

July/August 2026

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

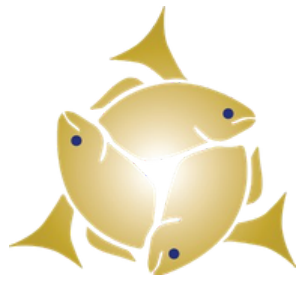


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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We love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below. However, we reserve the right to edit anything that is sent to us and the editor's decision is final.

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 **September** edition

The copy deadline is 17th August

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

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

trinitytimes@stratford-upon-avon.org

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#HolyTrinity on social media



Front Cover: Revd Patrick and Revd Matt greet river users during the Blessing the River Avon service on June 14th. Several churches along the river held similar services to highlight the ecological crisis facing our waterways, as part of The Great Big Green Week. *Photo, George Reah.*

Back Cover: top left, a panel made by community groups across Warwickshire in an exhibition created by Escape Arts and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund; two photos of the Pentecost service at Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd Matt Ford
*Associate Minister
Outreach & Nurture*



Revd Emma Harrington
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

Website: www.stratford-upon-avon.org

EVERY ENDING IS A NEW BEGINNING



I have been very reluctant to write this column. And it's quite amazing what other things you will find to do when you are putting something off! All sorts of cupboards and boxes have been tidied. I have been in denial about writing it because this will be my final piece for Trinity Times.

As many of you will know, after three years my curacy has come to an end and I have been offered the role of Minor Canon at St Paul's Cathedral. Exciting though the prospect of a move to London is, writing this is forcing me to confront the very real fact that I will be leaving a place and people I have come to love very much.

I have so much to give thanks for. From my very first moments here, I have felt welcomed, supported, encouraged and loved. Curacy is a strange time. You bring lots of experience with you but you are also, in many ways, a complete beginner. This parish has been very generous with allowing me the space to learn and grow and very patient with my inevitable mistakes.

I cannot hope to capture here everything I have learned during this wonderful time. But here are a few key highlights:

- When it comes to vestments, one size has to fit all - even if you are well over a foot shorter than the Vicar.
- Every Parish needs a Children and Families' Worker with a magic store cupboard. No matter whether the request is for pipe cleaners, rainbow stickers, WD40 or a prayer tree, Phil always has it in stock.
- If you are preaching, always check beforehand that the reading is what you were expecting.
- Donations of books will always be double the number you planned for.
- Check the number of experts in biblical Greek in the congregation before referencing the original text in a sermon.
- When calculating the length of a PCC meeting, always add at least half an hour.
- There is no such thing as too much cake.

It had been my plan to use this column to say something wise and Godly about transitions and the importance of leaving well. But when the time came to write it, my heart was simply too full. I go from here with so many precious memories and wonderful friendships. As I look back, my overriding feeling is one of gratitude. It has been an immense privilege to walk alongside you for the last three years and to serve as a priest among you. I have encountered endless kindness in both large and small gestures. From the mammoth effort of preparing for the Christmas services to the ordinary faithfulness of turning up, praying, making tea, and keeping things going. This has been a wonderful church to be part of.

Holy Trinity isn't just "our" church. It is Christ's and we are all called to play our part for the season that we are here. For some, that is for many years. Others are here for just a short while. This church has been faithfully serving its community for hundreds of years and we are just the current custodians of that mission. Many curates have come and gone during that time. But, like the mustard seed in the parable, the Kingdom of God continues to grow.



continued...

...continued

Over the past few days, I have experienced a number of “lasts”. The last time I will be with a particular group, or be involved in a particular service, and so on. I was lamenting this aloud and someone reminded me that after all the “lasts” would be a lovely series of firsts. Every ending is also a beginning.

So, although it isn't easy to say goodbye, I want to look to the future with you. My prayer is that Holy Trinity would continue to be a place of welcome, acceptance and love to all who come through your doors. That you would each know the love that God has for you and that you would support one another to grow into all that God has created you to be.

Please pray for me as I begin this new chapter, as I shall continue to pray for you. Thank you for everything and may God bless you, guide you, and keep you always.

Emma

Revd Emma Harrington, Curate

Curates Come and Curates Grow

Three years is a short period in the lifetime of a parish, but the impact that Emma has had on our parish in the relatively brief time she has been with us is remarkable. Her thoughtful, generous and engaging manner means that there are very many people, not just in the churches in our parish but in the wider community beyond, who will miss her greatly. Her appointment as Minor Canon and Succentor at St Paul's Cathedral in London is well deserved and a testament to her skills and abilities. Whilst it is sad to have to say goodbye, the purpose of having a curate is to train them up to go on to ministry somewhere else, so we can be thankful that we have provided Emma with a good context within which she has been able to flourish as a priest in the Church of England today.

One of the enduring legacies of Emma's ministry here will be the 'Presence' service which was very much the result of her vision for a traditional eucharistic service with contemporary band-led worship music. Another welcome new initiative she came up with was the walk-through pet blessing in the churchyard on the feast of St Francis. Her passion for outreach also enabled her to persuade Churches Together to run a stall at the Pursuits Festival, which we have done for two years running now. She played a significant role in the appointment and managing of our first Parish Nurse and her background in corporate marketing and strategy has meant she has been able to offer useful insight and guidance as she has helped to lead us through times of change.

Emma lives out her faith with conviction and confidence and has enabled others to be fruitful in their ministry and witness. Her preaching and teaching has been engaging and intelligent and her naturally caring and compassionate nature, coupled with her ease in relating to others, has meant she has had a rich and valued ministry here, for which we are most thankful. It has been a delight to have Emma as a curate with us and I will miss her very much as a colleague. Please keep her in your prayers as we wish her every blessing for her future ministry.

