

TRINITY TIMES

DECEMBER
JANUARY
2017/18

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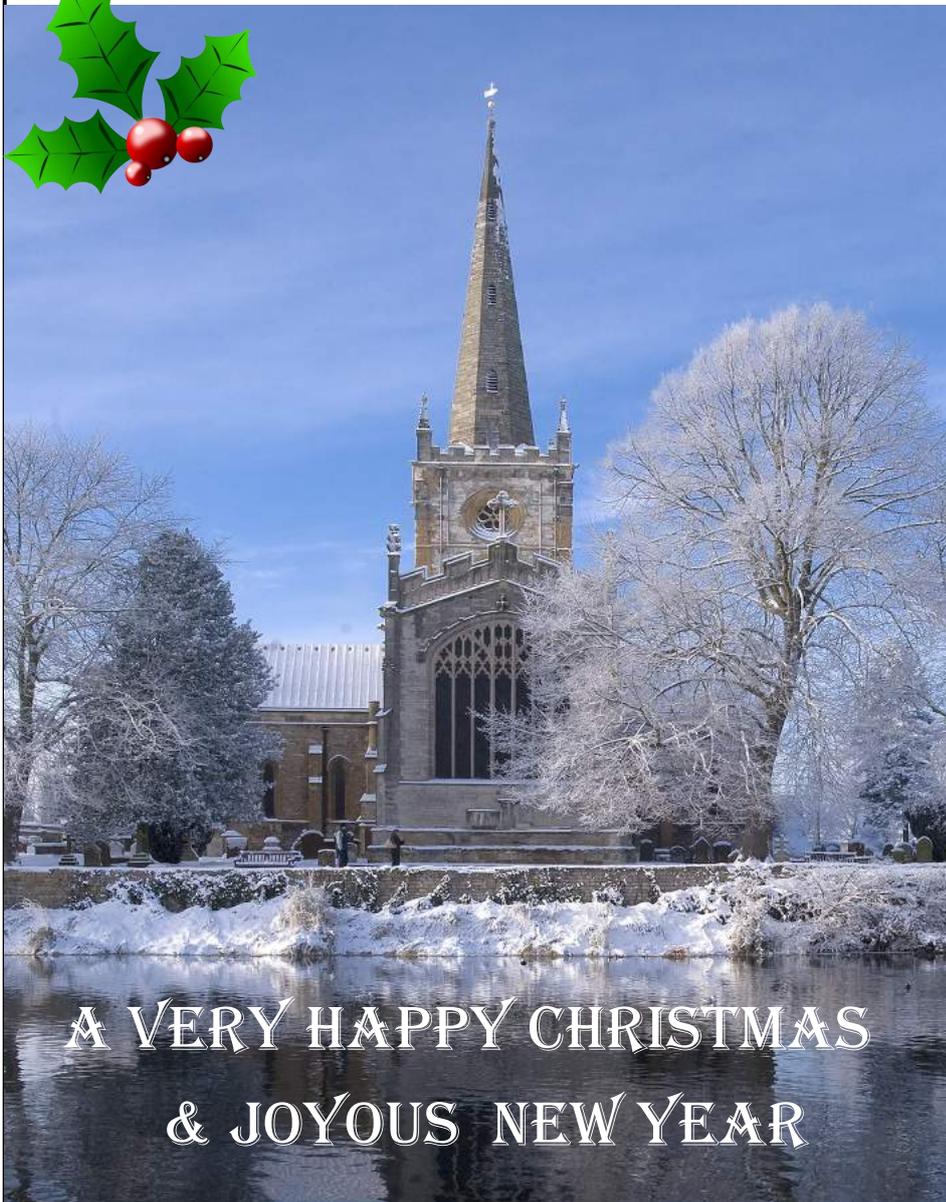
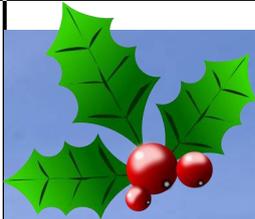
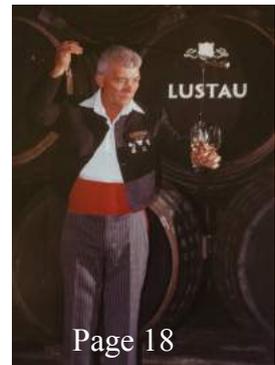


Photo: Harry Lomax



Page 26



Page 18



Page 30

THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



Lives changed through God's love

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



BOOGIE DOWN TO BETHLEHEM!

A Children's Musical Nativity

featuring: THE SNOWMAN



Wednesday 6 December 6:45pm

Holy Trinity Church

Stratford-upon-Avon

FREE ENTRY with refreshments and retiring collection



St Francis' Christmas Crib at Greccio Page 13

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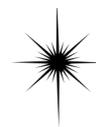
Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Curate



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister





Patrick Writes...



“ A God who is prepared to be unprotected...”

This year marked twenty years since the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales.

One of things I remember about that very mournful time back in 1997 was the way the Queen was initially criticised for seeming to keep the grieving Royal family shut away in remote Balmoral, whilst the public flocked to Kensington Palace and many other places to lay flowers and express their sadness and shock. There were newspaper headlines saying things like “Where is our Queen?” In an interview given this year on the anniversary of his mother’s death, Prince William explained that at the time the Queen, “felt very torn between being the grandmother to William and Harry, and her Queen role”. In the end, of course, she did return to London and greeted mourners outside Buckingham Palace. She then made her first live televised speech to the nation in almost 40 years, in which she said, “what I say to you now, as your queen and as a grandmother, I say from my heart.”



What she seemed to be saying, in effect, was “look, I may be the Queen but I’m a human being as well, and experience all the same feelings of shock and sadness we all feel.” It’s been said that her willingness at that crucial time to make herself vulnerable by walking amongst the people and expressing her humanity, saved the monarchy.

At Christmas we celebrate the fact that God does not remain distant and uninvolved with us as human beings. The birth of Jesus marks the moment when God decides to come amongst his people and share the emotions and experiences we all go through in life. So if you strip away from Christmas all the tinsel, food and parties, what you’re left with is something quite radical: a God who is prepared to be unprotected. It is, I think, a unique claim of the Christian faith that God becomes vulnerable. Yet if God is love then this is entirely consistent, because to love is to open ourselves up to someone else and risk being hurt or rejected.

May you all know God’s love alongside you this Christmas, in all the hurts, griefs and joys of your life.



Search for a New Editor for Trinity Times

Trinity Times is surely one of the best parish magazines around. The Editor, Steve Newman and Assistant Editor Hilary Newman are standing down mid 2018. I am very grateful indeed to them both for all they have done to make our magazine such an attractive and interesting read. It's one of our primary ways of connecting with many people both within and beyond the parish and plays a very important role for our churches. We are looking for new members of the editorial team (and of course a new Editor) so do let me know if you would like to get involved. In the meantime a big thank you to Steve and Hilary for producing such a consistently high quality publication which is always full of interesting content. Well done!



Patrick.



The West Midlands Salvation Army Fellowship Band

Will be playing in Bridge Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, on Wednesday 13th December, from 10.30am—2.30pm.

The band is unique, in that although part of The Salvation Army, it is open to other Christian musicians who share a faith in Jesus Christ, His life and His teachings. The dedication, enthusiasm, energy, time and miles travelled by those who serve in the band is impressive. The reward is the joy and fellowship shared as we develop musically and spiritually.

“ One of the best bands in the country.”

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY December 3rd Holy Trinity *The 1st Sunday of Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist —with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Centre-GoodNews@10—Talk Phil Harper

6.00pm Holy Trinity Advent Carol Service—with Revd Patrick Taylor

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

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am HC BCP—Preacher Revd Canon John Graty

SUNDAY December 10th Holy Trinity *The 2nd Sunday of Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Centre FAB with Phil Harper

6.00pm Holy Trinity Congregational Evensong with Healing Ministry—with Revd Kay Dyer

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Kay Dyer

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion— Preacher Revd Jenny Rowland

SUNDAY December 17th Holy Trinity *The 3rd Sunday of Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Centre FAB—with Revd Kay Dyer (Start only)

10.00am HT@ Rosebird—with Phil Harper & Revd Steve Jarvis

6.00pm Holy Trinity—**No Service**

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 6.30pm Carol Service—with Revd Patrick Taylor

All Saints' Luddington 3.45pm Carol Service—with Revd Steve Jarvis

Please Note: No morning services at Luddington & Clifford Chambers

SUNDAY December 24th Holy Trinity *The 4th Sunday of Advent—Christmas Eve*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Food4thought—with Revd Patrick Taylor

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY December 31st Holy Trinity *The 1st Sunday of Christmas*

8.00am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am Whole Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

