

December 2018/January 2019

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



TRINITY TIMES



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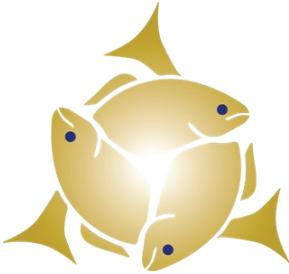
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Editorial

This edition of Trinity Times takes us through Christmas and the New Year. Do have a look at all the different Christmas services on offer and perhaps try an extra one that normally you would not attend.

Please note that views expressed in Trinity Times are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parochial Church Council.

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The next magazine will be the

FEBRUARY 2019 edition.

The last date for copy is 11 January 2019.

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



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Loving Angels Instead

Any crib service or school nativity play wouldn't be complete without a good sprinkling of angels, perhaps wearing costumes made from net curtains, with wire coat hanger wings and haloes made from silver tinsel! Angels of course play a key part in the Christmas story. Think of Gabriel visiting Mary, the appearance to shepherds abiding in their fields and Joseph's dream in which an angel warns him about the imminent danger from Herod. Angels appear in many of our most popular carols. There's *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* of course, but don't forget other lines such as 'Sing, choirs of angels...' from *O Come, all ye faithful* and my favourite, from *O Little Town of Bethlehem*: 'While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love'.

Nowadays we don't just do angels at Christmas. They are now well established in popular culture. For example, Robbie Williams' well known song *Angels* with its rousing chorus, 'And through it all/she offers me protection/a lot of love and affection/whether I'm right or wrong'.

The idea that each of us has a guardian angel has its roots in Judaism and we see it also in the New Testament. Angels surround Jesus at critical moments in his life, for example when, after he had been tempted in the wilderness, angels came and cared for him (Matthew 4. 11)

The author Salley Vickers, who wrote, 'Miss Garnet's Angel' has a broad vision of what angels are about. Angels, she has said, are ways of giving form and shape to those moments in human life when something mysterious happens which cannot quite be accounted for, but nevertheless gives some kind of significance or meaning to human life.

Of course, angels are also messengers (it's what the word means) and this is the role they play in the Christmas story. They are a go-between, connecting humans with the divine, delivering messages and words of encouragement ('do not be afraid' is how their message often begins).

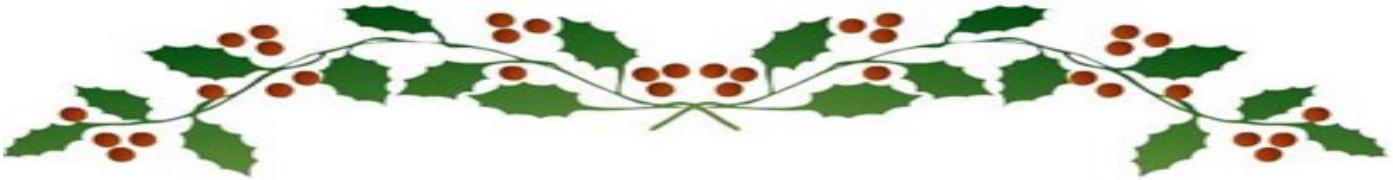
Whilst we celebrate at Christmas the important role of angels in connecting us to the divine beyond us, the ultimate message of Christmas is that we have no need for an intermediary between us and God: Jesus came to us as *God himself*. Jesus is so much more than a messenger. He's not been sent from God, he *is God*. And so our need for angels in a sense is made redundant (but they're still handy to have around). Jesus is 'born the King of Angels' as the carol *O come all ye faithful* puts it.

As we prepare for our Christmas celebrations this year, may the message of the angels bring us to encounter in our lives the living presence of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Patrick

One of the angels in the nave at Holy Trinity. Photo: Felicity Howlett



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

CHRISTMAS EVE

A Service of Lessons and Carols - 3pm

(Doors open 2.15pm). Our highly popular traditional carol service.

Between the Lessons the choir sing beautiful Christmas music and lead the singing of the carols.

(This service is not suitable for very young children).

The Big Nativity - 5pm

An interactive crib service for families in which the amazing events in the stable are brought to life and we sing carols together.

Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite nativity character and join in if they wish.

Carols for All - 6.30pm

Break out the Christmas jumpers and join with us for an informal service of carols and Christmas readings.

(Please note the choir will not be singing at this service).

Midnight Mass - 11pm

(Doors open 10.15pm). Our first Eucharist of Christmas is a wonderful celebration of Holy Communion with plenty of candles!



CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion - 8am

A short service using traditional language with a few carols.
The perfect, peaceful start to your Christmas Day.

All Age Eucharist - 10am

This service of Holy Communion is for all the family, whatever your age!
With Christmas carols, crèche facilities for the younger ones and an interactive talk, it's a joyful celebration of Christmas for the whole community.

***Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord***



Trinity Times Annual Subscriptions 2019

If you are enjoying reading Trinity Times, why not take out an annual subscription to ensure that you don't miss any of the ten issues we plan to produce in 2019? Annual subscriptions run for the calendar year from January to December and, at only £8, represent an attractive saving of 20% on the full cover price.



If you would like to take out a new annual subscription, or renew an existing subscription, then please complete the inserted subscription form (forms are also available at the back of church or in the Parish Centre) and return this to the Parish Office in an envelope marked 'Trinity Times Subscription', along with your payment. Subscriptions can be paid in cash or by cheque, payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC. Alternatively, subscriptions can be handed to Paul Lageu or Carole Askew.

Subscribers can collect their named copy from the back of church each month. Alternatively, copies can be delivered within Stratford town. Whilst copies can be posted to subscribers, there is an additional charge of £1.26 per month to cover the cost of postage.

To ensure you don't miss the first Trinity Times of 2019, issued at the beginning of February, please pay your subscription no later than **Monday 21 January**.