Revd Patrick



Emma leaves the parish to become Minor Canon and Succentor at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The Succentor ("under-singer") is the assistant to the Precentor, typically in an ancient cathedral foundation, helping with the preparation and conduct of the liturgy including psalms, preces and responses. In English cathedrals today the priest responsible for liturgy and music is usually the Precentor but some cathedrals, such as St Paul's, retain a Succentor as well.

WORSHIP NOTES - JULY and AUGUST

Sunday 5th July: 10.00am Parish Eucharist - Joint Service

We look forward to welcoming our friends from Stratford Methodist Church to the 10.00am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity for a joint service. The sermon will be given by Sheila Brown, Methodist Local Preacher.



Sunday 12th July

Final Sunday in the parish for our Curate, the Rev. Emma Harrington. Do join us at the 10.00am Parish Eucharist where Emma will preside and afterwards at the Parish Picnic where there will be an opportunity to say our goodbyes!



Sermon Series on our Six Focus Areas

We continue to explore the significance of the Six Focus areas for our parish:

12th July Part 3: Discipleship

19th July Part 4: Worshipping God

26th July Part 5: Buildings and Environment

2nd August Part 6: God's abundant provision (Financial Sustainability)



Annual Meeting

St. Helen's AGM will follow the 9.30am service on 19th July.

The Christian Faith in Art

For our Summer Series of sermons at the Parish Eucharist from 9th-30th August, the preacher will take a piece of art as the basis of reflection and exploration of faith.



Sunday 9th August, 5.00pm

Choral Evensong to commemorate the life of Anne Shakespeare. The Revd Dr Paul Edmondson will Officiate, and there will be a visiting preacher. *(See page 11 for details)*

Hymns and Pimm's

What better way to spend a summer's evening than singing your favourite hymns and then enjoying a glass of Pimm's?

St. Helen's 5.00pm 16th August and All Saints' 6.30pm 30th August



Presence (Holy Communion with contemporary worship music) takes place at 5pm on 19th July and 16th August

Taize service

will be on 30th August at 5.00pm



Revd Patrick

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JULY and AUGUST

Holy Trinity

Sunday 5th July — The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Joint Service with Stratford Methodist Church
- 5.00pm Holy Communion (traditional)

Sunday 12th July — The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - Our Six Focus Areas, Part 3: "Discipleship"
- 5.00pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 19th July — The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - Our Six Focus Areas, Part 4: "Worshipping God"
- 5.00pm Presence

Sunday 26th July — The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - Our Six Focus Areas, Part 5: "Buildings and Environment"
- 5.00pm Choral Evensong



Sunday 2nd August — The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "God's abundant provision" (*Our Six Focus Areas Part 6: Financial Sustainability*)
- 5.00pm Holy Communion (traditional)

Sunday 9th August — The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "The Christian Faith in Art: Part 1"
- 5.00pm Evensong to Commemorate the life of Anne Shakespeare

Sunday 16th August — The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "The Christian Faith in Art: Part 2"
- 5.00pm Presence

Sunday 23rd August — The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "The Christian Faith in Art: Part 3"
- 5.00pm Evensong with Healing Ministry

Sunday 30th August — The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "The Christian Faith in Art: Part 4"
- 5.00pm Taize service



All Saints' Luddington

All Sundays

- 9.30am Holy Communion

except Sunday 30th August

- 6.30pm Hymns and Pimms



St Helen's Clifford Chambers

Sunday 5th July

- 9.30am Morning Praise with Phoenix Band

Sunday 19th July

- 9.30am Holy Communion and Annual Meeting

Sunday 2nd August

- 9.30am Morning Praise with Phoenix Band

Sunday 16th August

- 5.00pm Hymns and Pimms





Photo: Harry Lomax

SHAKESPEARE SAYS...

“Where the bee sucks,
there suck I:
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I couch when owls
do cry.
On the bat's back I do fly
After summer merrily.
Merrily, merrily shall I
live now
Under the blossom that
hangs on the bough.”

William Shakespeare,
The Tempest, Act 5, scene i



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
SHOP!**



Duties are simple and rewarding –
welcoming visitors and helping out in the
shop!

We have two shifts available each day:

- 10am – 1:30pm
- 1:30pm – 5pm

We welcome volunteers to commit to one
or more shifts each week.

If you would like to be part
of our team, please
contact the Parish Office
01789 266316

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 

PCC MEETING REPORT: 20th May 2026



This was the first meeting of the new PCC year and we were delighted to welcome the recently elected **Chelsea Pullen**, **Charlotte Didora** and (in their absence) **Malcolm Robinson** and **Sheila Hennessy** as new members of the PCC.



New PCC members Charlotte and Chelsea

Secretary Anthony Woollard proposed, and Phil Harper seconded, that **Mike Warrillow** should be elected to one of the vacant places as a representative on Deanery Synod. This was unanimously agreed.

It was also agreed (in her absence) that **Danni Benge** should be elected, for a two-year term, to one of the remaining vacant PCC places.

Dale Edgington and **John Riley** were co-opted as non-voting members for 2026/7.

The PCC then proceeded to elect its officers for the coming year as follows:

Andrew Boyes-Varley was re-elected as Vice-chair.

Anthony Woollard will continue to serve as Secretary, with John Riley as his assistant.

Malcolm Robinson will succeed Mike Warrillow as Treasurer

Tim Raistrick was elected as Electoral Roll Officer.

Helen Warrillow will continue as Safeguarding officer.

Christopher Kennedy was elected Planned Giving officer.

Paul Lageu was re-elected as Human Resources officer.

