

December 2019/January 2020

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TRINITY TIMES



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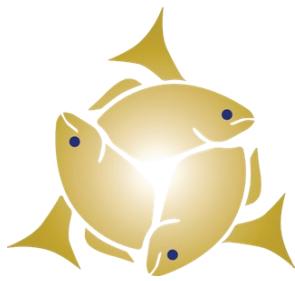


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This month includes an obituary to Sarah Gretton, a very un-sung heroine, as well as information about Christmas in the three churches.

Remember we love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below.

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

The next magazine will be the **February 2020** edition and will be in church on 26 January

The copy date is 10 January

If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine.

Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

timestrinity@gmail.com

The Annual Subscription to Trinity Times for 2020 is £8 and runs from January to December. See page 23 for details of how to pay for your 2020 subscription.

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Holy Trinity Team



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Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- *Trio*

LOVE, PRAY, VOTE.

As we approach this General Election on 12 December 2019, for those of us who state that we follow Jesus, and claim to be his followers, how should we behave? For whom should we vote?

As a good cleric within the state church, it is not my job to tell you which party to vote for. However, as a Christian leader in the service of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, I am expected to remind you of what it is you signed up to through baptism, and especially when you profess yourselves to be Christian. With polling day on the horizon, this is important for us to remember as Christians. The “higher kind of ambition” we should always be aiming for is the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God “...on earth, as it is in heaven”, for this is God’s plan that is being brought about through Christ.

Under the Lordship of Christ, our individual vote ceases to be “our vote”. Instead it is Christ’s, which we exercise in His name in service of the Kingdom of God. Holy Scripture, and especially the Gospels, must therefore be the plumb line by which we, who profess to be Christians, should be measuring our political leaders, their parties, and their manifestos when we come to vote. Who more closely in their policies for the country, reflect the values of the Kingdom of God; in the distribution of wealth, in the running of public services, in lifting up the poor and vulnerable, and not adding to their poverty and vulnerability?

To aid the Christian community in this task, the Joint Public Issues Team invite us during this period of campaigning to **Love, Pray, Vote** (www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

Love *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” John 15:12*

Politics plays an important role in how our society is run. It helps to influence our priorities and the opportunities we create in our country. It enables us to advocate for different values and beliefs, putting them into action through policy making. As Christians, we can use our opportunity to engage in politics as a chance to show **love** to our neighbour, community, and our country.



Considering the choices put before us in these elections, do they offer us the chance to show the deep, all inclusive, radical love God shows us? What priorities can we set which will love those around us by amplifying the voice of the marginalised, challenging injustice and promoting peace and reconciliation? What opportunities do we have to pioneer change which will safeguard the vulnerable, care for creation and welcome the stranger?

Importantly, this is a collective action. As we’re invited to love those around us, we are called to consider how the way we use our voice affects others. And, in pursuing God’s love in our communities and nation, we are offered the opportunity to build a society where all can flourish.

How might your choices in this election be a chance to show **love in action**?

Pray *“Pray continually” 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Elections are significant times in the life of our country. Spending time with God in prayer as we consider how to use our voice in God’s service is important. At a time of such division in our nation, the Revd Kay Dyer and Val Payne have set up a special prayer station in the Beckett Chapel to reflect on this issue.



As we pray, we can ask God to deepen our awareness of situations, people or stories which might guide us to show God’s love deeper to all. It’s a chance to spend time reflecting on God’s promises to creation, and imagining what God’s kingdom come on earth might look like. As we do so, we pray that spending time in God’s presence will help us in making loving decisions with the way we use our vote. It’s also an opportunity to pray for those for whom the election period might be challenging.

Political discourse has been particularly volatile in recent months, which makes some candidates feel more vulnerable. We can hold candidates standing in elections, and their families, in prayer during a busy time. For both those that we agree and disagree with, we can pray for peace and safety.

cont.....

Love, Pray, Vote cont

Vote “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

A genuine commitment to Christ means submitting all of our being to His Lordship, and to the values of God’s coming kingdom. Voting in elections is therefore a crucial part of the proclamation of intent to witness to, and to have established, the values of the kingdom “...on earth, as it is in heaven”.

But casting a vote is about more than just paper in a ballot box. Leading up to Election Day, we can use our democratic opportunity to engage positively in the debate. During the election period, we have the chance to show our hospitality in showing **kindness** in the way we engage in conversation, **listening** to the voice of those who might otherwise not be heard, and seek the **truth** in amongst the ‘fake news’ and competing claims and counter-claims, as we engage with political manifestos and dialogue.

We are invited to engage deeply in **love** with those around us in this election. By doing so, we can use this opportunity to live out our God’s call to seek peace, challenge injustice, and enable the flourishing of all. How will you Love, Pray, Vote this General Election?

Steve Jarvis



LORD

help us to see you as we attend those who are hungry and thirsty,

as we welcome the stranger,

as we cover those who are naked,

as we visit those who are sick,

and as we go to see those in prison.

In attending a fractured humanity,

may we minister to your broken body.