If you have any queries regarding annual subscriptions then please contact Paul Lageu (01789 298302) or Carole Askew (01789 266940)



Epiphany Party with Beetle Drive
Saturday 5 January
Doors open 5pm
Parish Centre



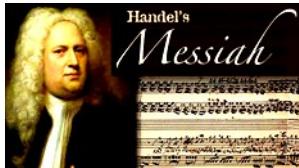
The Social Team are once again kicking off the new year with an Epiphany Party. It's a chance to cast off the January blues as we spend time together as the whole church family. This year we're having a Beetle Drive as part of the fun. For anyone imaging riding giant beetles I'm sorry to disappoint you, it's a fun game involving dice and a bit of drawing. For the food we're having a bring and share supper so just bring a plate of food and we'll put them together on a table to make a buffet; we are happy to receive any left-over Christmas goodies. There is no charge for this event, but bring your own drink either alcoholic or non-alcoholic.

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HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT CHRISTMAS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents Handel's Messiah on Saturday 15 December 2018 at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Music Director Stephen Dodsworth will conduct the Choir with professional soloists: -

Fleur Moore-Bridger, soprano; Sacha Fullerton, alto; James Atherton, tenor; Jimmy Holliday, bass; and the Regency Sinfonia. Benedict Wilson will play the continuo. The Choral Society was first formed in 1836 and shares with the Huddersfield Choral Society the accolade of being one of the oldest choral societies in the country.

For many Handel's Messiah heralds the start of the Christmas season, with its familiar, evocative and splendid music. It received its first performance in Dublin in 1742. Its enduring importance means that it has rarely been out of the Choral repertoire and it has been performed over the centuries in a variety of styles and editions.

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's 15 December Messiah concert tickets:

£15 (adults) or £8 (students) are available at **Holy Trinity Bookshop**; or phone 01608 682409; go to stratfordchoral.tickets@gmail.com or buy at the door on the night. Up to two children under 16 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult.

For further information, phone Carol Jackson on 01386 841440.

PEACE BABIES



Bassetts of Sheffield started to produce the novelty shaped candy in 1918.

It was believed that these sweets were called *Peace Babies* to mark the end of World War One, although the story has proved difficult to confirm.

Because of a shortage of materials the production was halted during World War Two - perhaps only fitting given the irony of their name! Manufacturing began again in 1953 when they were re-launched as *Jelly Babies* and became the popular sweets we know and love.

As a commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War One Maynards Bassetts have designed a special pack of *Peace Babies* to raise money for the charity "Help for Heroes" so that a second chance at life can be given to the injured and their families.



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Exciting works continue to conserve and showcase Stratford's hidden gems, led by the Town Trust, and backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund

*The Chapel is open daily
and is free to all,
we need volunteers
to help welcome
those visitors*

*Working in pairs, full training
will be given. Even 2 or 3 hours
a week would make a big difference.
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immerse yourself in history, meet
people from all over the world, and
be a part of something truly exciting*



For more information please contact:
pippa.brook@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk
01789 207117 | www.guildchapel.org.uk



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust is a registered charity number (1088521)

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER



Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 2 December - 1st Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Advent Carol Service

Parish Centre Trinity Centre@10

SUNDAY 9 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist with Baptism Candles and Trinity Voices

12 noon Baptisms

4pm Christingle

6.00pm *No service*

Parish Centre Trinity Centre@10

SUNDAY 16 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Rosebird Centre 10.00am HolyTrinity@Rosebird

SUNDAY 23 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4Thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP and Compline

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

SUNDAY 30 December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Congregational Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10



St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

SUNDAY 2 December 9.30am Family Worship

SUNDAY 9 December 9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16 December 9.30am Morning Worship

SUNDAY 23 December No am service - 6.30pm Carol Service

MONDAY 24 December 5.00pm - Christingle

SUNDAY 30 December No service



All Saints', Luddington

SUNDAY 2 December 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

SUNDAY 9 December 9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 16 December 9.30am Holy Communion

3.30pm - Christingle

SUNDAY 23 December No am service - 3.45pm Carol service

SUNDAY 30 December No service

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY



Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 6 January - Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Epiphany Service (Celtic)

Parish Centre Trinity Centre@10

SUNDAY 13 January - Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist with Baptism Candles

12 noon Baptisms

6.00pm Evensong

Parish Centre Trinity Centre@10

SUNDAY 20 January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Joint Service at Methodist Church

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Rosebird Centre 10.00am HolyTrinity@Rosebird

Methodist Church 6.00pm Open to God

SUNDAY 27 January - 4th Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4Thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP and Compline

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10



St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

SUNDAY 6 January 9.30am Family Worship

SUNDAY 13 January 9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 January 9.30am Morning Worship

SUNDAY 27 January Holy Communion Traditional



All Saints', Luddington

SUNDAY 6 January 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

SUNDAY 13 January 9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 20 January 9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 27 January 9.30am Holy Communion

FROM THE REGISTERS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

28 October
25 November
25 November

27 October

29 October
6 November
9 November
19 November

Christenings
Dexter Webb
Haden Chalmers
Ada Holmes

Weddings
Gavin Walters and Katherine Walker

Funerals
Hannah (Betty) Southwood
Jane Suckling
John Search
David Rouse



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Christmas Eve

3.00pm A Service of Lessons & Carols

Led by the Choir (*Doors open 2.15pm. Not suitable for very young children*)

5.00pm The Big Nativity

A family-friendly service. (*Children welcome to dress as a nativity character*)

6.30pm Carols for All

An informal service of carols and Christmas readings

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Our first Eucharist of Christmas, with the choir (*Doors open at 10.15pm*)

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion with carols

10.00am Christmas Day All Age Eucharist

A joyful celebration of Christmas for the whole community

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

23 December - 6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 5.00pm Christingle Service

Christmas Day - 9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist



All Saints', Luddington

23 December - 3.45pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 7.45pm Carols on the Green

Christmas Day - 9.30am Christmas Day Euchrist





THE FAVOURITE CAROL IS...