David Neale was elected as Clerk of Works.

Malcolm Robinson, **John Riley**, **Heather Fletcher**, **George Reah** were elected representatives on the Standing Committee (in addition to Wardens).

Jane Armitage, **George Reah**, **Paul Talbot**, **Judith Dorricott** were elected as Pro-Wardens.

Tim Raistrick and **Mike Warrillow** were elected as PCC representatives to Friends of Shakespeare's Church.

Under Outreach and Engagements, Revd Patrick and Revd Matt presented reflections on outreach as 'participation in God's mission in the world' in the widest sense. They emphasised the reference made in the Five Year Plan to working with other institutions, and being prepared to learn where God's Kingdom was already at work in them. They gave examples of recent work with the Town Trust and on the Stratford Pursuits day. The meeting broke into groups for discussion likely to be continued in the forthcoming PCC Away Day on 4th July.

Under Financial Matters, Mike reported on plans for repairing the flat roof in the Parish Centre (which mercifully contains no asbestos), and the PCC authorised expenditure of up to £50,000. He also obtained approval for the ongoing work on a Financial Policy document as requested by the Charity Commission, and to the proposals for financial delegation.

At the end of this section, Revd Patrick presented Mike with a recognition of his long service, now ending, as PCC Treasurer.



*Wardens, Pro-Wardens and other members of PCC were commissioned at the Eucharist on Trinity Sunday,
Photo: James Willetts*

In the Safeguarding, health and safety and compliance policy section, Helen presented her regular reports, which were accepted. It was noted that arrangements were being made to ensure that safeguarding measures are in place for the upcoming choir event (including singing at St David's Cathedral) in August. The policies on health and safety were also agreed.

Under Worshipping God, Revd Patrick presented the revised pattern of Sunday services including the addition of a regular 'Presence' service at 5.00pm on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Attendance of the Presence service in the last few months shows that there is a very strong preference for it to be at 5.00pm, rather than at 7.00pm. A 5.00pm service would also be preferable from the point of view of providing Wardens, Clergy and Stewards. A key change is to move Taize to the 5th Sunday and make Evensong with Healing Ministry a monthly service. Whilst the result will be fewer Taize services, the advantage will be a more regular offering of prayer and anointing for healing (and at the same time maintaining the full choral elements of Evensong on the 4th Sunday). A final part of the proposal will be for the possibility of a new Wednesday Choral Evensong at 6.00pm, which would be monthly to start. After discussion, this was accepted, subject to an amendment that Taize worship would be offered on a Wednesday evening at least once a month in addition to the 5th Sunday.

Under Minutes and Outstanding Action Log and matters arising, the minutes of the March 2026 meeting were agreed. On outstanding items, it was agreed that Revd Patrick should approach David Runcorn to lead, in early autumn, an open meeting on the issues raised by the Bishops' decision on 'Prayers of Love and Faith.' The PCC expressed its wish that the matter not be forgotten.

Under Other Business, Paul introduced his paper on sick pay arrangements for staff to ensure that Holy Trinity practice is in line with the latest legislation, which unfortunately does not make clear provision for the sort of work patterns applying to visitor welcome assistants. His compromise, based generally on the idea of 80% pay for specific shifts missed through illness, was endorsed.

To conclude, the annual Away Day will be held at Moreton Morrell Church on Saturday 4th July. The next ordinary PCC meeting was confirmed for 14th July at All Saints' Luddington.

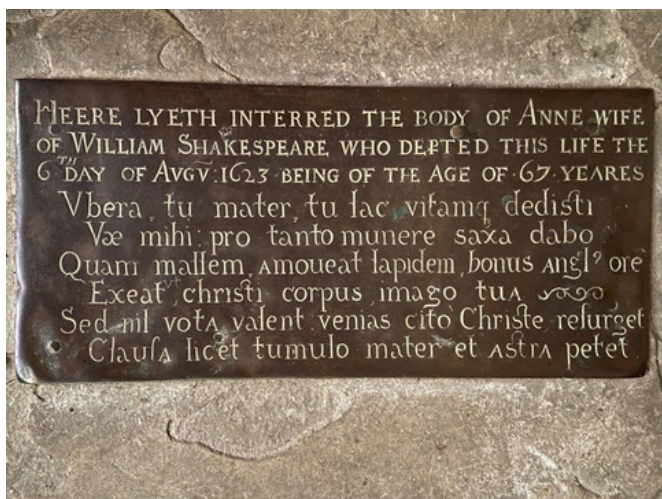
ANNE SHAKESPEARE'S EPITAPH



*Katherine Scheil is Professor of English at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of several books on Shakespeare, including *Imagining Shakespeare's Wife: The Afterlife of Anne Hathaway*. Here she introduces her new book which looks at what makes Anne Hathaway's epitaph unique among the Shakespeare family, the likely reasons it was written in Latin, and what we can infer from content and form.*

It also examines who created the engraving, and how its maker connects Shakespeare's burial site to the publishing networks of 17th Century London.

The Shakespeare family graves occupy a prominent place on the chancel steps of Holy Trinity Church. Of the five graves, Anne Shakespeare's is the only one commemorated with a brass plaque and an epitaph in original Latin poetry, eulogizing her as a beloved mother, a pious woman, and, "so great a gift." Anne's epitaph dates from as early as 1634, so it would have been in place not long after her death in 1623, and it is the most reliable piece of evidence about her life.



My recent research, published in *Anne Shakespeare's Epitaph* (Cambridge, 2026), makes the argument that this Latin epitaph, addressed from the point of view of a child to a mother, was written by Anne's daughters Susanna and Judith, a rare example of a Shakespearean text by the Shakespeare women.