Amen.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Advent Carol Service

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 8 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

4.00pm Christingle

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 15 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 22 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 29 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 1 December 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 8 December 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 December 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 22 December 6.30pm Carol Service



All Saints', Luddington

Sunday 1 December 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 8 December 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 December 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 22 December 3.45pm Carol Service



SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 5 January - Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Congregational Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 12 January - Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong with Healing

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 19 January - 2nd 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 26 January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10



St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

Sunday 5 January 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 12 January 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 January 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 26 January 9.30am Holy Communion - Traditional



All Saints', Luddington

Sunday 5 January 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 12 January 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 January 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 January 9.30am Holy Communion



WHAT CAME TO PASS

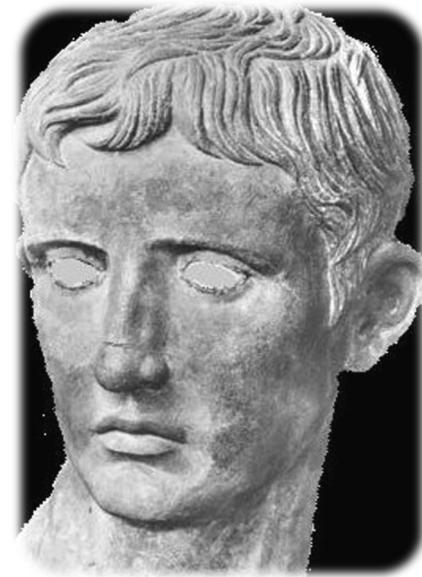
by David Ellis

'Time for our Christmas play'
each year Miss Everard would say,
and with a teasing, tossing of her head,
she always looked at me and said,
'Who'll be the herald? Not you, Tim!'
And I, with hand outstretched repeatedly,
'Please, please, Miss, yes I'll do him!'

Flourishing my scarlet cloak,
the audience hushed, and shepherds nudging
angels in the wings, I spoke at last:
'In those now distant days it came to pass . . .'
I loved to say those words and wondered
what IT was and why IT sometimes
came but never seemed to stay.

'It came to pass that Augustus Caesar
once decreed that all the world be taxed!'
That puzzled me. And when I asked
my dad at home, the quest led
to the loft, and from that dusty dump
of everything that came to pass
emerged 'The Emperors of Rome.'

I found Augustus there. His image filled a page.
He looked a handsome lad about my age
with curly hair, his broken nose stuck on again!
His Grandma Julia died when he was twelve.
He made a speech so masterly that even
Julius Caesar who was there praised young
Augustus
to the skies and named him heir.



August is my birthday month. That's when
Augustus Caesar fought Mark Antony
at Actium and won. So they named August after
him.

It means 'revered' or 'god-like'. Wow!
At every crossroad now his image stood
and anyone pursued by law could fling
their arms around their saviour king and live!
And then it came to pass . . . Augustus Caesar
once decreed that all the world be taxed . . .
to build a marble empire that would last.
So that was why! But all the emperors of Rome
are in the attic now and my Augustus craze
was but a passing phase of boyhood dreams
which never faintly came to pass.

The play begun, my proclamation done,
so puffed with pride, I never stayed to see the play
all through and **never realised just who
among the rest was taxed**. Augustus played
his part but never guessed what his decree would
do.

Bedazzled by what comes to pass per se
we miss the things of God that come to stay.

Contemplative Prayer Group

Come and join us on the first 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
 Tricia Hall-Matthews

01789 415 548
01789 414 182





TRINITY LADIES

On Wednesday 18 December we will be holding our Annual Carol Service. I am pleased to announce that the Reverend Patrick Taylor will be leading this service for us. Please remember to bring your pretty table cloths, table decorations, mince pies or cakes and a suitable Christmas raffle prize.

We start a new programme in January and Mrs Dallin Chapman (known to many of you) will be coming to speak to us about "Exploring faith through novel writing". Hopefully she will inspire some of us to write a book ourselves! Our subscriptions are due in January and I am pleased to say that they will continue to be £5 as in previous years.

On behalf of all the committee I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you all again on 15 January 2020.

Gina Lodge

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY



PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents its Christmas concert on Saturday 14 December 2019 at Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford at 7.30pm. This will be a celebration of Christmas.

"The Prelude to Christmas" programme has become an important part of the seasonal festivities, for many heralding the real start of their Christmas. The programme will contain Christmas music, both old and new, and readings (given by our well-known thespian bass Tim Raistrick), with the King's Brass group and organ accompaniment by James Fellowes. The conductor is Stephen Dodsworth.

Tickets for 14 December Concert (£15 adults, to include a free programme on the night so you can join in with the Carols, £8 students) are available from RSC Box Office, phone 01789 331 111 or at the door on the night. Two children up to sixteen are admitted free if accompanied by a paying adult – a marvellous opportunity to introduce youngsters to music.

For further press information, phone Carol Jackson on 01386 841440.

Website: www.stratfordchoral.org.uk



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ARE YOU A CARER?

Would you like a break with other carers – would you like to listen to interesting speakers, take trips out and about or just enjoy some sympathetic and friendly company over a cup of tea and a raffle twice a month?

Come and join us at the Carers Café, based at Lifeways Complementary Health Centre, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon.

Come and have a cup of tea, meet us and bring a friend for moral support on your first visit if you like - you'd both be very welcome.

Our meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2pm – 4pm all the year round excluding August.

For further information please contact:

Nicola Harvey: 07860 282 663, or
Biddy Peachey: 01789 773382
mobile: 07799 841 191



IT'S CHRIIIIIIIISTMAS, WELL NEARLY!

Now is the time I get really excited about Christmas, when it's still a few weeks off. By about the week before Christmas I've usually lost the excitement and it's replaced with panicking about everything I haven't done. This might be something echoed in lots of households, that the idea of Christmas is more appealing than the event itself.

Hopefully through our services and events building up to the big day we can help keep you in the positive Christmas mood. I'm afraid we can't write your Christmas cards for you, or find the present for the really awkward relative. But we can give you an opportunity to pause, to refocus and really celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Throughout Advent at our TrinityCentre@10 services, we'll be building up a Jesse Tree, remembering those who came before Jesus and thinking about how we can follow their example.