10.00am Parish Centre FAB— with Revd Kay Dyer

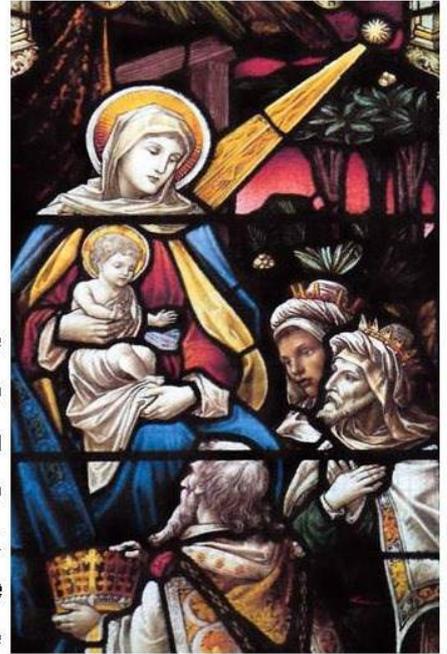
6.00pm Congregational Evensong—Revd Graham Wilcox

Please Note: No services at Luddington & Clifford Chambers

Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



It is a great joy for me as Vicar to see so many people attending Christmas services at Holy Trinity Church. So many, in fact, that in recent years there just hasn't been room to accommodate everyone who has wanted to come. To ensure that this year there is room for all and a spread of worship that caters for everyone, we have introduced an additional Carols for All service, led by the Choir, at 6.30pm, and also changed the timings of our other services. Do join us as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Revd Patrick Taylor

CHRISTMAS EVE 3.00pm: A Service of Lessons & Carols - Led by the Choir*



Not suitable for very young children

5.00pm: The Big Nativity

A family-friendly service. Children welcome to dress up as angels or shepherds

6.30pm: NEW—Carols for All

11.00pm: Midnight Mass— with the Choir*

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00am: Holy Communion with Carols

** Note New Times*

10.00am: Christmas Day all-age Eucharist

Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

SUNDAY January 7th Holy Trinity *Epiphany*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Centre-GoodNews@10—Talk Revd Kay Dyer

6.00pm Holy Trinity Choral Evensong—Preacher James Sorel-Cameron

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

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am HC BCP—Preacher Revd Canon John Graty

SUNDAY January 14th Holy Trinity *The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Centre—FAB. With Phil Harper

6.00pm Holy Trinity Evensong—Preacher Phil Harper

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Kay Dyer

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

SUNDAY January 21st Holy Trinity *The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Centre FAB—with Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am HT@Rosebird—with Phil Harper

10.30am JOINT SERVICE AT METHODIST CHURCH—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

6.00pm Holy Trinity Choral Evensong—with Revd John Hall-Matthews

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Morning Worship—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox

SUNDAY January 28th Holy Trinity *Candlemas*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Food4thought—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Centre FAB—with Phil Harper

6.00pm A Service of Readings and Music for the Feast of Candlemas
with Revd Patrick Taylor

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

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

Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Phil Harper Writes...

"Come and Join the Celebration!!!!"

There are plenty of opportunities for children and families to celebrate with us this Christmas!

Advent GoodNews@10 Service,
Sun 3rd Dec (Parish Centre)

Join us on the first Sunday of Advent to mark the beginning of the church's journey to Christmas and to light the first candle on our Advent ring. A lively service, sitting around tables with live band. Breakfast served from 9:30am, service begins at 10:00am.



Christingle Service,

Sun 10th Dec 4pm (Holy Trinity Church)



One of my favourite services of the year, especially the wonderful moment, when all the Christingles are lit, the lights are out, and we sing together. A relaxed, informal service and a free Christingle for every child. As part of the service we'll be collecting for the Children's Society. This is when Christmas begins for me. (Apologies for putting the wrong time in the last issue of Trinity Times, it's definitely at 4pm!)

We'll be making the Christingles for the service on Sat 9th Dec at 10am in the Parish Centre. Anyone is welcome to come and help, especially the important role of sweet testing!

HolyTrinity@Rosebird Nativity,

Sun 17th Dec (Rosebird Centre, by Waitrose)

As part of this special HT@Rosebird service we'll once again hear the Christmas story. Children are invited to dress as Shepherds, Angels, Wisemen, Inn Keepers, Sheep, Donkeys or any animal to help tell the story. Breakfast served from 9:30am, service begins at 10:00am.



The BIG Nativity!

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec 5pm (Holy Trinity Church)

After over 2,000 years, it's still the greatest story ever told and we're once again bringing it to life in our nativity service. Has your child always wanted to be Mary, but ended up as 3rd Angel to the left? At this service their dream can come true and everyone has their chance to shine. Children (and adults if they wish) are invited to come dressed as their favourite nativity character and when we reach that character's part in the story, come forward and help to bring that part to life. You don't have to come dressed as a character though, to come to the service.



All are welcome to this highlight of the Christmas festive season. What more do you want to do on Christmas Eve than sing carols and hear the Christmas story?

Please note the new earlier start time of 5pm!!

All Age Christmas Eucharist,

Christmas Day, Mon 25th Dec 10am (Holy Trinity Church)

What better way to begin your Christmas Day celebrations than at our special service of Holy Communion, suitable for any age. With Christmas carols, creche facilities for the younger ones and an interactive talk, it's a joyful celebration of Christmas for the whole community. And bring you favourite new toy to show Phil during the service.

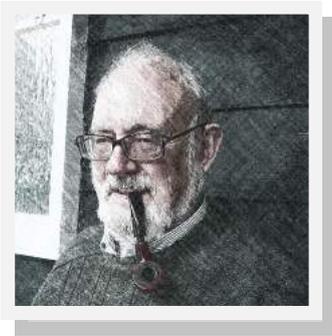
Whatever you are doing this Christmas, I hope that amidst the business of the season, you'll have the opportunity to pause, give thanks and know of God's living presence in your life. To help with this, the Church of England have produced a set of Advent and Christmas resources called **#GodWithUs**, including reflections you can have texted to you. To find out more search online for **#GodWithUs**, or get a copy from Holy Trinity Church Shop.

'My prayer is that this booklet helps you unwrap in your own life God's gifts of peace, hope and love.'

Archbishop Justin Welby

Find out more at
churchofengland.org/Christmas

Phil...



Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World

“ Beyond projection and into reality...”

“A dog is for life, not just for Christmas”. We will see this slogan a lot in the next few weeks. And all honour to the Dogs Trust and other charities who work hard to see that we fulfil our obligations to our “best friends”.



Mark Williams as Father Brown BBC

But here is another quote, from G.K. Chesterton's priest-detective Father Brown. “I like a dog....so long as he is not spelt backwards”. In other words, so long as our dog is not idolised, turned into a “god”. Far-fetched? I don't think so. Dogs may bark and whine, or wag their tails, but they don't actually answer back, or expose much of their inner life. We may make a real

relationship with them, but it is easy to project our own emotions onto them. (There is a very funny passage in the book of Isaiah, chapter 44, on how people make idols and then project feelings onto them.)

All our relationships involve projection. Do we love our beloved as they really are, or do we love our own image of them, the image that we project on to them, which reflects who we are, our own needs, and which may be rather different from the real person? Probably relationships most often go wrong when the projection diverges most strongly from the reality of who the other person is.

It is particularly easy to project in this way when the person is distant and our knowledge of them is exclusively through the media. If we have strong feelings about, say, Boris Johnson or Jeremy Corbyn, do those feelings relate to the real person or to our image of them? How far are our nation's current political problems due to the way in which we project our own hopes and fears onto the main players - individuals, groups or even whole countries or categories of people – who may in reality be very different from what we imagine?



It is also particularly easy to project on, and weave fantasies about, those who may be much closer to us but cannot answer back – for example, babies. This is necessary, actually, because it is through their parents' projections that babies learn who they are and gain the confidence to develop an identity of their own. But it carries risks, especially as children grow older and may not turn out to be quite the people that their parents want or fantasise them to be.



I wonder how much that explains people's reactions to Christmas. The birth of a child focuses strong inner hopes and fears which have little to do with the reality of what that child is or may become. Our carol services this month may well attract many for whom reverence to the Christ-child is more about themselves than about him. Might that indeed not be true for us all? A major aspect of our growth as human beings is about growing through and beyond such projections into reality. That may well take a lifetime – if not longer. Much of the power of Christmas, both positive and negative, rests in the way in which we are forced up against this fact, whether through worship and ceremony, or through our more intense contact with friends and relatives.

If we combine the two quotations, we get:

A God is for life, not just for Christmas

Not a bad message for this season. And perhaps one which will help us all to understand what part this Christmas and every Christmas can play in our personal growth, in all our relationships, beyond projection and into reality.

Anthony

Looking for your perfect sofa?

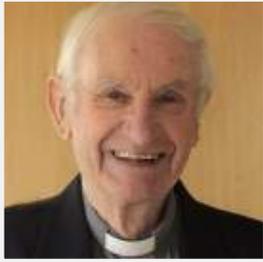
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SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS

Revd. David Ellis



St Francis' Christmas Crib at Greccio

In August Revd John Hall-Matthews preached a memorable sermon in which he told the story of St Francis of Assisi and mentioned that he and Tricia belong to the Third Order of Franciscans. In the 1980s Barbara and I also became enamoured of St Francis. We joined with some 300 people from all over Europe in an ecumenical pilgrimage to Assisi. Divided into groups of twenty we tramped for ten days the lanes where Francis and his followers walked some 800 years ago, sharing a common cooking pot and sleeping in monasteries, sometimes under the stars.