For the last few weeks we've been running a poll to find out people's favourite carol and the results are in. Overall we had 143 votes for 44 different carols (and a couple of Christmas songs sneaked in) but there was one clear winner. There were lots of different reasons for a carol being a favourite, sometimes it was because of the lyrics or tune, for others it was memories it evoked. Below are the results from different congregations and the combined votes to give an overall winner. Also some of the reasons for choosing the carols.

Holy Trinity

In The Bleak Midwinter	14
O Come All Ye Faithful	10
Away In A Manger	9
Silent Night	8
O Holy Night	8
Hark The Herald Angels Sing	7
O Little Town Of Bethlehem	6
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear	5
Once In Royal David's City	4
O Come O Come Emmanuel	3
Ding Dong Merrily On High	2
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	2
Joy To The World	2
Merry Christmas Everybody (Slade)	2
The Holly & The Ivy	2

The carols below only received one vote each:

A Great And Mighty Wonder, Adam Lay Y Bounden,
All I Want For Christmas Is You, Christians Awake!
Share The Happy Morn, Coventry Carol, It Was On A
Starry Night, Jesus Christ The Apple Tree, Jingle Bells,
Mistletoe And Wine, Riu Riu Chiu, See Amid The
Winter's Snow, Stille Nacht, People Look East, The
Twelve Days Of Christmas, The Shepherd's Pipe Carol,
This Christmas Time, This Endris Night, Veni Vidi Vici,
We Three Kings, We Wish You A Merry Christmas.



Clifford Chambers

Away In A Manger	2
Hark The Herald Angels Sing	2
O Little Town Of Bethlehem	2
Silent Night	2

One vote each for:

Good King Wenceslas, It Came Upon A Midnight Clear,
Once In Royal David's City, We Three Kings.

Luddington

O Little Town Of Bethlehem	3
Hark The Herald Angels Sing	2
In The Bleak Midwinter	2
Silent Night	2

One vote each for:

Angels From The Realms Of Glory, Brightest And Best
Are The Sons Of The Morning, It Came Upon A Mid-
night Clear, O Come All Ye Faithful, The Angel Gabriel
From Heaven Came.

HolyTrinity@Rosebird

We had thirteen votes from our service at the Rosebird Centre and each was for a different carol:

Away In A Manger, Child In The Manger Born, Hark The Herald Angels Sing, In The Bleak Midwinter, Jingle Bells, Little Donkey, O Christmas Tree, O Come All Ye Faithful, O Little Town Of Bethlehem, See Him Lying In A Bed Of Straw, Silent Night, Three Kings From Persian Lands Afar, We Three Kings.

Social Media

We also ran a poll on Facebook and Twitter, but as we could only have two options, people voted on the two carols which had the most votes at the halfway point.

In The Bleak Midwinter 29 votes

Hark The Herald Angels Sing 24 votes

The Winning Carols are:



In The Bleak Midwinter	18
Silent Night	13
Away In A Manger	12
O Come All Ye Faithful	12
Hark The Herald Angels Sing	12
O Little Town Of Bethlehem	12
O Holy Night	9
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear	7
Once In Royal David's City	5
O Come O come Emmanuel	3
We Three Kings	3



But what reasons did people give for choosing different carols?

In The Bleak Midwinter

"It reminds me of walking to the Church Christmas services, many years ago, with family and friends and laughing" (Zoe)

"The words; it relates to the season and gives one time to reflect" (anon)

"The last verse is so humbling 'yet what I can I give him: give my heart.' Essence of Christmas and Goodwill." (Caroline)

O Holy Night

"I like the light into darkness theme and the way that both words and music express surprise and joy (anon)

"Beautiful Melody line with the story of the Nativity told in a meaningful way." (Kate)

O Come All Ye Faithful

"It was always the final hymn at my School Carol Service when I was in the choir.

We sang it in Latin (Adeste Fideles) and it spurred me onto study Latin at University and helped shape my future career and interests." (Joanna)

"A rousing tune and I love the build up in the chorus." (Paul)



O Little Town of Bethlehem

"First heard when I was very young at my first school." (David)

"Mum's favourite, so always being sung around the house at Christmas." (Rebekah)

Away In A Manger

"After many years of teaching it was the one carol that all children seemed to know." (Jill)

"I love its tender words. At infant school it was the first carol that I learnt all the words by heart" (Carole)

"My Nana taught me to play this on the piano when I was younger - it was her favourite." (Sue)

We Three Kings

"Because I do!!" (Lucy, aged 4)



ALL SAINTS' NEWS

Preparations for the Christmas season are underway at Luddington. Plans are being made for a Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Saturday 8 December with the proceeds being given to the Children's Society. We are hoping to have a small workshop for children to help make Christingles in readiness for our Christingle Service on the 16 December at 3.30pm, which is a change to the date advertised in the last Trinity Times.

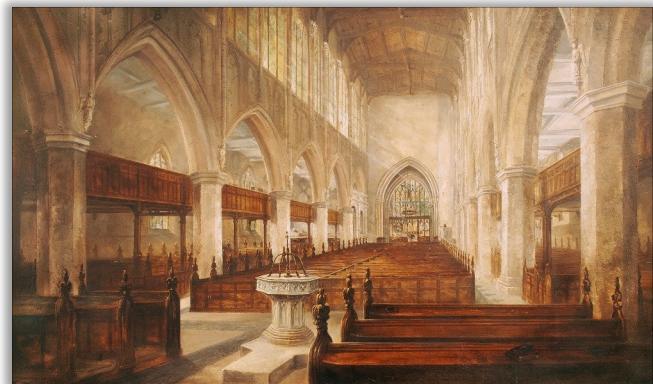


Photo of painting by Harry Lomax

MUSICAL CHAIRS OVER THE CENTURIES

Coming into Holy Trinity Church, we see a central aisle, chairs and pews and the beautiful organ pipe above the crossing. But did it always look like this? The answer, of course, is no, as there have been many alterations over the centuries. In fact, in medieval times, there was no church furniture as the congregation stood for services.