One of my favourite services is the Christingle service. There is the incredibly moving part when the lights are turned off and the church is lit by the candles the children are holding. We also raise money for the Children's Society as part of the service, so it is doubly special. Please don't think these services are just for children and families, everyone is welcome. Holy Trinity's Christingle is 4pm 8 December; All Saints' Luddington is 3:30pm 15 December; St Helen's Clifford Chambers is 5pm Christmas Eve.



At our Rosebird Service on 15 December we will once again be bringing the Christmas story to life. Children, and adults if they wish, are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from the nativity story. We'll be serving breakfast from 9:30am and the service begins at 10am at the Rosebird Centre.

This leads us up to the big day itself; if you need a boost to get into the Christmas spirit don't miss the "Big Nativity" Christmas Eve 5pm in Holy Trinity. Once again children (or adults) are invited to help us journey back 2,000 years by coming dressed as a Nativity character. Throughout the service we'll build up our crib scene, although I still haven't got an angel figure yet, so who knows what will be used this year...?



On Christmas Day at 10am we have our All Age Christmas Eucharist. Bring your favourite new Christmas toy to show me, and for me to play with. Over the last few years at this service we've had a giant panettone, streamers and Star Wars. What will happen this year is still unknown. That's something for me to panic about the week before Christmas.



As we reach the end of the year, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and peaceful 2020 and thank everyone who has helped this past year in our churches work with children and families. And if you're reading this in January, Happy New Year, you made it through Christmas, well done you.

Phil Harper (Children & Families Minister)



FROM THE REGISTERS NOVEMBER

Christenings

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 17 November | Iris Hudson |
| | Miranda Tanqueray |
| 24 November | Jaxon Savage |
| | Finlay Conner |

Weddings

- 30 November Benjamin Turton and Katherine Pavel - Guild Chapel

Funerals

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 5 November | Sarah Gretton |
| 11 November | George Brown |
| 13 November | Mavis Salmon |
| 14 November | Ena Rouch |
| | Jennifer Hall |

There was only one response to the request for thoughts about the poppy picture on the cover of last month's magazine and it is printed here.

"I have spent the last few days thinking about the poppies on the cover of last month's magazine and I realised very quickly that soon there will be no one left who personally remembers World War Two. My own mother is 85 years old and was just a child during the war.

Then I thought about it a bit more, and looked down the generations of my own family, we all have our own wars to remember. My war was the Falklands, I know it only lasted months, but for many the loss and scars of conflict last a lifetime. In April 1982 I was a theatre nurse in a London hospital. We went into work one Monday and realised we had to cancel routine operating lists as we had an acute shortage of anaesthetists. Many of our anaesthetists were on secondment from the army medical corps and they had been shipped out on the Canberra to join the Task Force heading for the South Atlantic. Who can forget those pictures of brave Simon Weston.

My younger brother joined the army, he was too young for the Falklands, but he did patrol the streets of Belfast during The Troubles; that was his war.

Then there was the Gulf War. My own two sons, if they had pursued military careers, are the right age to have been involved in the second Gulf War and Afghanistan. Thankfully, they chose civvy street, many didn't, and came home with terrible injuries or via Wootton Bassett.

The poppy will live, but it seems memories of war won't die, so we need the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. We owe a lot to those brave men and women and their families, whichever war touched their lives".

Diane Armstrong



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"Turned by Divine Love – The Force That Changed the World"

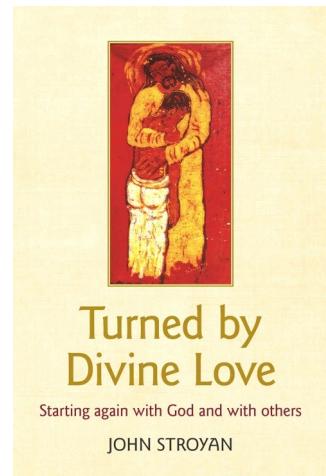
This is the overall title of the next series of sermons at the Food4thought services between January and August 2020. How were the lives of some of the Bible's most famous personalities revolutionised by an encounter with Christ? And how has God's love changed the lives of individuals down the centuries? The full details of the series have still to be worked out, but already planned:

Sunday 26 January: the conversion of St Paul.

Sunday 23 February: our visiting preacher John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick, will introduce his recently published book "Turned by Divine Love", and encourage us all to make it our book for Lent!

Sunday 28 June: Matt Baggott, former Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, will share what his faith in God has meant to him in recent years, and particularly carrying the burden of a high profile, dangerous, and stressful job.

Sunday 26 July: a look at the life of Christianity's most famous recent apologist, C.S. Lewis, once described as "the Lord's most reluctant convert"(!)



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We were very sad to hear of the death of Jack Crimp who for many years attended Holy Trinity Church.
His funeral took place at St Edmund's, Shipston in October



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

CHRISTMAS EVE

A Service of Lessons and Carols - 3pm



(Doors open at 2pm). 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.

Singing led by Stratford Rock Choir.