Quickly that anonymous bunch of folk became lovable friends, each one with a fascinating life-story. The delightful young Agnes, a teacher of music to handicapped children, was our troubadour. Skilfully she got us singing in four-part harmony as we tramped along. Alphonse who sometimes wrapped himself in a colourful home-made banner of the Prayer of St Francis claimed it had transformed his life: 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.' Anne, a nurse from Alsace, was seeking guidance about working amongst pygmies. Michel and his wife had led a mission among prostitutes in Leon, but sadly she had recently died. Whither now? Peter and Johann had returned from a mission to the street children of South America. All of us were seeking spiritual renewal and guidance for the future.

Our discussions, led by Barbara, centred on Francis. What did it mean to live a life as completely Christ-centred as his? What does it mean today to sell all that you have and give to the poor? How do we inspire others to love the planet and its creatures as much as he did? How can we personally be reconcilers in a divided world? We discovered that Francis has a surprisingly modern relevance.

I acted as a priest for our group. We celebrated the Eucharist by the wayside, using bread from a baguette and wine from our best mug. I tried to follow the mass book in my schoolboy French but was told that alas I had pronounced God's

forgiveness for all fishermen but for nobody's sins (pêcheurs/péchés). Laughter bound us together, remembering that Francis saw himself as a clown. In the villages we were greeted by excitable children and spent some evenings playing games and dancing in the village squares.



The following year we were back again, just the two of us. Now we had time to visit almost all the places associated with Francis including the cave at Greccio where he set up the very first Christmas crib 'to celebrate Christmas in such a way as to remind the world of exactly what it was our God did for us and how poor he chose to be.' In 1219, at the height of the crusades, Francis embarked upon a mission to Islam, offering in place of the sword only love and peace without regard for his own safety. His impulsiveness took him into the very presence of the Sultan where he was kindly received and given safe escort to Bethlehem. There, in contemplating the birth of Jesus, he was deeply moved.



When, after some considerable time, he returned he found that Rome had organised his vastly increasing band of 'little brothers' under a discipline he could not recognise - monasteries to house them, colleges to educate them, charities to fund them, thus quenching and obscuring the spirit of his movement. He handed the leadership to Brother Elias and became a remoter figure. His eyesight almost gone he came to Greccio and there, in a hillside cavern, he set up his Christmas crib with a real ox and ass attending the manger. The villagers streamed up the hillside in a torchlight procession to see the world's first nativity play in the form of the Midnight Mass. News of it spread far and wide and cribs soon appeared in market places and churches all over Europe.

We took the steeply winding road up to the Greccio monastery, overlooking a broad valley. There we found the St Francis' crib. The adjoining church displays in beautifully carved wood and stone the scenes associated with the life of Francis. A young woman was practising 'Ave Maria' for a wedding and quite soon dozens of guests arrived. Antonio and Rosa would aspire like



God and man to become one flesh - a wedding in a Christmas crib at the height of summer! Yet it all seemed to fit, for here at Greccio Francis cribs together the Grand Espousal: all creatures with their God; ox and donkey, wolf and lamb, beards and a baby, flesh blending with wood and stone, patiently fashioned over the years to serve the real goal of Christmas that in the long scheme of things all life should be, as Francis aspired, for loving.

David

LUXURY WATERSIDE LODGE

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

TO LET



Large Living Room
With River Views
1 Double Bed
2 Single Beds
2 Bathrooms
Kitchen
Self Catering



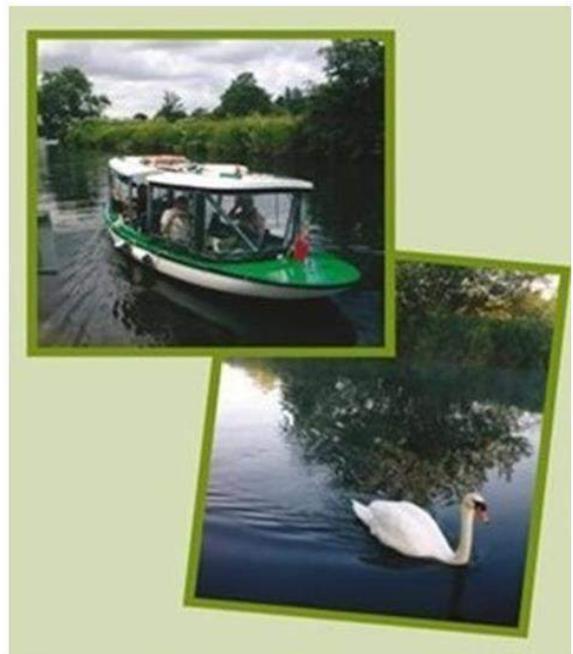
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM LODGE

A Haven for Theatre Lovers
Artists & Writers
Holy Trinity Church
(Where Shakespeare is Buried)
RSC Theatres
Shakespeare's Birthplace

CONTACT

IAN & ROSE

dreamlodge.on.avon@gmail.com



scan

SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK



Are you looking forward to a long and healthy retirement? Have you been retired for some time? Do you think about your future health, housing and finances?

The Stratford Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) group offers the chance for older people to come together socially while also providing information on local support services. Members can raise issues which SCAN can help resolve directly by providing information, signposting to the most appropriate support or taking the issue up as a campaign. SCAN is a way for older people to keep informed, maintain social connections and be part of their local community and where necessary press Local Authorities and the NHS for action.

Below is the programme of meetings for the next six months, which shows the diversity of topics and information

Monday 4 December – Members Christmas Lunch

Monday 5 February – Annual General Meeting followed by Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service talking about fire safety in the home.

Monday 9 April – Home Environment Assessment & Response Team

Monday 8 May – Stratford Neighbourhood Plan – what does this really mean for Stratford Town?

Monday 6 August – How to keep a healthy heart and spot the signs of heart problems.

For more information on SCAN please contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 or email marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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CAROLS AT THE YARD!

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**GET IN THE FESTIVE
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SING-A-LONG TO
SOME CAROLS AND
POPULAR
CHRISTMAS SONGS.**

Also on the night why not have a go at 'Play your cards right'...Yard of Ale style. Profits will be going to the Ken Kennett centre.

WHEN;

Friday 22nd December

TIME;

6pm start

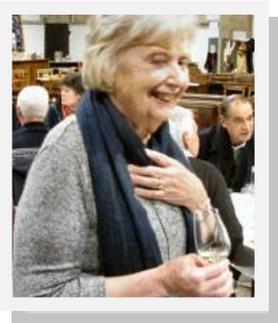
WHERE;

**Yard of Ale, Justins
Avenue.**

ALL WELCOME.

**CHILDREN ALLOWED IN UNTIL
7.30PM.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT, CCAG!**



A Sherry Revival

Hazel Tattersall



“ Sherry is one of the greatest wines”

News from the drinks industry that sherry sales are increasing may be quite surprising. For many people, Sherry conjures up an image of a small glass, no bigger than an eggcup, containing a dark brown, very sweet liquid, often drunk before Sunday lunch!

As a child aged ten, I remember my mother enjoying a glass and offering me a taste, which unfortunately I accepted. Then I had to make the fastest dash to the sink to spit it out! I thought my mouth would never recover! Little did I know then, that later in life, my career would involve much ‘spitting out’ as a wine educator!

Sherry is one of the world’s greatest and underestimated wines. No other wine has such great diversity of style, ranging from the light, dry, crisp Manzanillo and Fino styles, the dry, weightier Amontillados, the richest aged dry Olorosos and rich sweet PX style. However, it is the lighter, drier styles which are increasing in popularity, offering some excellent accompaniments to a range of diverse foods, but more of this later.

Between the great Andalusian cities of Seville and Cadiz, SW Spain, lies a small triangular region of low undulating chalk hills facing the Atlantic Ocean and River Guadalquivir estuary. At each apex is one of the 3 Sherry towns, their narrow streets dominated by the high white walls of the producers’ bodegas. Jerez de la Frontera is inland with the heart of the old city built into the Moorish walls.



On the bay of Cadiz is El Puerto de Santa Maria and Sanlucar de Barrameda on the Guadalquivir river estuary. With controls fixed from the earliest times, Sherry could only be shipped from these towns.

Sherry was being exported as early as the 15th century from Cadiz. In 1498 Christopher Columbus, setting sail for Trinidad, had his ships well stocked with wines from Sanlucar. It became fashionable in England so much so that Shakespeare wrote about it in *Henry IV Part II*, giving Falstaff the opportunity to promote it: “A good sheris sack hath a twofold operation in itit ascends me to the brainand your excellent sheris is warming to the blood”.