Both Susanna and Judith were mothers at the time, so eulogizing Anne as a mother, in between the monument and grave of their poet father, was a significant statement about the value of motherhood.

Susanna and Judith chose the most permanent material available – commemorative brass – in hopes that their praise of Anne would endure, and I have discovered that Anne's family also enlisted Edward Marshall, a pre-eminent London engraver, to craft Anne's brass. Marshall completed the impressive Totnes monument in Holy Trinity Church (c.1630), the monument to Michael Drayton in Westminster Abbey (1631), and would later become Master Mason to the Crown.

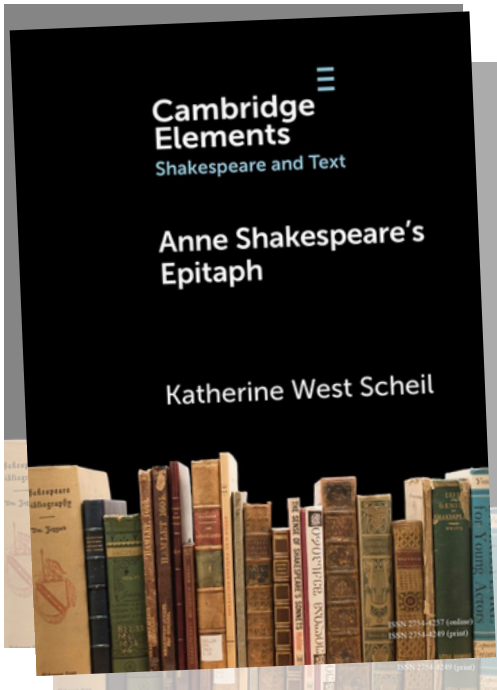
The location of Marshall's workshop provides a compelling link to the literary culture of the era. Situated in the churchyard of St Dunstan in the West, near Fetter Lane and Fleet Street, his shop sat at the heart of London's printing industry. This was the same hub where many of Shakespeare's plays were published, and Marshall had close friendships with many of the printers and booksellers at St Dunstan's, both as neighbours and as fellow parishioners.

It is likely that Edward Marshall knew the Shakespeare name when he was commissioned to do the engraving for Anne Shakespeare, and this perhaps offers a tantalizing connection between Anne and the London literary world of her husband.



Anne Hathaway by Roger Brien Dunn BA, 2010. This painting is based on a drawing by Nathaniel Curzon on the reverse of title page of a copy of the third folio in 1708

Anne Shakespeare's epitaph has been in place for nearly 400 years, just steps from where she worshipped with her family and where her three children were baptized, and not far from where she buried her only son Hamnet in the churchyard in 1596. And her epitaph has weathered the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims seeking out her husband's grave and monument, many of whom often stood on her grave for the best view. Even after centuries of social upheaval, war, baptisms, marriages, funerals, and the foot traffic of thousands of tourists and local parishioners have left nary a mark on Anne's grave.



Her epitaph endures, steadfastly testifying across time to the shared human experiences of grief, motherhood, and strength, deeply embedded in a space where Anne herself once knew both hope and anguish, joy and sorrow.

The choices Susanna and Judith made four centuries ago – employing a top engraver, using brass, opting for a chancel burial, and creating original Latin poetry – will continue to immortalize the gift of their mother and the important maternal role she played in the Shakespeare family and in her community.

Katherine Scheil
Professor of English
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Education
Coordinator, College in the Schools Literature
Distinguished University Teaching Professor
University of Minnesota

COMMEMORATING ANNE SHAKESPEARE

Come and join us to commemorate the life of Anne Shakespeare on the anniversary of her burial in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church.

A special sermon will be preached by local Shakespeare expert Dr Elizabeth Hardy and poems inspired by Anne will be read as part of the service.

Refreshments are available at the end. This is the fourth year of this special service, which is co-hosted by The Friends of Shakespeare's Church.

Revd Dr Paul Edmondson



**Evensong to
Commemorate
the life of Anne
Shakespeare**

**Sunday 9th August 5pm
Holy Trinity Church**

AN OUTING FOR THE RINGERS

The first ringers' outing of 2026 took place on Wednesday 6th May to villages surrounding Bredon Hill in Worcestershire, just a few miles from Evesham and affording views of the distant Malvern Hills.

Hinton on the Green, St Peter - eight bells, tenor weight 10.1.8 in G, accessed via an ancient ladder.

The church of St Peter, located in the village of Hinton on the Green, is about two and a half miles south of Evesham. The current building has been largely restored, although the tower is still 15th century. There are examples of Norman work, including a doorway with fluted capitals and a crude tympanum.

The old rood stairway and its doors remain and nearby is a trefoiled piscina.

Beckford, St John Baptist – six bells, tenor weight 13cwts in E, accessed by a spiral staircase from the north side of the tower.

Rising above the nave and chancel, the tower has a Norman base dating to 1130, a 13th Century third stage and a fifth stage added in the 17th Century and crowned with pinnacles. The porch contains a Norman doorway, with a fine tympanum, depicting God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. There are many other interesting internal features, including a beautiful model of the church which lights up and the roof opens to show the interior (for a small donation), so this lovely church is well worth a visit!



Hinton on the Green, St Peter



The ringers at Beckford church

Kemerton, St Nicholas - six bells (GF) 12 cwt in G (pictured above)

Kemerton church is approached along a pleasant country lane, and it lies close to Kemerton Court. The church was largely rebuilt in the 19C, leaving earlier 13thC work in the tower. The 19C font is richly arcaded and carved with flowers, the capitals of the arches each having a lion's head, and round the rim are ball-flowers with gracefully berried tendrils.