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.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE VILLAGES



St Helen's - Clifford Chambers

22 December - Carol Service - 6.30pm

Christmas Eve - Christingle Service - 5pm

Midnight Mass - 11pm

Christmas Day - Christmas Day Eucharist - 9.30am



All Saints' - Luddington

15 December - Christingle - 3.30pm

22 December - Carol Service - 3.45pm

Christmas Eve - Carols on the Green - 7.45pm

Christmas Day - Christmas Day Eucharist - 9.30am



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



*May the peace and hope
of*

Christ's birth

be with you now and always

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

With love this Christmas time from:-

Angela Moorhouse Ronald and Faith Piper Diane Edwards Gloria and Peter Mole Carl Blackwood
Marilyn Shorey Judith and Norman Dorricott Mary Wells Marjorie and John Revans Sian Wade
Joan Forbes Jo Lytton Hilda and Jon Craig Philip and Pam Cheshire Shirley Crimp Anne Blair
Hazel and Chris Tattersall Geoffrey Lees Marion and Rhod Mitchell Ann Morgan Pat Wood
Paul and Judy Standing Martin and Kate Corfield Margaret Edwards and Family Anonymous
Gillian Nunn John and Anne Graty Beryl Dyke Brenda and Paul Lageu Jacqui Salmon
Kay and Roy Dyer John and Margaret Sullivan Diane and Alan Patterson Sheila Wolstenholme
Colin and Jill McDowall Elna Freeland Mark Sayers John and Tricia Hall-Matthews Stella Webley
Ken and Rena Kelly Bryan and Christine Cottrell and Family Pat Pilton Peter and Dallin Chapman
David Wilson Penny Jones Gina and Roy Lodge Mary Phillips Neil and Cathy Atkinson
Cilla and John Burgess Jenny and Peter Rowland Andrew and Miriam Dow Gillian Price
Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald Jane and Roger Taylor Heather and Geoff Bridgewater Eve Archer
Rodney and Carole Askew Graham and Margaret Wilcox Bobbie Pearce Helen and Mike Warrillow
Carol Campbell Graham and Lilian Hopkins Wendy Bowie Felicity Howlett Phil Harper
Patrick and Laura Taylor and Family

The people listed above all participated
in our Christmas Card Amnesty and
donated to our three Christmas Charities:
St Basil's; CAP and Cord.



HOLY TRINITY SHOP

By Heather White



Managing the shop is a really enjoyable job. No two days are the same, and no two customers are the same! I see my job as part of the welcome ministry of the church as do my two assistants, Charlotte Didora and Jane Hornby, and we have invaluable support from a wonderful team of volunteers.



This is an exciting period for the shop as we are working towards a fresh new look, researching new products, looking at how we display goods, and hopefully moving towards an epos system which will enable us to scan barcodes on our goods, but, more importantly, will give us better ability to monitor our stock and our profits.

Our profits go towards the church outreach projects and this is a good incentive for the work that we do. Two of the outreach projects supported are the *Stay and Play* and the *Coffee Stop* at the Ken Kennett Centre.
(See photographs).



This year we have had a selection of very attractive poppy brooches and pins for Remembrance Day. Ten percent of each sale has gone to SSAFA. At the moment we have Christmas cards, Advent calendars and candles, nativity sets, Christmas baubles and tree decorations.



We stock gloves and scarves at very reasonable prices.

As we are now the only Christian bookshop in Stratford we also have a range of Christian books, bibles and religious items.

So please come along to the shop, have a look at what we have to offer, and help us to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you.



Christmas is just around the corner!!

Are you stuck for that special present for friends or family who live abroad?

Or

Are you having trouble thinking of a present for that special relative or friend who is always so difficult to buy for?

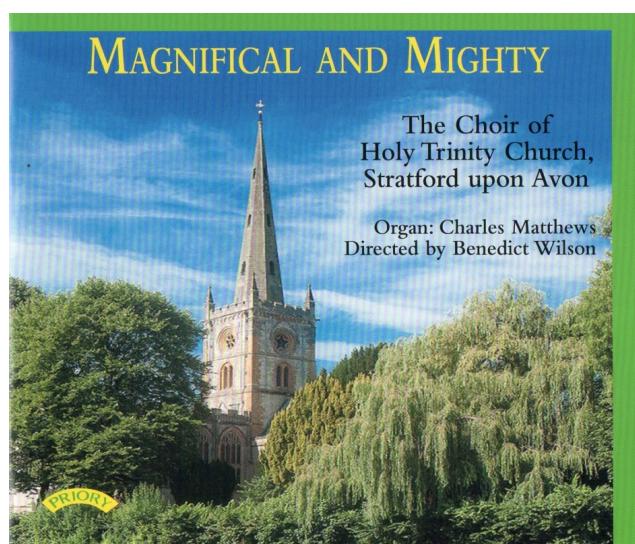
Or

Why not simply treat yourself to a present at Christmas which is

MAGNIFICAL and MIGHTY

The recently released C.D. recorded by The Choir of Holy Trinity.

This C.D., features works composed by some of England's greatest composers e.g., Elgar, Dyson, Tippett, Harris, Vaughan Williams & Britten, and is sung by the Choir of Holy Trinity Church performing at the highest standard of choral singing. Directed by Benedict Wilson and featuring Charles Matthews on the organ, the music on the disc was sung during the Choir's highly successful trip to Holland in 2018.



On sale now from the Church shop, (£12) this would make a

"Magnifical & Mighty"

Christmas stocking filler or a welcome addition to any CD collection.

The making of this CD would not have been possible without the generous support of
The Friends of the Music at Holy Trinity Church.