A few years ago I went to Jerez with fellow wine educators to attend a three day Sherry course at the Consejo Regulado. Unfortunately, I had previously sprained my ankle, so was on crutches. Not the best timing to be visiting wine cellars! However at Stanstead airport, I managed to turn this into positive advantage by waiving my crutch at security personnel and being shown to the fast-track gate (along with my willing helpers!!) Our course started next morning, then having completed 2 days study followed by examination, we were 'let loose' to visit various bodegas including Gonzalez Byas, Lustau, Hidalgo, Harvey. These buildings sometimes described as 'cathedrals of sherry' are amazing with high open windows allowing air circulation, their aisles stacked high with American oak barrels.

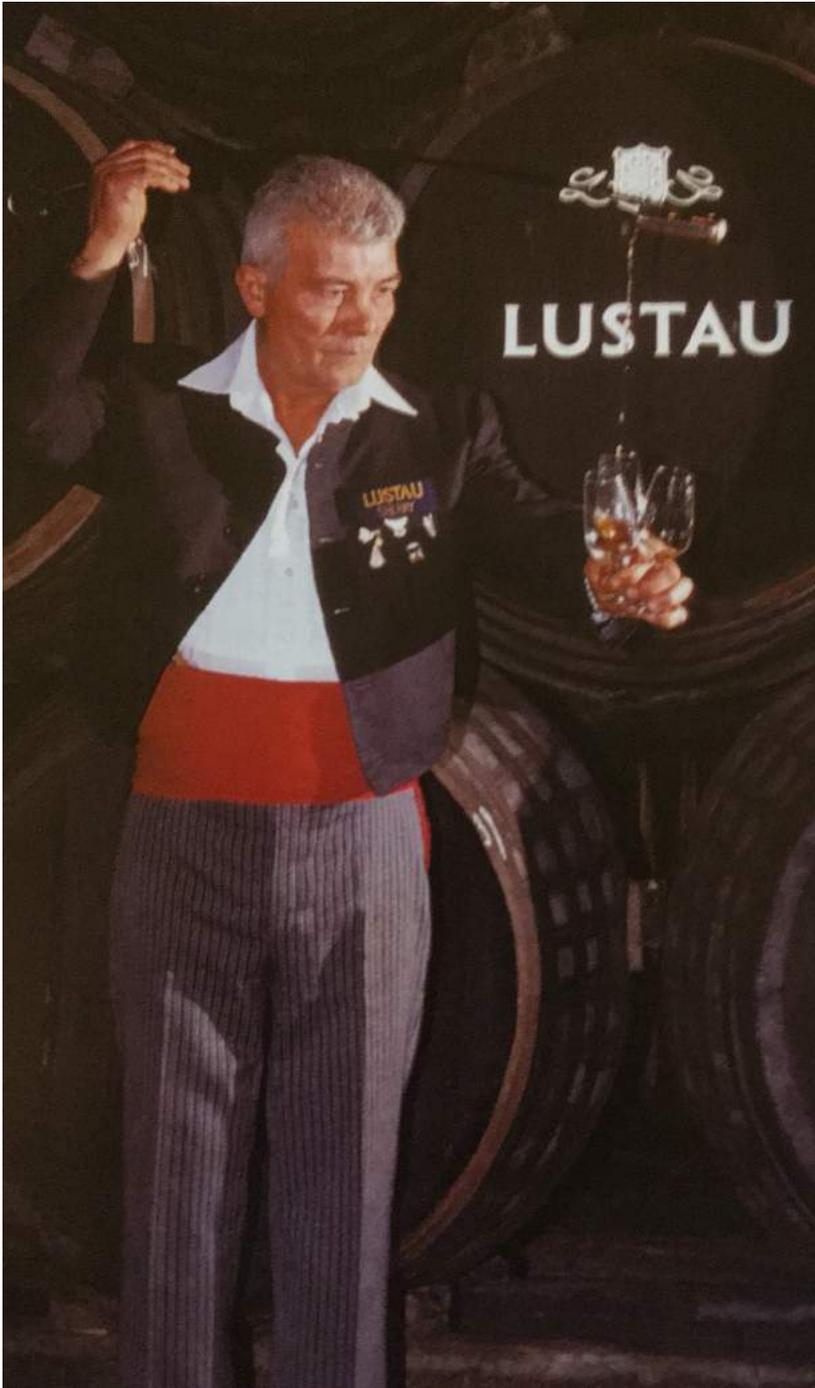
Sherry production is more complicated than for a still white wine. Palomino is the principal grape variety, with Pedro Ximenez and Moscatel for sweeter styles.

After picking, Palomino grapes are pressed and fermented immediately to dryness whereas Pedro Ximenez and Moscatel are dried on grass mats in the fields, intensifying their sweetness.

The secret of Sherry's unique character is the 'Flor': a layer of natural yeasts which grow spontaneously on the surface after fermentation finishes, insulating the wine from air contact. Cellar men then decide on the ageing in accordance with the final style of the wine. In the case of Fino and Manzanilla, the Flor protection from oxidation ensures wines remain pale, giving lighter aromas and flavours.

Wines with more body will undergo oxidative ageing to become Olorosos. Their higher alcohol will prevent Flor forming. After style selection, the wines are fortified with a mixture of spirit and old wine, Finos to 15.5%, Olorosos, to 18%. They are then aged in American barrels stacked in rows according to their age, the oldest barrels rest on the floor – solera. Wine is extracted for bottling from the solera row, then refreshed with wine from the next higher level (primera criadera – lit. first nursery) and upwards to the top row with the youngest wine, a system known as the 'Solera and Criaderas System'.





With the Christmas season very close, some advice on enjoying this unique wine as an accompaniment to food may be useful. Firstly the glass – forget the traditional sherry glass and use a wider white wine glass, serving drier styles chilled.

Fino and Manzanilla go well with Iberian hams, but also shellfish, smoked salmon, crispy fried fish, anchovies, asparagus, sushi, and so useful for party food or first courses.

Amontillado, richer but still dry styles accompany smoked fish, such as mackerel and trout and harder cheeses like Manchego

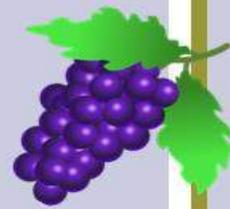
Try drier styles of Oloroso with light game dishes eg pheasant, partridge when in season. As for dessert, if you enjoy a richer wine with Christmas pudding, then do go for this. Alternatively, a rich chocolate dessert is delicious with Pedro Ximenez.

Perhaps take the opportunity to look at the Sherry shelves this Christmas and taste something different?



Hazel

Wines at Home



Celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary?

Or perhaps an Evening with Friends?

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A Private Wine Tasting At Home?

Informative & Fun

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Contact

Hazel Tattersall

Wine Educator & Award Winning Writer

hazeltattersall@gmail.com



Wines at Home



A Big Welcome

to our new
Parish Assistant
Rebecca Rumsey.

Rebecca will be working
In the Parish Office
Monday to Friday
10.00am—1.00pm



Mike Baker



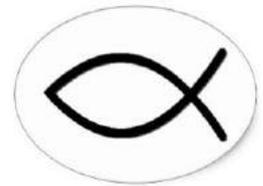
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CHRISTMAS HOWLERS!



Compiled by Pat Pilton



A survey by the Royal Mail revealed that Christmas shopping can induce one or more of the following symptoms: Headaches, sleeplessness, feeling faint, tears, stomach ache, dizziness, claustrophobia, irritability or loss of temper. More than 5 million men do no Christmas shopping at all while three fifths of women spend more than five days at it.”
The Times, quoted in You Really Couldn't Make It Up

Sign outside a Warwickshire pub: The Crown Inn — Why not celebrate Christmas with us? (every day except Christmas and Boxing Day).



Typo spotted in a Christmas appeal on the Samaritan's Feet website: "Please support this fantastic appeal by filling a shoe box with your child and bringing it to a donation point."
Radio 4's News Quiz

Enterprising sticker seen on the guitar of a familiar Stratford town centre busker: "No coins? Pay by mobile."

Warning to competitors in the 2017 Bath half marathon: "Please do not bring plastic bin bags to wear. We've had runners tripping over them and they just end up in land-fill."

AND FINALLY... It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner in the dock, "What are you charged with?" The prisoner replied, "Doing my Christmas shopping too early." "That's no crime", said the magistrate. "Just how early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the shop opened," he replied. **Happy Christmas**



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think the Angel of the Lord texting the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

HO, HO, HO...

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told me nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace" So I bought her nothing.

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

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

What do you call a naughty child who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus.