A water-colour painting by Charles Barber from about 1835 shows white-washed walls, unadorned glass and choir stalls with no canopies. However, two years later the church was described as having "a broken, noxious and wet floor.... green damp, timbers mildewing.... a scene of tasteless patchwork and miserable economy" (Warwick Advertiser 1837).

Obviously this state of affairs needed remedying, and a Shakespeare committee was set up, raising over £1000. This sum, however, was not enough for the much-needed renovations and every local ratepayer was required to contribute to the costs - records show that some parishioners paid up very reluctantly, or even refused! Altogether, in 1840, an extra £3000 was raised through these church rates.

The beautiful Victorian painting pictured, hangs on the west wall, at the back of church and was painted about 1840 after these remedial works. There was new roofing, a new pulpit and the organ was moved to the west end of the church (not visible in the painting). In this picture, we can admire the light oak central pews, with their carved poppy heads, and the square "horse boxes" at the sides. There were two galleries running high up over the side aisles with a staircase each side for access. The font in the foreground was called the "new font" and is a copy of the broken original one.

The work must have been completed very quickly because in June 1841 there was a ceremony, including a performance of Haydn's "Creation", to celebrate the new position of the organ. Victorian fashions of worship changed over the decades, and in 1886 the side galleries and the oak pews were removed, while the organ was moved from the north-west corner to its present position above the tower arch.

Even our 18th century candelabrum has been moved around the church! In the early 1800's it hung at the west end of the nave, then in 1900 it was recorded as being in the north transept, but in recent years it has hung majestically in the central crossing.

Now our aim is to conserve and enhance our fragile medieval building for future generations.



Judith Dorricott



"The empty church"
by Felicity Howlett





**When they saw the
star they rejoiced
exceedingly with
great joy**

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

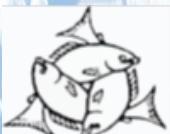
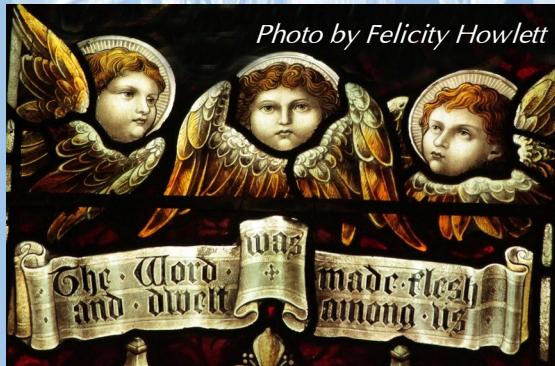
***Behold, the Lamb of
God, who takes
away the sin of the
world***

photo by Felicity Howlett

*Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom
his favour rests.*

with love this Christmas time from

Dallin and Peter Chapman Brenda and Paul Lageu Anne Blair Mary Wells
Jill and Colin McDowall Kate and Martin Corfield Cilla and John Burgess
Diane Edwards Margaret and Graham Wilcox Kay and Roy Dyer Joan Forbes
Gloria and Peter Mole Andrea Blood Sian Wade Julie Sprake Beryl Dyke
Pam and Philip Cheshire Angela Moorhouse Tricia and John Hall-Matthews
Sheila Wolstenholme Nik and John Rothwell Shirley and Jack Crimp Janet Cheal
Frederica Reynolds Margaret Edwards and Family Nigel and Catherine Penn
Ann Morgan Christine and Bryan Cottrell and Family Jacqueline Salmon
Jenny and Peter Rowland Helen and Mike Warrillow Bobbie Pearce Eve Archer
Faith and Ron Piper Graham Poole and Jan Walker Jo Lytton Stella Webley
Hazel and Chris Tattersall Diane and Alan Patterson Hilda and Jonathan Craig
Judy and Paul Standing Heather and Geoff Bridgewater Pat Wood
Anne and John Graty June Bond Lillian and Graham Hopkins John Rees
Patrick, Laura, Beatrice and Edmund Taylor Gina and Roy Lodge Geoffrey Lees
Rena and Ken Kelly David Wilson Margaret and John Sullivan Carol Campbell
Marjorie and John Revans Tina and Keith Hillyard Carole and Rodney Askew
Gillian Nunn Katy Healey Ann Harding Marilyn Shorey Gill Price
Pat Pilton Phil Harper Patricia Jackson
Felicity Howlett





THERE BUT NOT THERE



These seated silhouettes are a commemorative installation to the fallen of the First World War, as part of a project by the charity - Remembered - called "There But Not There".

The aims of the project are simple:

To **Commemorate** the Fallen. Highlighting the sacrifices made by so many through silhouette installations around the country.

To **Educate** all generations, particularly today's younger generation, to understand what led to the deaths of 888,246 people from Britain and The Commonwealth.

To help **Heal** those suffering from the hidden wounds of post-traumatic stress disorder and other lasting legacies of combat, by raising funds for our beneficiary charities.



Felicity Howlett

The seated silhouettes in church return those of the fallen to the spaces they left behind.



John Burgess



Harry Lomax





REPORT FROM PCC MEETING 13 NOVEMBER

by Anthony Woollard

The PCC met in November with a seriously full agenda, of which the centerpiece was the draft budget for 2019, presented by Mike Warrillow who takes over as Treasurer at the beginning of the new year. Mike gave a full presentation on where the church's money comes from and where it goes, which was widely appreciated.

The money coming in for the care and administration of the church building and its management as a visitor attraction, he explained, was enough for the time being, though we might have to spend well over half a million in the next few years. But there was definitely not enough available (mainly from regular giving) for our

mission and ministry as a parish church. In fact, his budget for this, based on current trends and expectations, would involve a £20,000 loss in 2019, eating up virtually all the available reserves. And, unless there was a determined effort to increase income and/or reduce expenditure quite significantly, there was no reason to believe that this would improve in 2020 or beyond. What was needed most of all was a change of CULTURE, in which not just giving was encouraged, but also more efficient use of resources, and, not least, a rebuilding of the culture of volunteering and not assuming that paid staff should do more and more.

