veiled in flesh' (9) 17 Mary's humble role (8) 19 Christmas door-decorations (7) 21 Plain truth (7) 22 Motivating, sometimes hostile, spirit as in Herod (6) 24 Speed of shepherds to Bethlehem? (5) 25 Despise, but not the Virgin's womb (5)



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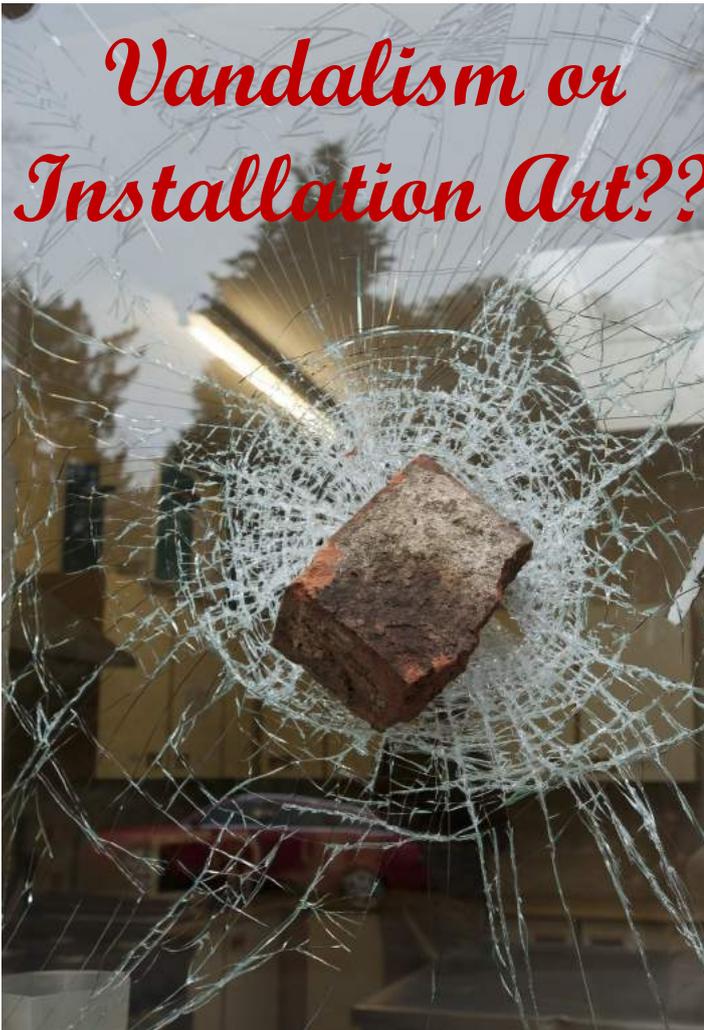


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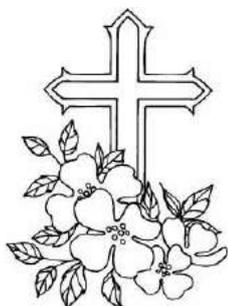
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## From the November Registers...



### Baptisms

6th November      Eva Rose Hemmings  
Frederick Charles Marchington  
20th November    Wesley John Keith Steele  
Sebastian David Bengé  
Georgia Ivy Florence Smith



### Funerals

8th November      Jean Stevens  
17th November    Josephine Morrison  
23rd November    Dr George Sykes  
(Thanksgiving Service)

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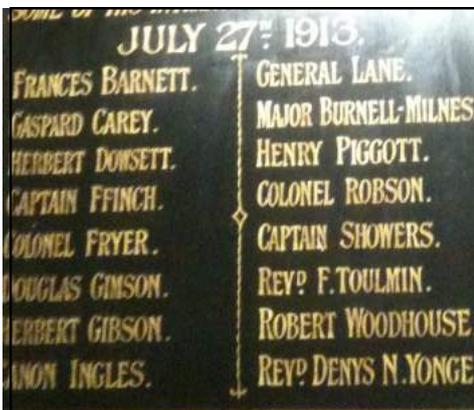
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# Art and Craftwork in other Ringing Chambers

Jeanette Davey

I have previously written about some of the artwork on peal boards in our own ringing chamber, but of course this craftsmanship extends to other ringing chambers around the country. Few get to see such work, yet it can often add to the joy of arriving in a new ringing chamber. My photos can't do them justice, often due to the location, which can be quite dark with inadequate lighting, or set rather high up on the wall, so please excuse their quality.



This first one caught my interest on many fronts. The ringers were all men, which was the norm at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Whilst ringing still attracts people from all walks of life, the number of titles between those on this board was remarkable and does not compare to today's profile of a typical band of ringers.