HARVEST SUPPER

A great deal of activity ensued in the Parish Centre on Saturday 12 October for the traditional Harvest Supper. Like a hive of busy bees collecting pollen, a team of energetic helpers set up a circle of tables and gathered enough produce and pre-prepared dishes to satisfy the appetites of about 60 human harvest mice who eagerly gathered towards evening. But the first course was a sometimes humorous, sometimes thoughtful, offering of poems, stories, jokes and song by some of those present, revealing unexpected talents. Our very competent MC, Phil Harper, with his own brand of humour, kept the entertainment moving and hesitant performers encouraged. We made short work of pork baps, salad, and a wonderful variety of desserts, and with renewed strength continued the entertainment, finished off in music hall style by a couple of suitably attired performers. Our fulsome thanks to all the helpers, performers and to Phil for a heart-warming evening of fellowship and fun.

Barbara Ellis





What is the most important issue facing us at the moment as Christian citizens? Brexit? The climate emergency? The General Election? Well, in the long term it is surely the climate emergency; Kay wrote powerfully on this last month, and I hope soon to have something to say on our own PCC's response. But Brexit is more obviously at the forefront of many voters' minds; it is certainly not going to go away, and it will by no means be done and dusted on exit day. And the Election is the most immediate – and it is relevant to both the other two and a great deal more besides.

Of course, it is not for me or the church to advise people as to who they should vote for. But we need to remember that voting is a serious matter, and one for much thought and prayer.

We might, as Christians, feel (as Steve suggested in a sermon on 27 October) a particular obligation to vote for whichever party has policies which will most help society as a whole, and above all the least privileged, as well as show the greatest sense of responsibility for God's creation. But, in the light of the Brexit debate, it is not easy to decide what solutions are best for our country or for any groups within it! Perhaps even when we look at our world as a whole, including the climate emergency as well as other issues of justice and peace, it is harder than it has ever been to decide who has "the right" policies – or, even, whether any "right" solutions exist (though there are surely some wrong ones).

But we do have a duty to find out as much as we can about those policies and their possible effects. It is hard, if not impossible, to find any neutral analysis. Most of the public media are biased in one direction or another (though since the BBC gets criticised from both ends of the political spectrum, maybe it has got the balance about right!) As for social media, perhaps we have learned by now of the dangers of "the bubble" where we only get the messages which fit in with our preconceptions, or those determined by powerful interests. We can only do our best to be well and wisely informed.



There is also a big issue about trust. Politicians of all parties stand in low esteem today; of all the professions, they come bottom of the poll for trustworthiness.

That is a tragedy. But there are exceptions, as there always are, even in the most corrupt societies (and the UK has had its share of corruption in the past). Even so, MPs are sinners like the rest of us, and to try to find "perfect" representatives is a hopeless pursuit; but some may be more trustworthy than others. One obvious question to ask is whether pre-election spending promises actually add up!

In the end of the day we must just vote according to our (informed) consciences and commit the result to God. But I am reminded of the preface to John Wesley's Covenant prayer which we share with our Methodist brothers and sisters every January. As that says, some of the things to which God calls us may nicely suit our own personal interests and inclinations – and some may not. It may be that, as we seek to respond to God's call on 12 December, we should pay particular attention to the latter possibility.





Remembering Sarah le Mesurier Gretton

by Harriet Bell and Revd Steve Jarvis

Sarah's sad passing is yet another amongst the stalwarts of Holy Trinity Church whom we have sadly lost to cancer this year. She was a regular attender, latterly at the 8am Holy Communion Services, and was a valued volunteer within the life of the parish, and one who is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.

Sarah was born during the war in Birmingham; the eldest of five. Her parents moved to Henley-in-Arden and then after the war back to Edgbaston, more conveniently positioned for where Sarah's father worked for the BBC. The Gretton household encouraged academic pursuits and Sarah's was a precocious intellect, carrying her through Edgbaston High School to King Edward VI and then Lady Margaret Hall at Oxford where she read PPE.

Sarah from a very young age had been a consistent believer and constant in her faith. A constancy fostered by the example of her parents, who both came from backgrounds which were permeated with a strong Christian faith. For Sarah, faith was not just about intellectual assent, it was also marked with a strong interest in social justice. As a young student in the 1950's, whilst at Oxford, Sarah volunteered with a United Nations project, building houses for refugees displaced by the second world war.



When she moved to Stratford-upon-Avon in the 1970's to work at the NFU, she not only made Stratford her physical home, she chose Holy Trinity to be her spiritual home and became a valuable, faithful, active member. Sarah knew that this was where she wanted to be and was heavily involved as a sidesperson, a valuable part of our welcome team, previously involved in working with young people in teaching the faith, our Christian Aid collections co-ordinator, one of our Churches Together representatives, and one who carried upon her shoulders one of our most unenviable tasks – co-ordinating and producing the rota of readings, readers, servers, intercessors, communion assistants for three months at a time – or as we call it in the parish, “herding cats!”

Sarah's enthusiasm for a faith that put into practice the belief of "...earth as it is in heaven" was I feel, in my limited time of knowing Sarah, a hallmark of her Christian life, not only in this church, but also seen in her involvement with Stratford Churches Together. Faith was strong and all encompassing, ...a motivating factor in her political awareness, and political activism. Faith was also ecumenical.

For many years in her retirement, she was lay convener for Stratford Churches Together, and enjoyed experiencing in that role, the wide variety of worship and theology within other denominations. The lasting legacy for Sarah's dedication to Churches Together, being the esteem in which she is held by the churches making up our local ecumenical body, and the continuing commitment of the town churches in working together and supporting each other with initiatives.