Christmas Card

Steve Jarvis
Sheila Wolstenholme
Andrea Blood
Miriam & Andrew Dow
Paul & Judy Standing
Beryl Dyke
Jill & Colin McDowall
Dallin & Peter Chapman
Ann Morgan
Paul & Veronica Talbot
David Wilson
Bobby Pearce

Jack & Shirley Crimp
Pat Wood
Hilda & Jon Craig
Revd Kay & Roy Dyer
Mary Wells
Anne & John Graty
Patrick, Laura, Edmund & Beatrice Taylor
Stella Webley
Hazel & Chris Tattersall
Graham & Margaret Wilcox
Eve Archer

Jenny & Peter Rowland
Gillian Nunn
Ann Blair
Sian Wade
Hilary & Steve Newman

This year's



BritishRedCross

Helping people in crisis around the world

**St
Basils**
Works with young people

This Midland's Charity has now opened a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon for the prevention of homelessness in young people aged 16-24



Amnesty

Greetings from Cheltenham! Wishing all our dear friends a very happy Christmas and many blessings in 2018. With our love to you all, Mike & Val Milburn xx

Graham Poole & Jan

John & Tricia Hall-Matthews

Diane & Alan Patterson

Gill Price

Sarah Gretton

Helen & Mike Warrillow

Pat Pilton

Martin & Kate Corfield

Mrs Anne Grey

Brenda & Paul Lageu

Joan Forbes

Ann Harding

Phil Harper

Carol Campbell & Family

Marjorie & John Revans

Cathy & Neil Atkinson

Patricia Jackson

Margaret Edwards & Family

Nigel & Cathie Penn

Miss Marilyn Shorey

Paul & Anne Harris

Ken & Rena Kelly

Diane Edwards

Geoff & Heather Bridgewater

Christmas Charities

Bryan & Christine Cottrell

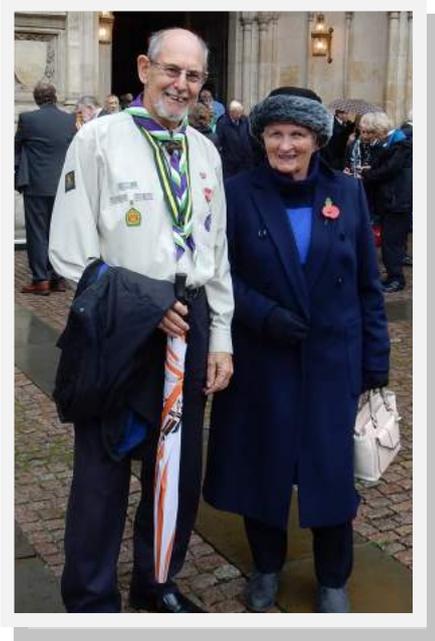


The Mar Ephraim School

is situated in the Beit Jala district of Bethlehem providing education for children of the minority Syrian Orthodox Christian Community.

A Service of Celebration & Evensong in London

Tony Guy MBE



One does not get invited to a National Church Service in London very often, but in the second week of November Joyce and I were invited to two.

The first at Westminster Abbey was “A National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving”. Then four days later we attended Evensong at St Pauls Cathedral for those who have received the “Most Excellent Order of the British Empire” as part of receiving my MBE.

The two services were very different. The Scout and Guide Service was run by members of their movements and unusually every part for readings, prayers, leading worship, even the sermon was performed by a female. Only renewal of the Scout Promise was led by a male scouter, Chief Commissioner for Scouts for the UK, Tim Kidd. The address was given by the Reverend Dr Catherine Shelley who spoke about “Why do good people have bad things happen to them”, citing the terrorist attacks in Manchester, London and Europe.

The evensong was performed almost entirely by St Pauls Cathedral Choir with 2 hymns which included the congregation. The sermon was about “Fake News” and cited some of the stories from the Old Testament which may be read as “Fake News”

Both services finished with the National Anthem.

Following the death of Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell OM, GCMG, KCB, DL, a memorial stone was unveiled in Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1947. From then until 1955 Scouting held an annual wreath laying and small service in the Abbey.



In 1957, the Centenary of Baden-Powell's birth, the service was attended by members of the Royal Family. In years thereafter, it was referred to as a Service of Thanksgiving and became a much bigger celebration. It is now attended by 2000 leaders and focusses on thanking adult volunteer leaders and supporters from the Scout and Guide Movements.

The evensong in St Paul's Cathedral was held for those holders of awards given through the "Order of the British Empire". It is the biggest Order of Chivalry and was instituted in 1917 by King George V who wanted to acknowledge the services given to the country in all areas of life. There have been 275,000 appointments since it was founded and today there are 130,000 living members. There are two Divisions, Military and Civil and each has five classes: Knight or Dame Grand Cross, Knight or Dame Commander, Commander, Officer and Member. There is also the British Empire Medal, which is also part of the Order. The Grand Master of the Order is His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The motto of the Order appears on the badge "For God and the Empire".



Tony



Trinity Coffee Stop



For Coffee, Tea, and maybe a naughty slice of Homemade Cake!
SATURDAY 16th December & 20th January 10.00am—12.00noon

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

PCC Report: Tuesday 14th November 2017



The 2018 budget was unanimously approved by the PCC amid a stark warning from the treasurer.

Anthony Woollard explained, "While the general picture is clear and our finances are very healthy, this will only be the case for the next few years. We need to ask ourselves how we generate more income in order to meet our vision. We need a budget for growth and I would urge you all to consider how this could happen." Anthony went on to explain the difference between the restoration fund and the parochial fund and how the funding is spent. The Reverend Patrick Taylor told how in future, the hope was to connect the vision, budgeting and stewardship.

Vision, Purpose, Goals

PCC spent time considering the question "what am I looking for in a church?" in order to feed into the 'values' discussion planned for the Vision Team. Patrick and the leadership team will be reflecting on the outcomes of the question to further understand areas of focus.

News in Brief

PCC agreed to adopt the bag searching policy at Holy Trinity. It's now common practice in visitor destinations in the UK to have a policy in place for searching the bags of tourists and visitors to each venue, as a deterrent to potential terrorist acts. Patrick said: "Bag searches won't be happening at all times - but randomly on different days and at different times. There will also be permanent signage on display, indicating the procedure."

PCC approved Holy Trinity in the Community's three recommendations for Christmas Charities 2017, which are:

**For the third year, the national charity
British Red Cross - helping people in crisis around the world**

**For the second year, the overseas Christian charity
The Mar Ephraim School in Bethlehem - providing children's education**

**For the first year, the local charity
St Basil's -Stratford branch - an established Midlands Charity which has recently opened a centre for the prevention of homelessness in young people, aged 16-24, in Stratford-upon-Avon**



Following the success of the Parish Weekend Away, PCC agreed to underwrite the next one, which will take place on the second weekend of October 2020.

Rebecca Rumsey has begun her role as Parish Assistant and it's hoped interviews for the Operations Manager will take place soon.

Associate Vicar Steve Jarvis is assessing how Holy Trinity can best commemorate the 2018 Armistice Anniversary.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Compiled by *Ruth Poulten*



TRUSTEE VACANCY (VOLUNTARY)

Clifford Chambers Charities runs three Almshouses, and makes grants for education and relief in need.

Overall responsibility for strategic direction, policy and management rests with a board of eight trustees. A vacancy now exists for two Trustees to be appointed for a term of 5 years. The Board is looking for someone with either of the following skills to complement the Board:

Experience in aspects of personal and community social need

Experience in advising on aspects of property and land

Preference would be given to candidates living in or near Clifford Chambers but we would consider those from out of the village. They would need to demonstrate that they have the motivation to work as part of a team, be able to give the time commitment and have an active involvement in community affairs.

If you believe you have the right skills and background and would like to play a key role in helping your local community please contact us on

clerk@cliffordchamberscharities.com
or for an informal discussion telephone

Trevor Ackerman on 01789 204562 or Angela Wylam on 01789 268156

The Oldest Student in Great Britain

Judith Dorricott

Interviews

Joy Leslie Gibson



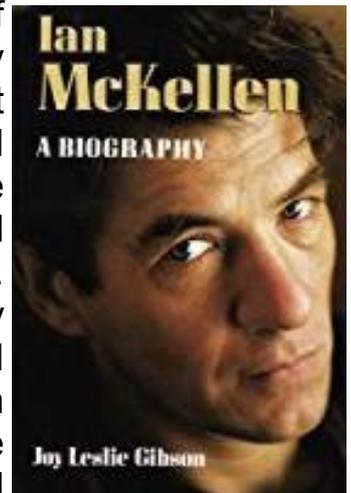
What do most of us do when we reach the grand age of 90? We might sit quietly in a chair watching daytime television, but not Joy Leslie Gibson! Joy, who was born in 1927, is currently finishing her Ph.D at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford. Her Doctorate is concerned with forgiveness and repentance in the Elizabethan Theatre: she has been researching twenty plays, particularly Shakespeare of course, but also works by Marlowe, Middleton, Webster and Hayward. She tells me that her work encompasses philosophy, politics and theology as well as drama, and her inspiration for this gigantic task has been her interest in spirituality within the theatrical canon.



After writing a letter to *The Times* about education, Joy was precipitated into the public eye with interviews on the radio, on "Midlands Today" and on "Good Morning Britain", as probably the oldest student in the country.

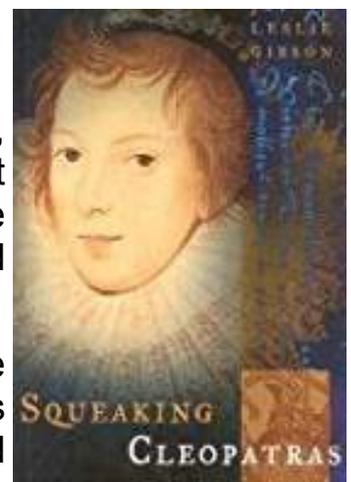


So, how did Joy reach this pinnacle of success. Born in London, Joy attended drama school and taught drama for several years, directing and acting in many plays, before completing a design course and changing to a career in journalism. She wrote for many national glossy magazines, and became a respected fashion and features editor, often travelling up to Stratford to write reviews of current plays. She even interviewed Alfred Hitchcock, who, she says, was absolutely charming.