The reredos in the chancel across the east wall is an oil painting copied from a 15th Century Italian master, showing the Nativity and a great company of angels.

**Charles Wilson,
Tower Captain**

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

At the beginning of May, 20 pilgrims enjoyed four days in Walsingham. We stayed at the Anglican Shrine, partook in the special services there of healing at the holy well, Holy Communion, and the candlelit procession for Our Lady of Walsingham. We prayed the rosary, the Stations of the Cross, and engaged in some Bible study.



We also enjoyed visits to Wells-next-the-Sea and explored the lovely village of Walsingham itself.

A similar pilgrimage is intended to take place next year, from 24th to 27th May, so if you would like to register interest, please contact Paul Edmondson on prosperohal@gmail.com (the cost would be approximately £310 per person, for three nights, half-board, and travel, depending on numbers of participants).

Revd Dr Paul Edmondson

CONCERT



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First UMC of Birmingham YOUTH CHOIR

of Birmingham, Michigan, USA
Director: Mr. Casey Proch

Wednesday
July 1
7:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church
Old Town,
Stratford-upon-Avon

Free entry

witte Performance Tours



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

**Stratford upon
Avon**



Film screening and discussion

Rother Street Arts House
29th July 2026 6.30 pm

www.nebriefing.org

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PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Rt Revd Jackie Searle, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry, former Bishop of Crediton and previously acting Bishop of Exeter, lives in Stratford-upon-Avon with husband David, and is currently serving as part-time Acting Bishop of Derby. In May she fulfilled an ambition to undertake a pilgrimage along the Camino do Santiago and here she writes about her experience.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you; whose hearts are set on pilgrimage' Ps 84:5

My heart has been set on doing this pilgrimage, walking part of the Camino do Santiago ('The Way of St James') for many years now – and retirement offered the opportunity, as well as the reason.



Retirement marks a new stage of life, and for many clergy it also means a new start in a new place – which has been so for me and David. So, my reasons for wanting to go included making space for reflection on the pilgrimage of life, and this stage of life's journey in particular. I wanted to connect with God; as pilgrims we walk where many have walked before us seeking wisdom and spiritual insight. It is a walk with a destination and holy intentions.

There are many Caminos, and many miles, networks of ancient trails that lead to the shrine of St James (the disciple of Jesus, brother of John, fishermen who left their nets to follow Jesus). I did a relatively small section, 82 miles, from Samos to Santiago, in Northern Spain. I was with a good friend, Sue, and we were part of a group of 16 who had come from different parts of the world, and with different



purposes. The route of the Camino passes through beautiful forests, little villages, larger towns, hills and fields, beside rivers and streams, and at times near a major road – a reminder of the usual speed and busyness of life. We were walking for six days. Our longest day was 19 miles; we averaged about 14 miles each day. Challenge is an important part of pilgrimage – it's not meant to be easy. We were reminded that the pilgrims of old would have taken months to get to Santiago, and would have then had to walk all the way back as well – which is why some stayed ... or went on to Rome or Jerusalem! The Camino has been a major pilgrimage route since the 10th century.

Pilgrims carry with them a Camino Passport, collecting inked stamps along the way – from churches large and small, cafes and albergues (the traditional shelters for pilgrims), hotels, and little wayside tables where hospitality was offered. Hospitality is a pilgrimage theme – pilgrims then and now rely on the kindness of others, and that spirit is alive and well on the Camino today.

On the sixth day, our last day of walking, our guide gave clear instructions – though we had walked at our own pace up until now, for the very last section of the day, the two miles into Santiago, we would walk together. Our group had bonded, with deep conversations at times, and companionable silence at others. As I write this now, I am holding them in my prayers. To arrive together, at our destination, was a moment of great joy, and tears – we had done it. We had come to the holy place. We had the following day in Santiago and many of the group agreed to meet for the Pilgrims Mass at the cathedral for our last evening, and to go for dinner together afterwards. At the end of our evening, we stood once more in the square where we had arrived. We shared the Irish Blessing ('May the road rise up to meet you...') and we hugged our farewells.



A prayer at the end of the Mass was said in English: 'As you kept them safe on their Camino way, may you keep them safe on their journey home; may they live the gospel of Jesus as their Camino of life continues.'

Life is a journey with its ups and downs, twists and turns. I didn't know, all those months ago when I booked the pilgrimage, that I would be picking up my crozier again to help the good people of the Diocese of Derby. I had expected space either side of my journey – and that's not how it worked out. But this is the Camino of life.



In the Cathedral at Santiago Sue and I queued to go down to the crypt, the tomb of St James. As I knelt there I had a sense of being close to someone who had been with Jesus. As I climbed up to the statue of St James (something pilgrims have done for centuries) I hugged his shoulders and felt strength and support. This stays with me now, as does the beautiful scent of the eucalyptus forests, the mock orange and roses that were in full bloom, and the beauty of lives shared, albeit for a short time, whilst our 'paths have crossed.'

Thank you to those from Holy Trinity who have walked the Camino and shared their inspiring stories – they have been deeply encouraging. Maybe the Camino is calling to you. But whether we walk or not, we are all pilgrims in the journey of faith together. May we know God's love and care in the Camino of our lives.



A prayer from the Way of St James

*'Be for us our companion on our walk; our guide at the crossroads;
Our breath in our weariness; our protection in danger;
Our albergue (shelter) on the Camino; our shade in the heat;
Our light in the darkness; our consolation in our discouragements;
And our strength for the journey of life. Amen.'*

Bishop Jackie

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children and Families Minister, Phil Harper, reports on popcorn, preparation, puppets, Pentecost and bedtime prayers.