Her depth and strength of faith would come into its own on learning that she had cancer and the reality of how advanced it was. Her family describe how illness didn't creep up on Sarah. It arrived with a bang. The psychologist brought in to see her after the diagnosis, was amazed at the way Sarah dealt with the news, and came to the conclusion that this was the difference that a strong faith could make - the hope we hold on to that ultimately carries us through uncertainty and fear.

A conversation with Sarah would often include a sharing of facts and an opportunity to share anecdotes. Each subject discussed would have its own store of anecdotes. Her niece, Harriet, always thought of Sarah's mind as being rather like Alan Turing's code breaking machine with multiple looping connections. However, though Sarah spent most of her time being very structured and academic in her approach, it was all the more beguiling the moments when she wasn't.

cont....

Sarah remembered cont

She could also tell stories with utter clarity and conviction. Her niece shared with us the time when she took her teenage children to see Sarah in hospital, and reminded Sarah of a story of her own that she had told to her niece and her sisters a few times when they were young. Without pause Sarah retold the story from start to finish. The kids were enraptured, as her nieces had been forty years ago. Was it real? Had that happened? Asked how she remembered the story so clearly, she said, “*Well, it was the only story I had ever made up, so of course I could remember it!*” And Sarah even remained sharp to the last. In the final conversation she had with her sister Hester, she opened one eye and looked at her from her hospital bed. “*What*”, she wanted to know, “*was the Italian word for nostril?*”

Though we will feel the depth of the loss of Sarah from our congregational life, we are conscious too of being all-the-more privileged for having had her amongst our number. She also leaves for us an example of faithful discipleship in Christ, to add to the heritage of saints, not just within this church, but across the town, and in the lives of those who knew her, whose path she crossed with compassion, love and kindness.

When I met with Sarah’s sister, Hester, in planning the funeral address, she gave me a book which Sarah wanted me to have. It’s by Dorothy L. Sayers, the famous mystery writer of the “Lord Peter Whimsey” novels. It’s entitled “*The Man Born To Be King*”.

It was a play-cycle on the life of Jesus, written purposely for radio broadcast, and first aired by the BBC in 1942 ...and Hester shared with me, that there is every possibility that their own father was involved in bringing it into production during his time working for the BBC in Birmingham.

The plays had a profound and lasting impact on Sarah, and on her faith journey... and as we remember her, and all that she was for us, and to us, I wish to read to you an extract from it... It is a poem just before the forward entitled ...”*The Makers*”.

The Architect stood forth and said:

“I am the master of the art:

I have thought within my head,

I have a dream within my heart.

“Come now good Craftsman, ply your trade

With tool and stone obediently;

Behold the plan that I have made-

I am the master; serve you me.”

The Craftsman answered: “Sir, I will,

Yet look to it that this your draft

Be of a sort to serve my skill-

You are not master of the craft.

“It is by me the towers grow tall,

I lay the course, I shape and hew;

You make a little inky scrawl,

And that is all that you can do.

“Account me, then, the master man,

Laying my rigid rule upon

The plan, and that which serves the plan-

The uncomplaining, helpless stone.”

The stone made answer: “Master mine,

Know this: that I can bless or damn

The thing that both of you design

By being but the thing I am;

“For I am granite and not gold,

For I am marble and not clay,

You may not hammer me nor mould-

I am the master of the way.

“Yet once that mastery bestowed

Then I will suffer patiently

The cleaving steel, the crushing load,

That make a calvary of me;

“And you may carve me with your hand

To arch and buttress, roof and wall,

Until the dream rise up and stand-

Serve but the stone, the stone serves all.

“Let each do well what each knows best,

Nothing refuse and nothing shirk,

Since none is master of the rest,

But all are servants of the work-

The work no master my subject

Save he to whom the whole is known,

Being Himself the Architect,

The Craftsman and the Corner-stone.

“Then, when the greatest and the least

Have finished all their labouring

And sit together at the feast,

You shall behold a wonder thing:

“The Maker of the men that make

Will stoop between the cherubim,

The towel and the basin take,

And serve the servants who serve Him.”

The Architect and the Craftsman both

Agreed, the Stone had spoken well;

Bound to them to service by an oath

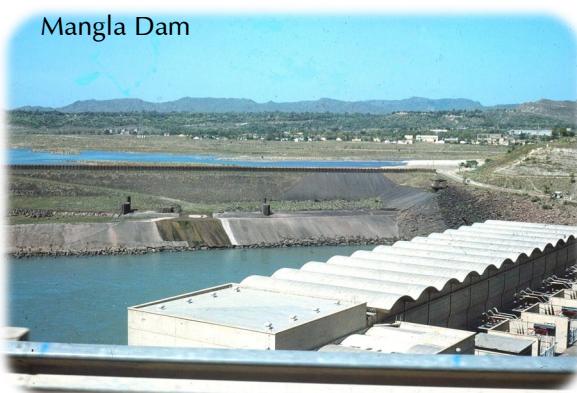
And each to his own labours fell.



I have been recounting the adventures of four men doing community work with Pakistani Muslims in UK and now it is time to draw my tale to a conclusion.

The goal of our journey was to reach the district of Mirpur in Azad Kashmir from which most of our Pakistani immigrants came in the early 1960s. The reason for this large migration was the construction of the Mangla Dam on the River Jhelum, resulting in the submerging of 280 villages and the displacement of over 110,000 people. Many of the men grasped the invitation of the Wilson government to take up unsociable job vacancies and soon they earned enough to bring over their wives and children. There are now 747,000 people of Mirpuri origin in the UK, forming about 70% of the total British Pakistani community.