The PCC agreed. Many church members, it was felt, had little understanding of the realities, and some perhaps thought that money still came from the Church Commissioners and/or from a few rich parishioners as had been the case in the past.

We discussed other forms of fundraising, but noted that there was a limit to that possibility, especially when money was also being raised for specific projects (see below). Better co-ordination was needed. The PCC agreed to have a specific item on the agenda of every future meeting, to look at where money could be raised or saved in particular areas of the church's life. They noted that a freeze on staff recruitment had already been imposed. They then agreed the budget, not as a strict indicator of planned income and expenditure, but as an indicator of where income needed to be increased and/or spending more strictly controlled.

Among the projects within the Five Year Plan which were discussed separately were:

The proposed replacement of church chairs – now under consultation – to be paid for by separate fundraising.

The need for improved audio-visual equipment in the Parish Centre, not only for worship and meetings but also perhaps for outside lets which might earn extra income – again to be paid for by separate fundraising and technically supported by volunteers.

The reopening of the Ken Kennett Centre in the north-west of the parish, where a regular toddler group and coffee morning had now been successfully launched; this would all be partly self-financing, but some money would be needed from the new Mission Fund drawn from the proceeds of the church shop.

The re-starting of youth work, with an initial gathering attended by 19 young people, and plans for regular events in the new year.

And, finally, a new enquirers course, due to meet initially for ten Monday evenings beginning in January, and based off the premises in an attractive venue on the Hospital site; this would have some cost implications but it was hoped that the money could be found from external sources.

The last item of the evening was a warm vote of thanks to all those who had helped to make the Armistice commemorations so moving.

Holy Trinity at Ken Kennett Centre



The long-awaited re-opening of Stratford's Ken Kennett Centre took place on Sat 3 November following a major refurbishment. £40,000 has been invested in the centre, installing new windows, flooring, kitchen, boiler, a new accessible front entrance and toilet facilities.

Cllr Jason Fojtik, as chair of the Clopton Community Action Group, with Dominic Skinner, WCC officers, local residents and members of Holy Trinity clergy team have worked tirelessly to make this happen, so that residents have finally got their community centre back.

This offers an excellent opportunity for members of the Holy Trinity congregation to work with myself, Revd Diane Patterson and Phil Harper to bring children's work, and a drop-in "Coffee Stop" into being on Tuesday mornings.

The "Coffee Stop" had its first opening on Tuesday 13 November, and will be held weekly on Tuesdays between 11am-12.15pm.

For more information, or to have a conversation about ways to volunteer with outreach at the Ken Kennett Centre, please speak to the Associate Vicar!

The Revd Steve Jarvis

Photos by Roy Dyer.



LAY CHAPLAINS

Let's face it, the overwhelming majority of visitors to our church during the week come to see Shakespeare's grave. There are, however, some who come for a time of quiet, a time of contemplation, of prayer, often at those times when their lives are difficult, when they are suffering in some way, when someone close to them is ill, or who has died.

There are, at strategic times during the week, **LAY CHAPLAINS** on duty in our church, wearing distinctive green robes. They are there for any who need emotional or spiritual support, someone to be with them, to listen to their troubles which, opened up to a sympathetic stranger, can sometimes be eased.

The **LAY CHAPLAINS** are ordinary members of the church, prepared and guided in their work, but not formally *trained* or *ordained*, just people prepared to spend a couple of hours a fortnight to be available for any who are in need of support.

We, the **LAY CHAPLAINS**, are always open to any who might feel called to join us in our work. To find out more about who we are or what we do, please seek any one of us out and talk to us.

*Anne Blair, Martin Corfield, Jean Cornick-Loquens, Pat Jackson,
Keith Payne, Elizabeth Roome, James Sorel-Cameron, Paul Talbot*

Retreats at Belmont Abbey

Belmont Abbey is three miles out of Hereford and surrounded by glorious countryside.

We "found" the retreats when Felicity won an overnight stay in a small hotel in the Abbey grounds, which is also the retreat house; how prosaic! We booked onto a retreat, not

sure what to expect, found "our corner of Heaven" and have been going back about every three months!

The welcome, peace, spirituality, and deepening of understanding of our faith is beyond measure. It is truly beautiful in every sense of the word. Everyone is made to feel at home, and there is always someone from the community available if anyone wants to talk. Most retreats are quiet but not silent, and there is fellowship and laughter too!



You may attend all, or none, of the services and Divine Offices. We don't get up for 6.30am Matins and Lauds, but join in all the others. The gentle chanting of the monks sets the tone around our days. There are two day or

three day retreats, a programme of one day retreats, and a silent Lent retreat. Topics are wide ranging, each predicated around a topic for Meditation. "The Spiritual Meaning of the Liturgy": "The Witness of the Beloved Disciple": "The Human Side of the Saints": "I Call you Friends" to name but a few. Art, music, poetry, literature are all used in the group, and there is time for questions and discussions.

We went on a lovely retreat led by Revd. Dr. Paul Edmondson, "Looking for God in Shakespeare", and he also presided at an Anglican Eucharist to which some of our Roman Catholic friends, including our Retreat Director, came. We then joined the group at Mass. It was a happy Ecumenical occasion. The Roman Catholics fell in love with "our" Book of Common Prayer, and were overjoyed to hear the same prayers in both services.

We are returning to the Abbey for the Advent Retreat, "Waiting in Joyful Hope", and by then we will have booked onto the next year's programme. Paul is returning in 2020 to lead another retreat.