Over the last couple of weeks Jane Martin and I have had the pleasure of leading two younger members of the church family through their preparation to be admitted to Communion before Confirmation. Matilda (top left) and Lizzie (below left) have been learning about baptism, what we believe as Christians, about the Bible and prayer.

They've really engaged with all that we've done and I look forward to sharing in the next issue pictures from their admission to Communion.

We've had a couple of special Bubble Churches over the last month. We celebrated Pentecost, and the coming of the Spirit, sharing the story with families who were hearing about it for the first time. The children loved using the streamers to be like the wind and fire.



At another service we heard about God calling Samuel in his sleep, which the puppets acted out, and we then gave out Bubble Church Bedtime Prayers. The books contain some of the liturgy from the Bubble Church services and provide a structure for reflection, thanks and prayers at the end of each day. The children were very excited to get their new books, and I look forward to hearing about how they have used them.



Bubble Church will continue over July and August and continue to meet in the Summer Holidays on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday. The service begins at 9.00am and breakfast is served from 8.45am.



Rev. Penny shows what's inside the Bedtime Prayers book at Bubble Church

We also celebrated Pentecost in our Parish Eucharist, thinking how the disciples before they were filled with the Holy Spirit were a bit like corn kernels, with lots of potential but needing something to release it.

Fortunately, I had my special potential releasing machine, also known as a popcorn maker. Just as the heat gave new life to the corn, the Holy Spirit did the same for the disciples and continues to work through us. For the prayers we gave new life to balloons through our prayers and our breath.

Phil
Phil Harper





Dear Members,

As I sit down to write this report for Trinity Times it is a very cool, wet June day. I do hope that by the time you read this summer will have returned.

When the Committee met in January we decided to have a river trip in May and a cream tea at the RSC in July. As you know the river trip was cancelled, unfortunately, as the lady who runs these boat trips broke her leg. Some of you went to the RSC and had a cream tea instead.

It was too short notice to arrange anything else for July so we are still intending to go to the RSC Rooftop Restaurant as planned. If you have not already put your name down to join us it is not too late. Please let me or Diane know as soon as possible. The RSC like to have definite numbers a week before especially as it is a large group. So, on Wednesday 15th July we will gather upstairs in the restaurant at 2.00pm (there is a lift for those who need it). The cost is £9.00 per person; please make your cheques out to Stratford upon Avon PCC.

This is our last meeting until September. I do hope that you have enjoyed our programme this year and I know that Barbara has put together another selection of interesting talks for next year. The new programme will start on Wednesday 16th September when we hope to have Margaret Daws, who will tell us the history of our street names in Stratford.

I do hope that you have an enjoyable summer, whether you are going away or meeting up with family and friends, and I look forward to seeing you again in September.

Our meetings are held in the Parish Centre and start at 2.00pm and a reminder that these are for the male members of Holy Trinity as well as the female. If you have not yet joined us please just come along on the 3rd Wednesday in the month, we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Coffee & Chat in June celebrated the diamond wedding anniversary of Revd Diane and Alan Patterson, who were married 60 years ago. Those attending enjoyed looking through photos and sharing memories.

The next Coffee & Chat is on Thursday 2nd July 11.00am-1.00pm in the Parish Centre



Anthony Woollard's **WINDOW ON THE WORLD**



We are all dependent on each other. And by “we” I do not just mean human beings, but the whole created order. Wars within and between distant countries affect us all, but so do natural events like the climate crisis – and, this summer, I find it hard to understand how anyone can be in doubt about that!

And nature and the climate in return are affected by our actions. I am always overjoyed to read about efforts at conservation, locally and beyond – but such stories are still too few. The recent ceremony at Holy Trinity to bless and pray for our precious but polluted River Avon hopefully reminded us all of our responsibilities. They are not getting any easier, as governments and politicians withdraw from previous climate action targets. But the challenges will not go away.

There are also many opportunities to learn about interdependence at a much more personal level. Illness or disability, perhaps especially when both halves of a couple are affected (even if not equally), brings us up against just how much we take each other for granted....until our capacities change. Then we begin to discover new weaknesses but maybe also new strengths, in ourselves, in those closest to us, and in our surrounding communities within and beyond our church congregation – whom Ursula and I have found profoundly supportive in recent weeks.



Revd Emma presides at the Corpus Christi Eucharist

But how do you build such interdependence? It is not, I believe, something that can be done to a formula. But it can be massively encouraged by the leadership, whether formal or informal, of those who have certain gifts. Those gifts do not always “go with the job”, and I would not say that all clergy, for example, have them equally!

But, as we prepare to lose Emma, I would say that she has very much proved to have that kind of influence. Thanks to her time with us, we are a friendlier community, and one showing more inclusivity and interdependence, than we might otherwise have been. The greatest thanks we can give is to carry those values forward, each according to our gifts, not just as individuals but in partnership with each other.

Anthony



MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFASTS



Our Men's Breakfasts have continued on the first Saturday of the month at 9.00am. We cook, eat and tidy up together giving us an opportunity to talk about what's going on in our lives and to share a laugh.

After the breakfast in June Revd Patrick shared a thought for the day, giving us something extra to chew on before the washing up.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES!

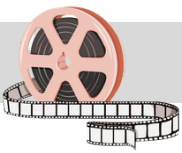
HOLY TRINITY
Men's Breakfast

It's not served-it's shared.
Cook and enjoy a hearty feast
and discover faith together.