This peal board is from Boreham in Essex and includes two Reverends, one Canon, two Captains, three Colonels, one Major and one General. I've not checked whether Boreham is or was on the doorstep of any military base, but it seems likely. The peal board is all the more poignant because it was dated one year and one day before the outbreak of the First World War.

This next peal board is also from Boreham; they are lucky to have two very fine examples. It is one of the prettiest examples of calligraphy on any peal board that I've seen. The main word blanked out by the light is Minor: 'A Peal of Minor', which means that the ringing was on six bells. The reason for the peal is given as being 'The day of the return of the King and Queen from India', which referred to King George V and Queen Mary's trip of almost three months and shows the significance of that type of event in those days.

For those who appreciate stained glass, imagine my delight in finding this example on the entrance door into the ringing chamber at SS. Philip and Jacob in Bristol. It is a beautiful piece of work, visible only to ringers. The numbers 3 and 4 refer to bells 3 and 4.





There are fine and varied modern-day commissions or gifts of craftwork, too. Cross stitched records of peals are seen in a few towers together with excellent copies of sallies to decorate it – the sally is the multi-coloured bit that we hold onto. Andrew Beckwith has done particularly fine carved wood peal boards from his base in the Scottish Borders. This example is, once more, from Essex – Coggeshall. If you look closely, you'll see that Andrew also rang in the peal on this board. The peal board is of oak, and the cross keys on the shields in the pediments is the symbol of S Peter - Coggeshall church is dedicated to St Peter-ad-vincula (St Peter in chains). The carving at the side of each board is in limewood.

It commemorates the first peal on the augmented ring of ten, and the carvings feature bells and the Christian cross together with St Peters symbols: the cross keys again together with the cock

crowning thrice (to remember his denial of Christ) and his fish (as a fisherman).

My final photos are from our own tower and I've referred to them before but there wasn't space for the accompanying photos. This example is evidence of austere times immediately post-WW2. This and other plaques in our tower were made at the Royal Label Factory, which was then in Old Town, so they are likely to have been made in cast aluminium – they are very lightweight. Most road signs were in cast aluminium and the largest maker of them was the Royal Label Factory, which produced signs of the absolute highest quality, with very crisp lettering and edges.



If you'd like to have a go at ringing, don't hesitate to contact me. Also, if you have particular knowledge of archiving and a few hours to spare, we'd love to have your help in recording and setting out properly what we do have in the ringing chamber.

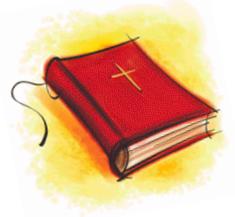
Contact: [jeanette.davey1@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanette.davey1@btinternet.com), phone 01789 299145 and leave a message, or speak to Charles Wilson our Tower Captain, or any of the ringers. It would be good to see you.



# Drums and Bibles



## Val Payne



In May 2014 I went out to an orphanage in rural Uganda where there is an Anglican Church on their site. When I got back and shared my experiences - and the need for bibles, order of service books and hymn books - with the house group, they felt that it would be good to ask the church to give money to buy these items. We had a collection and raised around £2000. This was fantastic as Andrew Dow was going out to the church to teach his course " King of Kings." It was very well attended and every participant was given a bible in English as this is the official language for education.

The church also kept some bibles for services and new hymn books and order of service books. It was lovely to see them being used during my second visit this November.

I went back to work with the teachers in the school. It was a wonderful time and very rewarding being in the classroom every morning. On both Sundays we went to Sunday school, which is attended by the orphanage children: from babies up to about 8 years old. It's a lively service with enthusiastic singing accompanied by



rhythmic drumming and other percussion instruments. When it's time to pray every child prays out loud at the same time. Listening to them and watching their faces is a very moving experience.



The church service follows and the older children, workers in the orphanage and others from the local community attend. Again the harmonious singing is accompanied by the drum and led by the choir. This service is mainly in Lhukonzo, the local language.





There are about 20 choir members and they are very keen to obtain some robes. On the second Sunday that we were there they showed the congregation a prototype of the robe they would like to make at a cost of £5 each. They had a second collection and raised £7.50 which was sacrificial giving from them as they have so little. I felt I wanted to do something to help as it is important to them for the choir to have a common identity. I have said that I will try and raise the £100 needed.