Mangla Dam



Arriving by express bus at Jhelum city we crossed the long bridge, observing hundreds of women washing their clothes on the banks of the river. Then by local bus we travelled up the valley, passing the huge Mangla Dam which brings hydro-electric power to a vast area, transforming an erstwhile primitive way of life. On the bus we met some young students keen to exercise their English and hopeful that we might exert some influence on the immigration authorities to help them join their parents in UK. Britain was now putting the brake on immigration and Tarlish, especially, was missing his mother. He had muffed his qualifying interview through misunderstanding the questions. Later I successfully raised

his genuine case with our local MP.

The new town of Mirpur extends along the edge of the lake which is ten times the size of Windermere, vastly dwarfing any British inland water. We soon found the emigration office where a long queue extended down the street and introduced ourselves to the emigration officer. Despite our protestations he abandoned his clients to their long patient wait. Hearing we were from Halifax he insisted on driving us to Nathia, a village which had the prettiest of little mosques and met the friendly imam. We wouldn't find any other men in Nathia because they were all in Halifax. Women and children were waiting to join them. 'They only know one English word,' he said. 'Just say *Halifax* and it will make them happy.' We did just that. Up and down the narrow backstreets where the women were gossiping, we simply said *Halifax* and they beamed and hid their faces in their headscarves, chortling with delight. Soon I would be seeing some of their children in our own St Augustine's school.

Back in Halifax we put all our colour slides together and arranged a meeting in St Mary's RC Hall, advertising it in English and Urdu as 'Happy Home Pictures'. No less than 500 Pakistanis came! The main result was the establishment of warm-hearted community relations. It gained for me an important place on the Community Relations Council and I was invited seventy-five times to give illustrated talks to a wide variety of groups from police to social services and other churches in West Yorkshire. Our church opened up a charity shop among the terraces which we called 'The Good News Shop'. It became a haven of support both for Pakistani families and English widows, bringing them together.

I have called this series 'Spiritual Encounters' because for me dramatic encounters with people of various faiths in unfamiliar places was a life-changer that deepened my trust in the God of providence and made me sensitive to an awareness of the love and presence of Christ in unlikely places and when least expected.



Nathia Mosque



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Do you recognise this lovely new sign? The Willows Primary School has been renamed Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, as this church founded it in the 1820's. The inspiring Head Teacher, Mrs Jo Herrero, who joined the school two and a half years ago, found time to chat and to give me a guided tour.

Judith: Can you explain the reasons for the name change?

Jo: The school has had several names over the last 180 years, as well as being in different locations. As a Church of England School, we want to emphasise our links with Holy Trinity Church and also benefit from the rich heritage associated with the church and with William Shakespeare. The historic link with our parish church is so important. We can celebrate our close connection with Shakespeare when the children read parts of his plays and learn about his famous characters.



Judith: Tell me a little about the school.

Jo: Parts of the school have been on this site since the 1960's but there have been a lot of building extensions since then. We are lucky to have our own swimming pool, and the Stratford Town Trust fund us for this great facility. At the moment, there are about 400 children in the school, aged from four to eleven.

Judith: How have your first two years here been?

Jo: Well, we've grown into an exciting dynamic learning space with a rich curriculum. Everyone who visits comments on the excellent behaviour and high standards in the school. Most importantly, it's a happy place so pupils and staff are extremely proud to be part of Holy Trinity Primary School. Critical thinking and creativity are at the heart of what we teach.

Judith: Yes, I've noticed wonderful pictures of waves, obviously inspired by Hokusai's work, and some powerful seascapes with storms - the children must have been looking at JMW Turner's creations as well. How about music?

Jo: We are so lucky to live in an area rich with culture and music. We now have the "Willows Scholars" who sing in Holy Trinity Choir, and they are very diligent in their weekly rehearsals with Rebecca Mills. We've arranged outings for the children to go to concerts by the CBSO in Birmingham and we have links with the Drama Department of Warwick University. And, of course, the children love working with the RSC!

Judith: When I arrived, I noticed that the children were holding a debate. The motion was "*Should school children be allowed mobile phones?*", so I think I can guess who won that debate! Is that a popular activity?

Jo: Yes, the school has its own Debating Society which encourages children to research topics as well as enhancing their communication skills. We also have a school radio and a school Parliament, so there is something for everyone.

Judith: Tell me a little about your own teaching career.

Jo: I've been in education for over twenty years now, and in that time I've been an Advanced Skills Teacher, an Education Advisor in Warwickshire, an author of educational books for teachers, a Deputy and a Head Teacher. I've also run training courses with the Royal Shakespeare Company and led teacher training sessions at Warwick University and BCU in Birmingham. This varied experience has really helped me as a Head Teacher.



Mrs Jo Herrero

Interview with Jo Herrero *Cont*

Judith: Have you strengthened your links with the church?

Jo: Yes, we have various services at Holy Trinity Church including our Carol Service, and Patrick, Kay and Phil all come to lead our assemblies. The school is planning to bury a Time Capsule in the grounds around the church sometime soon and what we will put in it is a great focus of discussion.

Judith: Thank you for your time with me. In a few words, how would you describe your aims for the school?

Jo: I think our teaching aims are *inspirational, practical, meaningful and purposeful*. We want to make learning irresistible to our children and for that we use Stratford-upon-Avon as our campus!

By Judith Dorricott



TRINITY TIMES ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020

Trinity Times plays an important role in bringing together the many strands of our church community. As such, it is intended to be a non-profit making publication. At the same time, our aim is to break even so we do not take valuable funds away from other areas of our parish ministry.