£5 per person
SATURDAY 4TH JULY
& **SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST**
IN THE PARISH CENTRE
9AM-11AM

TO BOOK
SCAN THE QR CODE,
OR CALL/MESSAGE JONATHAN ON
07772001369





FAITH AND FILM

In our Summer programme we have chosen four top-flight 'Summer-lite' films which take us, with comedy and humour, to unexpected places. These do not exclude the deeper - and often darker - side of life, nor the inevitable questions this type of film poses to Christian faith, by way of both challenge and encouragement. It's an 'In our Time' sort of Summer programme.

All films are shown 4.00-7.00 pm in the Holy Trinity Church Lounge, normally on the last Friday of each month, excepting September.

Friday, 26 JUNE: The Choral (2025, Dir. Nicholas Hytner, adapted from a novel by Alan Bennett).

The year is 1916 and the Great War is draining a Yorkshire town of its men, leaving the local choral society without voices. For a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, the society's German-trained director Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), is forced to recruit his singers from among the town's adolescent population. Guthrie is a demanding taskmaster, yet under his guidance these teens will come to know the transcendent joys of singing together, while steeling themselves for their impending conscription. An unlikely - often comical, but thought-provoking - high-culture response to grim times.

Friday, 31 JULY: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969, Dir. George Roy Hill).

'Buddy movie', based loosely on historical characters. Set in the last decade of the nineteenth century, when the West was finally becoming a place of enforced law, it retraces the story of the two leaders of the bank-robbing Hole in-the-Wall Gang. Butch (Paul Newman) is all ideas, Sundance (Robert Redford) is all action and gun-play. When they rob a train once too often, a special posse begins trailing them. Butch has another idea for adapting to adverse times: 'Let's go to Bolivia'. Funny, sad and devastating. Four 'Oscars'.

Friday, 28 AUGUST: Jules et Jim (1962, Dir. François Truffaut).

Follows the decades-long bond between two close friends whose lives are upended when they both fall for the same free-spirited femme fatale, Catherine. Sweeping from pre-World War I Paris, through love, war, and shifting loyalties, it's a lyrical French New Wave classic, praised for its inventive style and for Jeanne Moreau's magnetic performance as Catherine. With its poignant themes of love, freedom, and time, it remains a must-see for fans of artful, emotionally rich cinema. The theme song, 'Le tourbillon de la vie' ('The Whirlpool/Twister of Life') will have you humming it all day long— maybe even singing it in French!

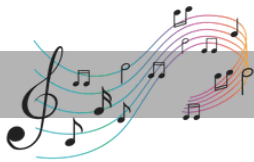
Friday, 11 SEPTEMBER: Happy-Go-Lucky (2008, Dir. Mike Leigh).

Laugh-out-loud comedy about having fun, looking for love and getting on with life. Poppy (Sally Hawkins) is an irrepressibly cheerful primary school teacher who won't let anything or anyone get her down.

As she navigates everyday challenges and meets troubled characters, her optimism reveals hidden depths and resilience, sketching out an art of living which consists of making the best of things ...'Delightful' (The Times).



Paul Gifford



MUSIC MATTERS

The choir recently performed a beautiful evening concert featuring Fauré's Requiem in Holy Trinity Church (*pictured right - more next issue*). All funds raised were in support of the choir's summer tour to St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, where they will sing the services over the weekend of 28th-30th August.

Trinity Voices continue to sing regularly at Sunday services and are pictured below right at Pentecost.

The choir are pictured, bottom, processing to the River Avon as part of the Blessing of the River service.

To mark the first anniversary of the appointment of Colin Millington as Director of Music members of the treble section of Holy Trinity choir asked him several questions on social media. Topics ranged from why Colin chose to come to Holy Trinity and his musical compositions to his favourite tie, favourite biscuit, what would be his superpower and what animal he would like to be.



Photos: George Reah and Phil Harper



You can watch the short films on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitystratfordchoir>



FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC



The Friends of the Music weekly lunchtime Soundbites concerts continue on Wednesdays in church.

Refreshments are available from 12.15pm with performances from 1.00–1.30pm. Full details of the scheduled programme are available on our Facebook page, The Friends of Music at Holy Trinity, where you will also find videos of previous performances; our website www.htcfom.co.uk; and via email to all members.

- 1 July Piano, Margaret Finch
- 8 July Guitar, Eve-Marie Wenger
- 15 July Piano, Ruimei Huang, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 22 July The Parmetto Piano Trio
- 29 July Piano, Mariko Terashi, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 5 August *To be confirmed*
- 12 August *To be confirmed*
- 19 August Voice and piano, Clive Letchford and Gillian Parsons
- 26 August Clarinet, Aoife Jennions

Dates for the Diary:

Northern Power House: Baroque Music Beyond London with Cabinet of Curiosities: 25th July 7:30pm

Led by Clive Letchford, Cabinet of Curiosities explores the lively culture of domestic and public music-making which, whilst Handel dominated the South, was flourishing in the North of England and the Midlands. The programme will include instrumental music for strings and flutes by composers working far from the capital alongside popular songs that delighted audiences of the time. We hope you will join us to hear a fascinating and rarely explored strand of English Baroque music. Tickets (£15 including a drink) are available from www.htcfom.co.uk and on the door.

Luceat and James Fellows – Crowd-funding request

Members of the Friends may well recall that in June 2025 we were delighted to host a concert by Luceat, an Oxford-based choir, directed by James Fellows, a former Organ Scholar at Holy Trinity. We are now happy to share information about an imminent recording project with a major recording label for which Luceat are seeking funding via a crowd-sourcing campaign.

The recording is likely to take place in Norwich Roman Catholic Cathedral in August of this year. It will feature a newly researched repertoire much of which has not been heard since the 16th Century. The recording is an enormous opportunity for the choir, allowing their music to be shared with a much wider audience.