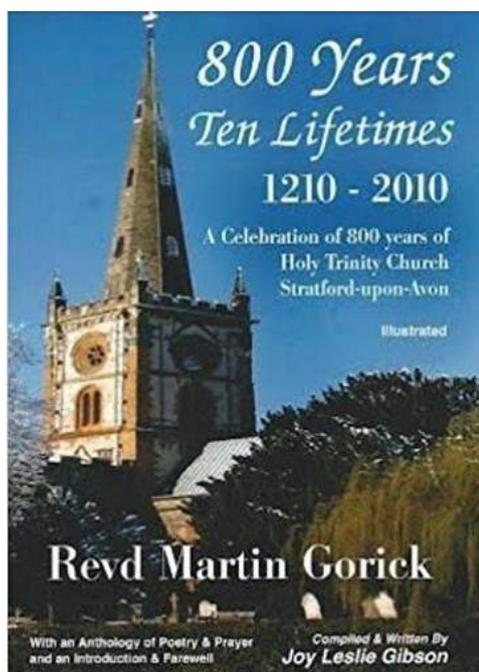
In 1986 Joy published her biography of Ian McKellen.

Later Joy completed an Open University degree in philosophy, and followed this up with an M.A. in Renaissance Studies at Sussex University. Not content with her achievements, she undertook an M.Phil. on Elizabethan Boy Players, that resulted in her book *Squeaking Cleopatras*, published in 2000.



While still living in London, Joy completed an M.Litt. at the Shakespeare Institute on Elizabethan Costume, and this enjoyable experience persuaded her to retire to Stratford eighteen years ago. The warm friendships and camaraderie she found at the Shakespeare Institute have become like a family to her.

Joy quickly became a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity Church, enjoying our wonderful music. She also became involved with Reverend Martin Gorick's 2013 book, *800 Years 10 Lifetimes: 1210–2010*, based on a series of Martin's sermons where Joy matched each sermon with appropriate spiritual writings of the time, and poetry ranging from William Wordsworth to T S Eliot.



Due to ill health, Joy cannot attend Holy Trinity Church at the moment, but she is grateful to receive Holy Communion at home from members of the clergy. She hopes to return to Holy Trinity soon, as she particularly misses the music.





As well as her academic talents, and her multiple interests in theatre, fashion, spirituality and philosophy, I asked Joy if she had any other interests. "Well" she says "I have always been passionate about politics. In London I worked as a researcher for three different Members of Parliament". There seems to be no end to Joy's interests and abilities!

Photographs of Joy
by
John Robertson
www.jr.photos.com

Judith



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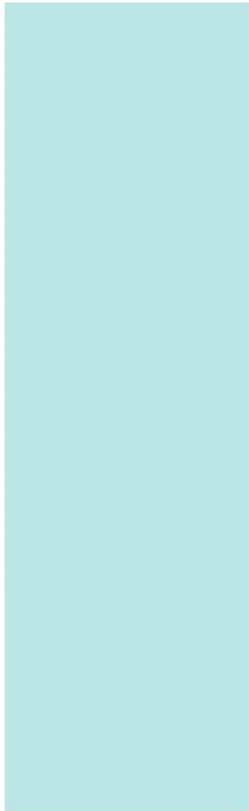
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TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade

There will be a Traidcraft Stall in the Parish Centre after the 10.00am Service on **Sunday December 10th**. This is a chance to pick up an original gift for Christmas, some delicious chocolate, or some basic groceries, knowing that their producers in developing countries have received proper payment for their work.

Holy Trinity Church Shop



Come and see our range of Advent Calendars and Candles, Christmas Cards, Tree Baubles, Gloves and Scarves, and Holy Trinity Umbrellas.

Don't forget there's a **10% discount** for members of the congregation





Remembering Jim Dawes

Nigel Penn

Jim was born on September 17th 1921 locally in Alveston, as Charles Edward but all of us will have known him as Jim. His grandmother called him Jumbo as a baby which became Jimbo soon after and finally Jim. Charles had been the name of all first born male Dawes for several generations. Jim attended primary school in Tiddington and then went on to King Edward VI grammar school here in Stratford. Whilst at school he showed an aptitude for sports, playing cricket for the school's first XI and football for Newbold.

In 1938, aged 17, Jim enlisted with the Royal Air Force, where he trained as a Radio Technician at RAF Cranwell before being posted overseas during the Second World War, spending time in Ethiopia, the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, and then in Berlin after the war had ended. While Jim was in the RAF, he played football in an RAF Team alongside professional and international players.

It was during Jim's time in the RAF that he met Morfydd. He had at this time been working at RAF Brawdy in Pembrokeshire. Within six weeks he had proposed and Morfydd accepted. Jim decided to buy himself out of his remaining years of service so he could return to his native Warwickshire with his new wife. Football was still an important part of Jim's life and he was playing regularly for Alveston prior to becoming Captain.

On leaving the RAF Jim joined his father in his Bee Keeping and Honey producing business. Every jar of honey produced had a label saying "Pure Honey from Charles Dawes and Son". The son, of course, was Jim. It is interesting to note they attended about 300 hives spread over the adjacent Counties in small colonies tucked away at the back of Farmers fields. August was always a busy month for Jim and his two sons Jonathan and Philip, who would help with the honey extraction. The honey business was very weather dependent and often quite difficult financially but in the early sixties a bumper honey crop allowed Jim to pay off the mortgage on the house. He decided to sell the hives and bee keeping equipment and turn his woodworking hobby into a professional business restoring antique furniture.

At his home in Banbury Road, Jim enlarged his garden shed into a full sized workshop with insulation and a small space heater so he could work all year round. Jim spent many happy hours there and Morfydd had a little buzzer fixed up so she could signal him when it was time to come down to the house. Jim eventually passed all his wood working qualities on to his son Jonathan who was then able to establish his own restoration business. Jim was very generous with his time and talents while serving at Holy Trinity Church, using his wood working skills on the many different projects we see today in addition to the many crosses and fruit bowls that Jim made for sale in the shop. Jim would not accept one penny for any of the wooden items he made.



Jim and Morfydd were regular active members of St James Church in Stratford and transferred over to Holy Trinity after the demolition of St James in the 1960s.



During his lifetime Jim was a member of the PCC, and a Churchwarden and Stewardship Secretary for many years. When Morfydd's health deteriorated Jim decided straight away that she had to remain at home and he would do what ever was needed to look after her. He became head cook and bottle-washer. One of the first things Jim had to do was to learn how to cook, and according to Jonathan he produced some very interesting meals.

Approximately six years ago, a decision was made to sell the property in Banbury Road and move to Ashbrittle in Somerset, to be close to Jonathan and his wife Janet. Early in 2017 Morfydd was moved to a nursing home in Wellington where she is being well looked after with regular visits from Jonathan and Janet.

Jim passed away very peacefully on March 24th at the age of 95.

Jim's ashes were interred in Alveston Churchyard alongside his parents on the 20th August 2017. Over twenty of our Parishioners were present, as seen in the photograph below.



On behalf of all the family I would like to say a big thank you for the many cards and letters of support we received, from parishioners and friends at Holy Trinity, following Dad's passing earlier this year.

It was also wonderful to see such support at Alveston when Dad's ashes were interred back in August.

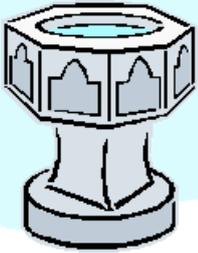
I would also like to say a special thank you to Nigel Penn who took the effort to make a weekly phone call to Mum & Dad and share all the local church news, it was much appreciated by them.

Mum and Dad talked often and greatly missed what is obviously a wonderful 'church family' at Holy Trinity.

Thank you all so much.

Jon Dawes

From the November Registers...



Baptisms

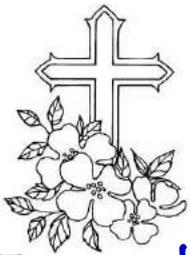
Omitted from the October Register
October 15th Caleb William Butler

November 19th Thoren Morgan Burton

17th Jacob Rudge and Victoria Evans



Weddings



Funerals

3rd Mandy Ann Malins

20th Anthony Charles Jackson (Clifford Chambers)

25th Janet Matthews

30th Christine James

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Ann's Kitchen



*This month I thought something different,
so here we go!*

Panettone and Apricot Marsala Trifle

Choose a standard panettone, not chocolate, and a good apricot jam. This can be made several hours ahead, or overnight in the fridge - just finish it off with the cream and chocolate on the day you plan to eat it. It will serve 6 greedy people.