Photos by Felicity Howlett

Anne Blair

Contemplative Prayer Group

Come and join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre Lounge for talk and refreshments followed by a time of silent prayer,

Everyone is welcome

Contacts: The Revd. Jenny Rowland 01789 415 548

Tricia Hall-Matthews 01789 414 182





"The bells of waiting Advent ring". So begins John Betjeman's best-loved poem *Christmas*, which will no doubt be read many times at carol services and concerts up and down the land in the next few weeks. It ends with a powerful reaffirmation of the true Christmas message:

That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.



But on the way it celebrates the more social, and even commercial, aspects of Christmas to an extent which is perhaps surprising in such an author. Betjeman was no lover of the growing consumerist culture of his day, which is why many now find him old-fashioned. But when it came to Christmas, he followed the example of Dickens. *A Christmas Carol* has its own gripe about the materialism of Scrooge (who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing), but it still celebrates all the present-giving and feasting in a way which would have been recognizable to other predecessors including Shakespeare.

If some of us are occasionally sickened by the commercial aspect of Christmas (and even more of Advent, which is meant to be a time of spiritual preparation), we have reasons. Perhaps those reasons are even stronger today than they might have been in Betjeman's or Dickens' time. A recent United Nations report on climate change reminded us that our consumer culture may, literally, end up costing the earth, if consumption (especially in the rich west) drives global warming beyond a certain point. We may need to remind ourselves that Jesus was born (as the hymn has it) "not in a royal house or hall" – no tinsel, no partying, no presents, unless you count the story of the Wise Men, and, to use an old phrase, we might feel that this suggests that we should "live more simply, so that others may simply live".



Yet that cannot be the whole story. The "humbug" of Puritanism has rightly had a bad press amongst poets and playwrights. Think of Shakespeare's Malvolio and the rebuke addressed to him: "Dost thou think that, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?" If we go too far down the Malvolio road, we may find ourselves in the position of the Pharisees about whom I wrote last month. The joy of Christmas, and the generosity of God, needs to be properly celebrated. If in the process some of us go a little over the top, that may be better than the curse of self-righteousness.

But the world still turns. The grim realities of violence, corruption, climate change and the rest do not go away. And we remain part of that world, and cannot escape into an alternative fantasy simply by a bit of partying and carol-singing. That is a vital part of the message of Advent and Christmas. My favourite carol is *It came upon the midnight clear*, with its contrast between the song of the angels and the continuing suffering of the world. If we are to open up to the possibility of a new reality, we need to "hush the noise" and "hear the angels sing". Not to drug ourselves into escapism, but to be still for a while, and see how we and the world might be transformed. Patrick wrote last month, in his article on the visit to Northern Ireland, of how "transforming communities" can seem the most daunting and puzzling of our objectives as a church. But it is a crucial part of what we are about, and one which may figure even more largely in a New Year which at the moment feels fuller of despair than of hope.





A FAMILY'S VIEW OF THE CEILIDH

As country dancing seems to have fallen off the curriculum at school, my children had nothing with which to compare a ceilidh. A Google search described it as 'a social event with Scottish or Irish folk music, singing, traditional dancing, and storytelling'. They were still none the wiser!

When we arrived, we could see all ages already dancing. We were soon involved in group dances, expertly choreographed by the caller. If at first hesitant, dancers became more enthusiastic regardless of age or ability. For those not feeling so active or willing to be thrown around on the dance floor, the dancing made a good spectator sport and the music was lovely to listen to. Supper was a welcome break and heartily received. I think my youngest daughter ate her own weight in jelly!

I'm sure I'm not the only parent whose children woke up on Sunday morning and asked when they could go to another ceilidh. A very big thank you to the Social Team and the band (who'd travelled from Lincolnshire) for a wonderful evening.

Helen, Eleanor (13), Ben (11) and Juliet (8) Holland.



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



An evening at the Ceilidh

Two words - 'Super Fun'

The Ceilidh was an evening of great family entertainment.

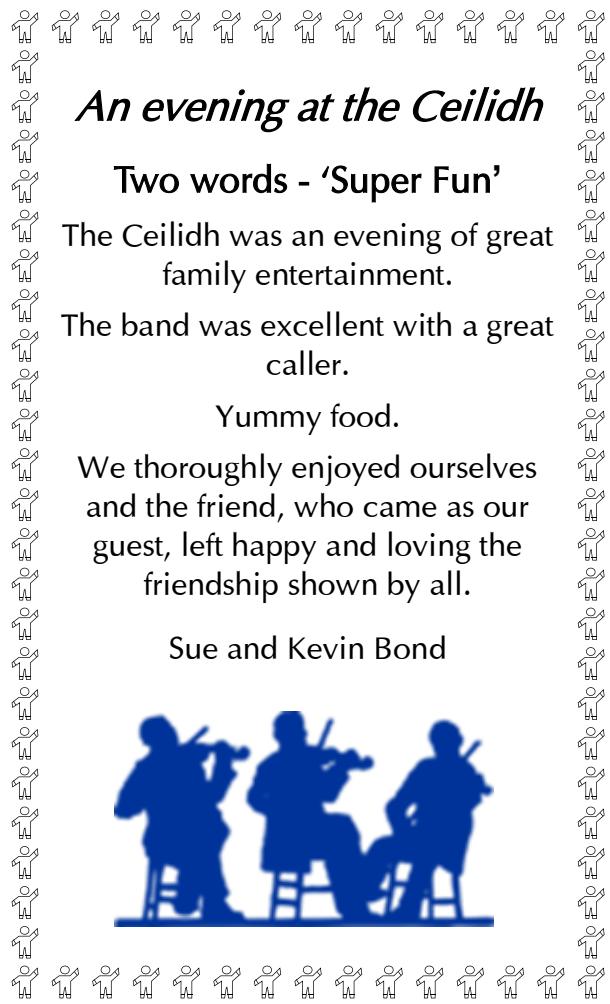
The band was excellent with a great caller.

Yummy food.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the friend, who came as our guest, left happy and loving the friendship shown by all.