The two and a half weeks spent with the children and adults in the orphanage was very special and such an encouragement and challenge to witness their faith and belief that "God is good all of the time"



*Val*

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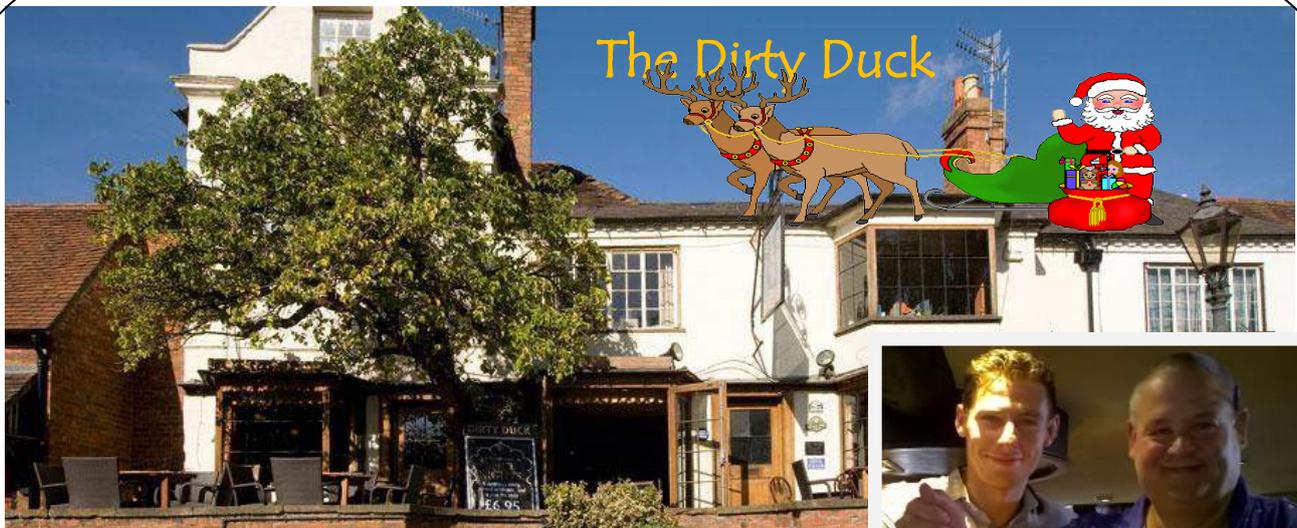
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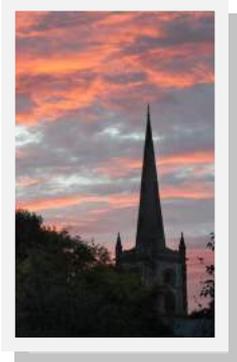
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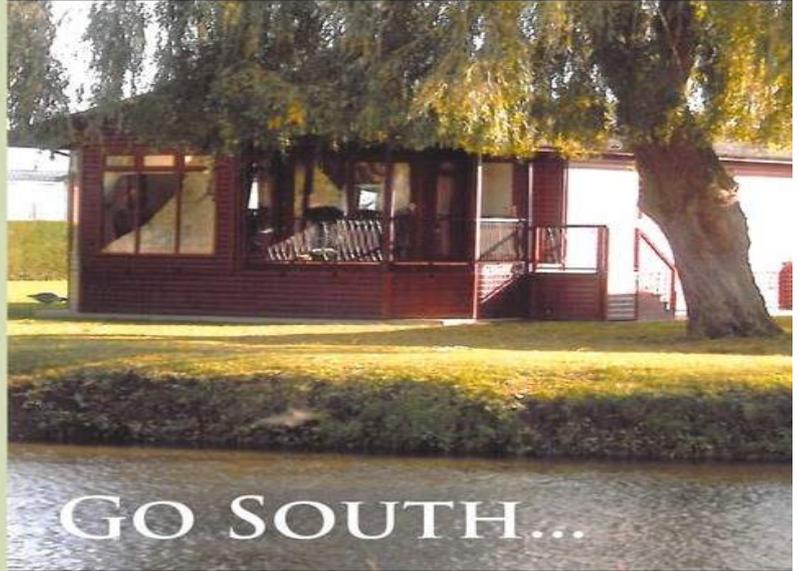
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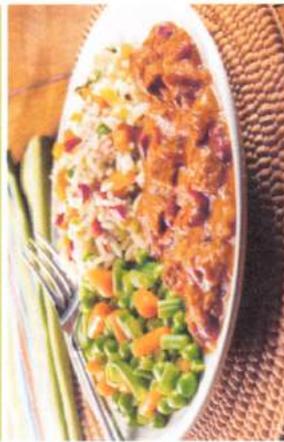
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