For the custard. 600mls single cream. 6 large egg yolks. 75g caster sugar. 4 tablespoons Marsala, or sweet cream sherry.

1 small panettone, thinly sliced. 1 450g jar best apricot jam.

To finish. 300mls double cream. 75g dark chocolate, coarsley grated (hold the chocolate in a double thickness of foil to prevent it melting, then shave with a potato peeler).

First make the custard. Put the cream into a saucepan over a moderate heat until it is steaming-be careful not to let it boil, meanwhile, beat together the egg yolks and the caster sugar, then stir in the cream. Cook the custard by putting the bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and stirring until the custard thickens, takes about 30 minutes. When the custard has thickened, stir in the alcohol. Leave to cool.

Spread each slice of panettone with the jam and lay some over the the base of the serving dish. Pour a little of the custard over just enough to coat the panettone. Cover with the rest of the rest of the panettone, and the remaining custard. Cover with clingfilm and keep in the frig overnight.

To finish, cover with whipped cream and shavings of dark chocolate.

Hope you enjoy.

Ann

*A very happy Christmas and
New Year*



The Remembering Tree

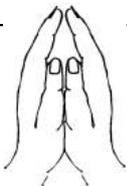
The Remembering Tree is returning to Stratford upon Avon, and their Woollen Winter Wonderland to Holy Trinity. You may have seen over the past 4 years, a tree being wrapped up warm for the winter months in the centre of town, and last year you couldn't miss the splash of colour in the church yard. This was the work of your local international children's charity GAGA UK (registered charity number 1092028).

GAGA UK (Goodwill and Growth for Africa) have been yarn bombing since they were inspired by a project they support in South Africa. They raise both funds and awareness for their work supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa. The Remembering Tree last year raised over £2,000 for GAGA UK; funds which had a huge impact on those in Africa. These funds allowed them to cover the costs for a class of 30 children to access primary education in rural Tanzania.

The Remembering Tree brings together the community of Stratford and beyond. The tree gives people space and time to reflect and celebrate all the colours of life.

The Remembering Tree offers a unique way to let people know you love them and to remember those who are no longer here. It's about celebration, remembrance and charity; three things synonymous with Christmas. You can donate in celebration or memory of a loved one online

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/TRT2017>



Contemplative Prayer Group

This group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre Lounge for a time of silent prayer, followed by a time to talk. Plus refreshments.

Everyone is welcome

Contacts: The Revd. Jenny Rowland 01789 415548

Tricia Hall-Matthews 01789 414182

Cupcakes for Kids



Photos: John Burgess

At a recent FAB Service the children decorated a large number of cupcakes that were later sold at coffee in aid of **The Children's Society**.



“ Shall I, or shan't I ? “

Beatrice Taylor very much in charge of Cupcake sales.



The Merry Wives of Windsor

Tues. 16th January to Tues. 27th March

10.00-12.00 a.m.

10 Week course - £70.00

Course led by Dr Lawrence Green

Associate Fellow, Renaissance Centre, Warwick University

The Methodist Centre, Old Town, opposite Holy Trinity Church.

For information see: www.shakespeare4alltime.com

OR phone 07506573333 and leave contact details.



Trinity Ladies

Revd Diane Patterson

“ We had some good times...”



We met on 15th November for our AGM, followed by more items ‘of sentimental value’, a raffle and tea and cake. At the meeting we looked back over the past year - we had some good times, some interesting speakers, a very wet outing! And enjoyed the hospitality of the Clifford Chambers Seniors at their garden party. We also looked ahead to 2018. Our charity tea in March will be in aid of *Springfield Mind* and we hope that Clifford Seniors will come to that.

Thanks were due to all our committee members for all they do so willingly, not forgetting Joan Forbes and Edith Brooks who run the raffle every month. Gina Lodge has been doing two jobs since our treasurer Val Milburn moved to Cheltenham during the summer. Diane Edwards will be our new treasurer and Anne Blair and Jean Barron will head the refreshments team in her place.

Subscriptions are due at our January meeting and will remain at £5. However, members are now asked to pay 50p when they sign in for each meeting, to allow us to pay for more speakers at our meetings.

Our next meeting will be our **Carol Service with Revd Steve Jarvis at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 20th December** and we hope to see all our members and friends and any visitors then. The service will be followed by our Christmas raffle and tea and mince pies.

Before the raffle and tea, several members had brought items of sentimental value to show. Among others - a ruby ring, a ruby wedding gift from a friend and a book she had written, a tea set used at a traditional tea ceremony to celebrate a daughter’s wedding, a lovebirds brooch, a 21st birthday gift from a boyfriend, now husband, a silver cross bringing poignant memories of a son and lastly, tiny figures of a woman and a teddy bear, gifts from a friend.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members at any of our meetings.

Come along whenever you can.



In March 2018

Diane



Christmas is Coming!

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers

Sarah Crang



The festive season draws on apace... and with the end of the year approaching, thoughts quickly turn to the year that is to come! The newly formed charity, The Friends of St. Helen's, are selling Christmas cards with wonderful winter scenes, and a 2018 Calendar featuring photographs from the parish of Clifford Chambers. The cards are sold in packs of 10 with two beautiful snowy scenes ([see below](#)) and are priced at £5 per pack. The colourful calendar makes an interesting and useful Christmas present, and is priced at £6; an envelope is also included for those wanting to post them to people further afield! Both are stocked at Holy Trinity Church Shop. Please show your support... it is much appreciated!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



The Social Team

Held their first meeting on October 18th.

The Team

Martin and Kate Corfield: corfield.151@hotmail.com Tel: 294683

Hazel Tattersall: hazeltattersall@gmail.com Tel: 298846

Christine Cottrell: cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com Tel: 204273

Clare Bentall: clare.bentall@talk21.com

Building on the positive outcome of the Parish weekend and working within the parish vision of “Lives changed through God’s love”, the team has established three principal aims: to deepen existing relationships, to connect across groups within the church family and to enable outreach.

As well as supporting jointly organised events, such as the **Epiphany Party on January 6th (see page 44)** we are planning a **cheese and wine supper in May**, a **Parish picnic in July** and, if these have been well attended, possibly a **ceilidh in October for Harvest**. Do let us know if these events would interest you.

As the team sees its role as primarily non-profit making, we would not be able to offer our services for fundraising events but may be able to help on other occasions. Any money that accrued from one of the Social Team’s event would be used towards any future ventures.

We will need a bank of volunteers on whom we can call to help with the actual running (and clearing away!) of social events. Please contact any member of the team if you feel you could help with this. We look forward to hearing from you!



Chris Cottrell

&

The Team



Epiphany Party

Sat 6th Jan 5.00—7.00pm Parish Centre



The first event being organised by the social team is an Epiphany Party. A chance to cast off the January blues as we spend time together as the whole church family. It's a bring and share supper, just bring a plate of food and we'll put them together on a table to make a buffet. There will also be games, the chance to make your own crown and a special rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas. People are invited to bring a favourite board game to play with others. There is no charge for this event, bring your own drink either alcoholic or non-alcoholic (tea & coffee will be available on the night).

To help us prepare for the event, it would be helpful to have an idea of the number of people coming. There are sign-up sheets at services in Holy Trinity and the Parish Centre, if you could add your name to the list and put whether you're bringing sweet or savoury food.

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The Players, along with some of the Choristers, will read and sing the main parts but you are all invited to sing, hum, tap your feet as the Chorus. Words provided on screens.

You might like to come in Victorian costume; not compulsory but it helps us get into the Dickensian mood.