Sue and Kevin Bond







SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS PRODDDED BY ANGELS

Have there been times in your life when you have been aware of repeated nudges or prods to do something requiring extra courage until finally you gave way and rejoiced in the rewards? The Bible mentions a sharp-pointed stick called a goad which was used for urging animals forward as in ploughing. In Acts 26.14 St Paul reports that on the road to Damascus he heard the voice of Jesus telling him, 'It is hard for you to kick against the goads', implying that for some time his conscience had been urging his surrender to the Christ he was persecuting. For Paul that needed much courage and the putting down of pride.

Appointed vicar of a parish with an overwhelming population of Pakistani Muslims I certainly needed a few prods to engage more boldly with Islam. Last month I mentioned Fr Bernard of the Mirfield Community of the Resurrection who on his first visit led me straight into the local mosque and helped our church to establish social gatherings and theological dialogue with our Muslim neighbours. He was a prodding angel in disguise, a man of faith, humour and surprises like St Francis on whom he modelled his ministry. His next step was to urge me to accompany him on a quite unpredictable journey the whole length of Pakistan. Imagine my apprehension!

Two more encouraging angels, however, appeared. Gwen Cashmore, the British Council of Churches Officer for inter-faith relations came to speak to the Halifax Council of Churches and stayed with us overnight. She had formerly been on the staff of Kinnaird Christian College, Lahore, the foremost women's college in Pakistan. Gwen went on to do important work with the World Council of Churches. When she stayed with us Barbara and I found such a rapport with her radiant spirituality that we didn't get to bed until the early hours. She had served on the staff of Kinnaird College when Priobola Mangat Rai, (fondly known as Prio) was the principal. Prio was now living in Glasgow and might be willing to spend time with us in Halifax. Put 'Priobola Mangat Rai' into an Internet search and you will see with what high regard she is still held in Pakistan.

Prio came and stayed for a month. Here was another angel aglow with faith in Jesus, much influenced by her father who had converted from Hinduism. Having her as our guest was a remarkable privilege, and encouragement. She had packed nine beautiful silk saris and thus garbed she began to float up and down the backstreets of St Augustine's parish. She went in the guise of our school visitor, half our children belonging to Muslim families. Armed with addresses she boldly knocked on doors and with her fluent Urdu she readily found a response with the parents. To our amazement Pakistani women were soon knocking on the vicarage door wanting to speak to 'the kind lady'.



In the course of her visiting, Prio discovered something unforeseen – that 80% of these families came from the same small district of Mirpur in Azad Kashmir in the Himalayan foothills. The reason for their migration was that in the building of the Mangla Dam on the River Jhelum their homes and livelihood had been forfeited beneath the vast reservoir formed by the dam. The Pakistan government offered compensation by way of somewhat infertile land or a passage to Britain which in the early sixties, under the Wilson government, was seeking labour from commonwealth countries to undertake unsociable jobs. The men arrived first, earning fifty times their wages back home. They soon saved enough to begin to fetch their families. Such was the origin of the Pakistani migration in the 1960's.

This new knowledge fired Fr Bernard to the heights of enthusiasm! Among clergy, social workers and teachers working in immigrant areas he distributed flyers advertising his proposed 'educational visit' to Pakistan. Several applied but other commitments interfered. In the end four of us set out like Abraham not knowing where we would spend each night, armed only with the addresses of Christian and Muslim relatives of a few parishioners. And what a strange crew we were: an Anglican monk, a Roman Catholic priest, a Scottish Jew and myself. Our adventures might occupy this monthly page for quite a while!

Revd. David Ellis

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Finally after eleven months of waiting, I can get excited about Christmas again! It's true that as an alleged adult, Christmas doesn't quite have the same excitement or feel as when you're a child, but hopefully at our services and events across the Parish, we can give the children, and young of heart, an experience of Christmas that will continue to be ignited year after year.



Harry Lomax

Our Celebrations begin with our **Christingle Services**. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society organising these services, so I hope we can celebrate in style. The Christingle services at the different Churches are on the following dates:

Holy Trinity, 9 December 4pm
All Saints', Luddington, 16 December 3.30pm
St Helen's Clifford Chambers, 24 December 5pm

Christingle is probably my second favourite service of the year

(slightly pipped to the post by the Big Nativity). That incredible moment when the lights are turned off and the church illuminated by the children's candles is a sign of the light shining in the darkness and the light that each of those children are to our world.

We need help making all the Christingles for the service at Holy Trinity. Anyone is welcome to join us on Saturday 8 December at 10am in the Parish Centre. Sweet testers especially welcome.

At the **HolyTrinity@Rosebird** service on **16 December** (9:30am breakfast, 10am service) we will once again hear the Christmas story. Children are invited to dress up to help tell the story.

On Christmas Eve at 5pm we've our Big Nativity. Once again we're bringing the story to life in our nativity service. 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. 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?

All our Christmas preparations culminate in our **Christmas Day All Age Eucharist at 10am**. What better way to begin your Christmas Day celebrations than at our special service of Holy Communion, suitable for any age. With Christmas carols and an interactive talk, it's a joyful celebration of Christmas for the whole community. And bring your favourite new toy to show Phil during the service.

I hope that through all of these services we can once again capture the excitement of the first Christmas and inspire future generations to feel the same.

Phil

Roald Dahl's much loved classic in a show for all the family

A large orange peach is the central focus of the poster. The words "James and the Giant Peach" are written in a stylized, handwritten font across the surface of the peach. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. At the bottom, the date and time are listed: "Saturday 2nd February 2019" and "2pm and 7pm".

Saturday 2nd February 2019

2pm and 7pm

Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon

Tickets: £10 adults, £5 students, primary school children and younger: FREE
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Tickets available from Holy Trinity Gift Shop

The logo for Holy Trinity Players, featuring a circular design with the words "TRINITY" and "PLAYERS" around a central illustration of a building.