There are significant costs associated with the project and it is hoped that £10,000 will be raised. (£5,000 has already been secured).

For more information, you can watch a video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RodDkpPKHA&list=RD1RodDkpPKHA&start_radio=1

And if you would like to make a donation the crowdfunder page itself can be found here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bolognese-choral-music>



Caroline Thomas
Chair



MAKE IT CAFE



Luddington Village Hall
Last Wednesday of the Month 2-4pm



Come with crafts you are making or choose one to try + Share your ideas and skills + No experience necessary + Learn something new + Collaborate on shared projects from yarn bombing to bird boxes for the village + Celebrate the Christian calendar with themed crafts + Children welcome during school holidays + FREE OF CHARGE!

Parish Picnic

Sunday 12th July
The Vicarage garden,
opposite Halls Croft
11:45-2pm
(Parish Centre if wet)

Bring a rug
or chair



Bring your
own picnic
and drinks



SOCIAL
EVENTS

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204273

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



Luddington Walk



Saturday 12th Sept
9.45am

Refreshments
after walk

Meet at Luddington
Village Hall

Opportunity
to visit
Luddington
Church

Short and long route available



SOCIAL
EVENTS

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204273

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

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JUNE



BAPTISMS

28th June Matilda Woo

WEDDINGS

6th June Lucinda Baker and Peter Ledger
13th June Karamonique Dosanj and William Calkin



FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICES

1st June Bruce Robertson
2nd June Elizabeth Golby
9th June John Cranmer



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meetings of the Support Group will be on **Wednesday 1st July** and **5th August**. If you think it would be helpful to you to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time in your life please come and join us.

Just come to the Parish Centre at 2.00pm and we will finish by 3.30pm.

Our following meeting will be **2nd September**.

There is no need to make an appointment; we would be delighted to see you. Come and join us in the lounge area of the Parish Centre.

David Harrison



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PARISH CONTACTS

Website: www.stratford-upon-avon.org

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

Clergy Team

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Associate Minister: Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, matt@stratford-upon-avon.org

Curate: Revd Emma Harrington, 01789 266316, emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org

Children & Families Minister: Phil Harper, 07791 005696, phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Safeguarding Team

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Safety and Compliance Officer: Liz Roper-Kemp, 01789 266316, liz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Revd Patrick Taylor, 01789 508155, vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org

Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, matt@stratford-upon-avon.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 02476 521345

Parish Nurse

Karen, 07907 550704, nurse@stratford-upon-avon.org

Honorary Assistant Ministers with Permission to Officiate

Revd Penny Harrison: 01789 266316

Revd Ben Pullan: 01789 266316

Revd Jenny Rowland: 01789 415548

Venerable Brian Russell: 01789 266 316

Rt Revd Jackie Searle: 01789 266316

Revd David Runcorn: 01789 266316

Revd Roger Watts: 01789 266316

Readers

Paul Gifford: 01789 509 613

David Harrison: 01789 612634, davidianharrison@hotmail.com

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Safety and Compliance Officer: Liz Roper-Kemp, 01789 266316, liz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Parish Administrator: Michele Nicol Hilton, 01789 266316, office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Director of Music: Colin Millington, 01789 266316

Assistant Director of Music: Rebecca Mills, 01789 266316

Church Wardens

Paul Lageu: 07434 328484;

Mike Warrillow: 01789 298928:

Andrew Boyes-Varley: 07860 813920

Diane Armstrong: 07775 795901

Village Contacts

All Saints' Luddington: Jane Beeley, 01789 269618

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers: Pat Woolvin, 07989 318965

Other Contacts

Head Server: Chris Cornford, 01789 295066

Bell Ringers: Charles Wilson, 01789 295467

Bereavement Support Team: David Harrison, 01789 612634, davidianharrison@hotmail.com

Trinity Fellowship: Gina Lodge, 01789 204850

Electoral Roll Officer: Tim Raistrick, 01789 509885

Friends of Shakespeare's Church: contact Parish Office

Friends of St Helen's Church: Angela Wylam, 01789 268156

Lay Chaplains: Keith Payne, 01789 266316

PCC Secretary: Anthony Woollard, 01789 204923

PCC Treasurer: Malcolm Robinson, 07836 601662

Friends of the Music: Caroline Thomas, 01789 266316

Stewardship Officer: Chris Kennedy, 01789 299785

Home Communion: Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, matt@stratford-upon-avon.org

Social Events: Chris Cottrell, 01789 204273

Trinity Players: Ursula Russell, 01789 204923

Trinity Tots: Phil Harper, 07791 005696

Welcome Team: Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, matt@stratford-upon-avon.org

Sunday Coffee organisers: Tina Hillyard, 01789 551739; Diane Edwards, 07969 228689

Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Team: Lindsay MacDonald, 01789 293110

CAPTION COMPETITION



The moment when Revd Emma and Revd Patrick realised the newly blessed water in the font at the Easter Vigil had all drained away prompted some interesting captions. Missing babies were a common theme as witnessed in Paul Legeu's "I thought you were supposed to be holding onto the baby!" and "Where's the baby gone?!" from Tricia Hall-Matthews. An understandably anonymous offering was, "Now you see it, now you font"; Eve Archer suggested the unseasonal but amusing, "Christmas trees are getting expensive but this is ridiculous!" while Gillian Price came up with the simple, "EAU!"

This month how about captions to explain Revd Matt standing with a large mirror in the church entrance. Let us have your ideas to trinitytimes@stratford-upon-avon.org





One of the textile panels in Pillars of the Community, an exhibition in Holy Trinity celebrating Community Volunteers



Chris filling the Servers' prayer balloon at the Pentecost service



Pentecost at Holy Trinity