We are pleased to announce that the price of Trinity Times in 2020 will be the same as 2019, at £1 per issue. However, why not ensure that you don't miss any of the 2020 issues by taking out (or renewing) an Annual subscription. This covers all 10 issues from February to the December/January double issue at only **£8 for the year**, representing an attractive saving of 20% on the full cover price.

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Subscribers can collect their named copy from the back of church each month and copies can also be delivered within Stratford town.

To ensure you don't miss the first Trinity Times of 2020, issued at the beginning of February, please pay your subscription no later than **Monday 20th January**.

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



Best wishes to
John Baugh on his
90th birthday.



'The event has exceeded my expectations in many ways and I hope it isn't too long before the next one.'
Nick Poulton

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'Fellowship, prayer and commitment extraordinary. Will certainly come to next one – fairly soon I hope.'
Kate Corfield

REST AND RENEWAL

'When is the next Away Weekend?'
Gillian Nunn

'A wonderful weekend. A great opportunity to get to know so many people and to share Christian fellowship/ friendship and creative worship.'
John Hall-Matthews

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from the

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'An amazing weekend, uplifting, faith-affirming, joyful, wonderful fellowship.'
Pauline Tate

'Sunday Eucharist – totally amazing – unforgettable.'
Jacqui Salmon

Firm bookings are now being taken for what promises to be another amazing weekend. Booking forms are available on the church website, at the back of church and from the Parish Office. For further information, please contact Hilary Newman on 01789 296771, or hilnewman1945@gmail.com

'It's been a weekend that will give us constant roses in December. A number of us were reduced to tears during the Eucharist.' Dallin & Peter Chapman

Wonderful feel, inclusive, welcoming, reflective time.
Engaging & meaningful kids work.
Angela Barnard

Lives changed through God's love

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Queen Mother's Clothing Guild

I want to say a very big thank you to all members of Queen Mother's Clothing Guild, who have supported both me and the Guild for so many years. You have all made such a difference to so many lives, with all that you have given, and I am so grateful.

It was lovely to see some of you at the Coffee Morning on 22 October – and I am delighted to report that I took approximately 500 items home with me: a splendid total!

With love and best wishes to you all.

Gillie Jackson



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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

CHRISTMAS HOWLERS!

★ ★ ★
Compiled by Pat Pilton

IT'S A CRACKER

Did you hear about the bakery that was burgled at Christmas? Everything was stollen.

At Christmas friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line read: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with..." His response was: "Receipts."

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can "ho, ho, ho!"

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

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

At a nativity play our young granddaughter Charlotte watched the three kings deliver gold, frankincense and myrrh and asked: "Is the Franky Scents like aftershave?" *Mirror on-line*

Sign spotted in shop window: We are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If we are closed, please call this number.



In the fifties my grandmother was a communion steward at Thurnscoe East in South Yorkshire. There was to be an early communion service on Christmas morning so she went to the chapel on Christmas Eve to prepare the bread and wine. When the minister lifted off the cloth during the service he discovered the mice had eaten the bread.

From Christian Crackers, enjoyed by Kate Corfield

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

On the evening of Saturday 12 October we celebrated the harvest. It was great to see so many people come together to enjoy an evening of entertainment which included wonderful poems and a spot of comedy provided by Edmund and supported by Bea!

Wonderful hot rolls and a scrumptious array of desserts were provided. Thank you to everyone who kindly offered their time to cook and bake for the event.

Vanessa Higham



Photograph by Harry Lomax

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Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

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	The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471

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	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316	rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
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Interim Director of Music:	Rebecca Mills		
Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598	heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org

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Hilary Newman	01789 296 771	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

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Alan Haigh	01789 290 128
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	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
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
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Congratulations to
the Venerable Martin Gorick,
Archdeacon of Oxford,
on his appointment as Bishop of Dudley.

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Venerable Martin Charles William Gorick, MA, Archdeacon of Oxford, to the Suffragan See of Dudley, in the Diocese of Worcester, in succession to the Right Reverend Graham Barham Usher BSc, MA, who goes to take up his position in Norwich.

Martin was educated at Selwyn College, Cambridge and trained for ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon. He served his title at St John the Evangelist, Birtley in the Diocese of Durham and was ordained Priest in 1988.

In 1991, Martin was appointed as Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford. He became Vicar of Smethwick Old Church in the Diocese of Birmingham in 1994 and was additionally appointed Area Dean of Warley in 1997. Martin was appointed as Vicar of Stratford-upon-Avon in the Diocese of Coventry in 2001 where he was also Honorary Chaplain for the Royal Shakespeare Company. He took up his current role as Archdeacon of Oxford and Residentiary Canon of Christ Church in 2013 and also serves as Diocesan Inter-faith Advisor.

The Venerable Martin Gorick will be officially consecrated as a Bishop on January 28.

His role will involve working alongside Dr Inge within the Worcester Diocese as a co-leader, while also leading the work of the church in Dudley.

Martin has fond memories of his time in the Black Country and looks forward to spending more time in the region. He said: "on a day-to-day basis, I would be bringing God to people and people to God. That's what I've always done in my life as a priest." Martin feels that he needs to try to get out there into the community to work with community groups bringing people to God.

"I guess, as a Christian, we're called to love God and love our neighbour. We're the church of England, which means the church for England, and we're for everyone who lives here equally, whether they're people of other faiths or no faith."

In a sense, my faith in God means nothing if I can't connect that with a love for the people of Dudley and help them discover God's great love for them."

He is married to Katharine who is County Lead for Visual Impairment in Oxfordshire and they have three adult children.