Photo by Andrew Dow

Good news for our church school!

The school governors have confirmed that the school founded by the church in 1823 and called The Willows since the 1980's, will be re-named Holy Trinity C of E Primary School from September 2019.

This follows improved results in reading, writing and maths, which are now at national or above national levels and still rising.

The governance and leadership are good, with the Head Teacher Jo Herrero having been congratulated on her leadership in a letter from Amanda Spielman, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for OFSTED.

Our grateful thanks go to all those at the school who have worked so hard to bring about the positive changes and we wish them well for the future.

Kay Dyer - Chair of Governors

TRINITY LADIES

We had a most interesting afternoon on 17 October when Sarah and volunteer Rosie from GAGA came to tell us about the winter trees dressed in their knitted squares and what GAGA is all about. We heard some heart-rending stories about abandoned babies in Africa and the inspirational work being done there by Goodwill and Growth for Africa UK (GAGA). Sarah and Rosie also put out a stall of lovely necklaces and beadwork ornaments and many members were tempted to buy something. We had a 'thank you' card from GAGA afterwards and £148 was raised that afternoon - very worthwhile.

Our November meeting was our AGM when Gina Lodge took over as Chair.

We really need more people to come on the committee - currently we have no Speakers' Secretary!



On 19 December at 2pm in the Parish Centre we will welcome Revd Kay Dyer to lead our Carol Service which will be followed by a Christmas raffle and tea and mince pies, and then on 16 January Sarah Hosking will speak about Coventry Cathedral.

£5 annual subscriptions are due that day. All new members and visitors are always most welcome at all our meetings so do come along if you are interested.

All good wishes, DIANE PATTERSON

Photos by Felicity Howlett

CHRISTMAS HOWLERS



Compiled
by Pat
Pilton

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

In today's tombola, the first prize is an Indian headdress. So we will be raffling some feathers tonight.

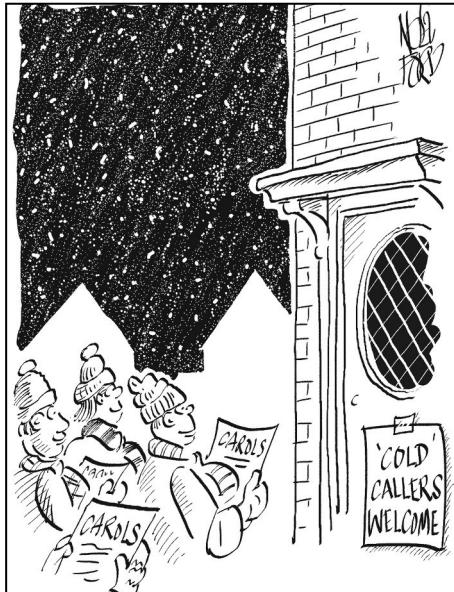
E-mail advertisement from Durham University: Senior astrophysicist Dr Wiseman will give a lecture on Monday entitled 'Our Curious Universe'. Please note space is limited.

Radio 4 News Quiz

The Crown Inn — Why not celebrate Christmas with us? (Every day except Christmas and Boxing Day)

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

Bing Crosby



The Three Wise Men sound very generous but you've got to remember those gifts were joint Christmas and birthday presents.

When you stop believing in Santa is when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

We were so poor when I was little that we couldn't afford a turkey for Christmas, so we gave the budgie a chest expander.
.



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THANK
YOU.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated shoeboxes to this year's shoebox charity. Seventy boxes were collected and sent to the charity *Link to Hope*. Through your generosity many families and elderly people around the world will have a more joyful Christmas and a happier New Year. Thank you.



PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG
Tel. 01789 266 316*

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy & Ministry Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Director of Music	Benedict Wilson	01789 266 316

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Neville Beamer	01789 263 435	The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow	01789 417 852	The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182	The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453		

Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316 andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
Head Verger:	Terry Carter	01789 266 316
Vergers:	David White, Sarah Moorse, Joanna Pinnington	
Parish Administrators:	Sue Holt	01789 266 316
	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316 rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316 wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598 heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org

Church Wardens

Hilda Craig	01789 551 234	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Lynne Bunker	01926 642 054	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	01789 264 256

Other Contacts

Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Lynne Bunker	01926 642 054
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church - TBA		
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Miriam Dow	01789 417 852
PCC Treasurer	Anthony Woppard	01789 204 923
Friends of the Music	Josephine Walker	01789 266 316
Home Communions	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator	Gillian Nunn	01789 415 830
Welcome Team	Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396



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STRATFORD REMEMBERS

November 2018



photo by Felicity Howlett

Some names, hanging in St. Peter's Chapel, were taken from the World War One memorial. Others were left by visitors to commemorate the fallen.

At the All Age Service
4 November

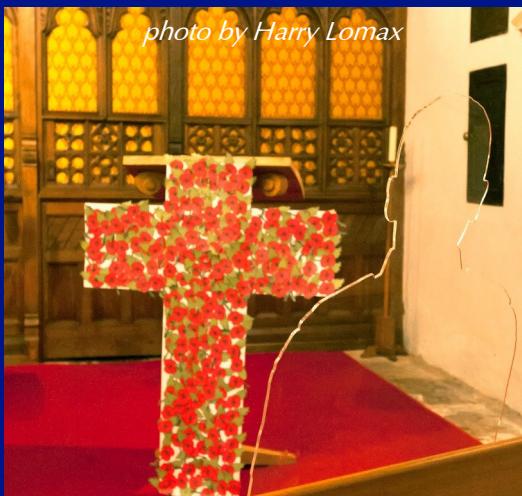


photo by Harry Lomax



photo by John Burgess

"There But Not There" in St. Peter's Chapel



Phil Harper with his box of Jelly Babies, originally called Peace Babies, at the All Age Service 4 November



photo by Harry Lomax

Exhibition by Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
"Pride and Patriotism"
"Keeping up Morale"
"Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war"