Saturday January 13th in the Parish Hall

7.30pm

**Tickets: £10 and £5 for children
available from the Church Shop**

**Ticket price includes a glass of wine or a soft drink
and light refreshments.**





Image: Old Postcards of Stratford c1890



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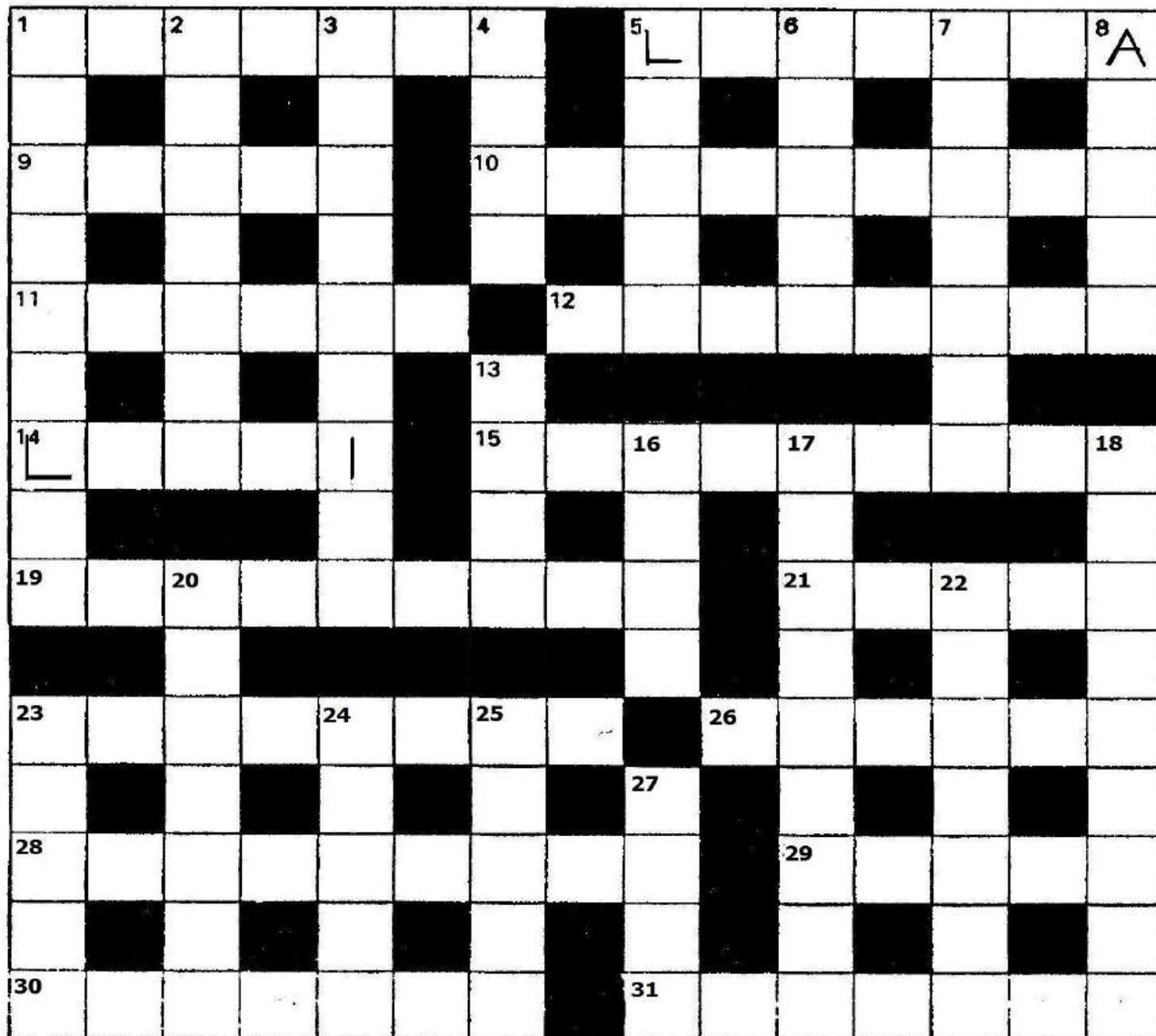
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A Crossword of Christmas Carols



A CROSSWORD OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Clues marked * indicate words missing from Christmas carols

CLUES ACROSS

1 Desiring (7) 5 Girl's name (7) 9 More pleasant (5) *10 ----- winter fuel (9) 11 Old Testament prophet in 2 Kings 4 (6) *12 Since our ----- made us glad (8) 14 Cloth used as loin cloth or turban (5) *15 And went to ----- straightway (9) *19 Say, ye holy -----, say (9) 21 Foundation (5) 23 Hated (8) 26 Got it! (6) *28 For lo! The days are ----- on (9) *29 Cast out our sin and -----in(5) 30 Abstains (7) *31 O Holy Child of Bethlehem, ----- to us, we pray(7)

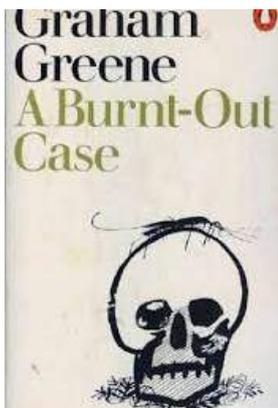
CLUES DOWN

*1 Good King ----- (9) 2 Part (7) *3 Thus spake the Seraph, and -----(9) *4 Bring me pine ----- hither (4) 5 Agile (5) *6 Angels and Archangels may have gathered ----- (5) *7 Join the ----- of the skies (7)

8 Wrath (5) 13 A type of ski-lift (1-3) 16 Job (4) 17 Workers (9) 18 Killed like the Innocents (9) 20 City famous for the Temple of Diana in Acts 19 (7) 22 Emblem of kingship (7) 23 Twinged (5) 4 Marsh grasses (5) 25 Sagas (5) 27 Old (4)

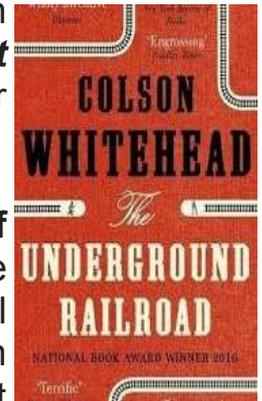
Compiled by David Ellis Answers on Next Page

Novel Theology



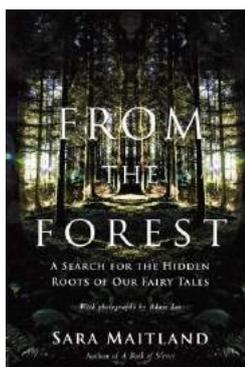
Just a reminder that at our next meeting in **December** we will be looking at **A Burnt-Out Case** - the best Graham Greene novel I have ever read (with hints of Conrad).

After that, we will meet again on the **4th of January** unless a lot of people are likely to be away or otherwise engaged. I note what Hazel has said about Thursday nights and we might soon need to review whether that really is the best night



for the majority. But for January I think we are agreed on **The Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead.

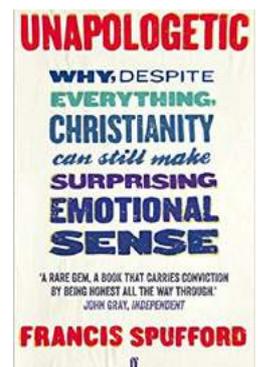
Beyond that, it's all up for grabs - one suggestion is to go back to Francis Spufford but to look at his non-fictional and indeed theological work **Unapologetic** (also in paperback, and on Kindle for only a fiver!). We may want more Drabble, either her most recent novel, or one of her earlier ones for contrast - and/or it has been suggested that, following up **The Seven Sisters**, we might find a decent translation of the **Aeneid**! It occurs to me that another sort-of-theological piece of non-fiction, which we might look at sometime, is Sara Maitland's **Gossip from the Forest**. Other nominations welcome, and I am sure that we'd be more than happy to draw on Paul's knowledge of French and other European fiction, provided again that a decent translation is easily available.



If you want more information or have ideas please contact me...

Anthony Woollard

01789 204923



SOLUTION TO CHRISTMAS CAROLS CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Wishful 5 Letitia 9 Nicer 10 Gathering 11 Elisha 12 Redeemer 14 Lungi 15 Bethlehem 19 Shepherds 21 Basis 23 Abhorred 26 Eureka 28 Hastening 29 Enter 30 Desists 31 Descend

DOWN 1 Wenceslas 2 Section 3 Forthwith 4 Logs 5 Lithe 6 There 7 Triumph 8 Anger 13 T-Bar 16 Task 17 Labourers 18 Massacred 20 Ephesus 22 Sceptre 23 Ached 25 Epics 27 Aged



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Parish Contacts:

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Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org; Tel: 01789 266316

***New to the Parish? Contact the Welcome Team via the
Parish Office—01789 266316***

Clergy & Ministry Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508155
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 266316
Curate	The Revd Kay Dyer	01789 266316
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	01789 266316

Director of Music—Benedict Wilson 01789 266316



Assistant Ministers (Hon)

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The Revd Margaret Sweet	01789 297395	The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415548
The Revd Canon John Graty	01789 298856	The Revd Graham Wilcox,	01789 551759
The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414182	The Revd. Canon Andrew Dow	01789 417852

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Parish Secretaries: Sue Holt & Helen Holland 01789 266316;

Parish Assistant: Rebecca Rumsey 01789 266316;

Bookkeeper - Wendy Steinheimer - 266316

Gift Shop - Heather White - 01789 264598

Church Wardens

Hilda Craig - 01789 551234

Lynne Bunker - 01926 642054

Tim Raistrick - 01789 509885

Mike Warrillow - 01789 298928

Village Wardens All Saints, Luddington - *Vacant* (Paul Stanton, PCC member)

St Helens, Clifford Chambers - Ann Simons 01789 261558 and Pauline Newbury 01789 415603

Baptism Team - Phil Harper 01789 266316

Bell Ringers - Charles Wilson - 01789 295467

Bereavement Support Team Gina Lodge

01789 204850

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Trinity Ladies - Revd Diane Patterson 01789 266453

Electoral Roll Officer Tim Raistrick

01789 509885

Parish Assistant

Rebecca

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Friends of Shakespeare's Church—TBA

Holy Trinity in the Community Steve Jarvis

01789 266316

Lay Chaplains & Parish Prayer Diary

Andrea Blood 01789 266825

PCC Secretary

Miriam Dow

01789 417852

PCC Treasurer

Anthony Woollard

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Friends of the Music Rohan Stewart-MacDonald

07876 798654

Home Communion

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Stewardship Officer

Chris Kennedy

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Trinity Players

Ursula Russell

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