

October 2026

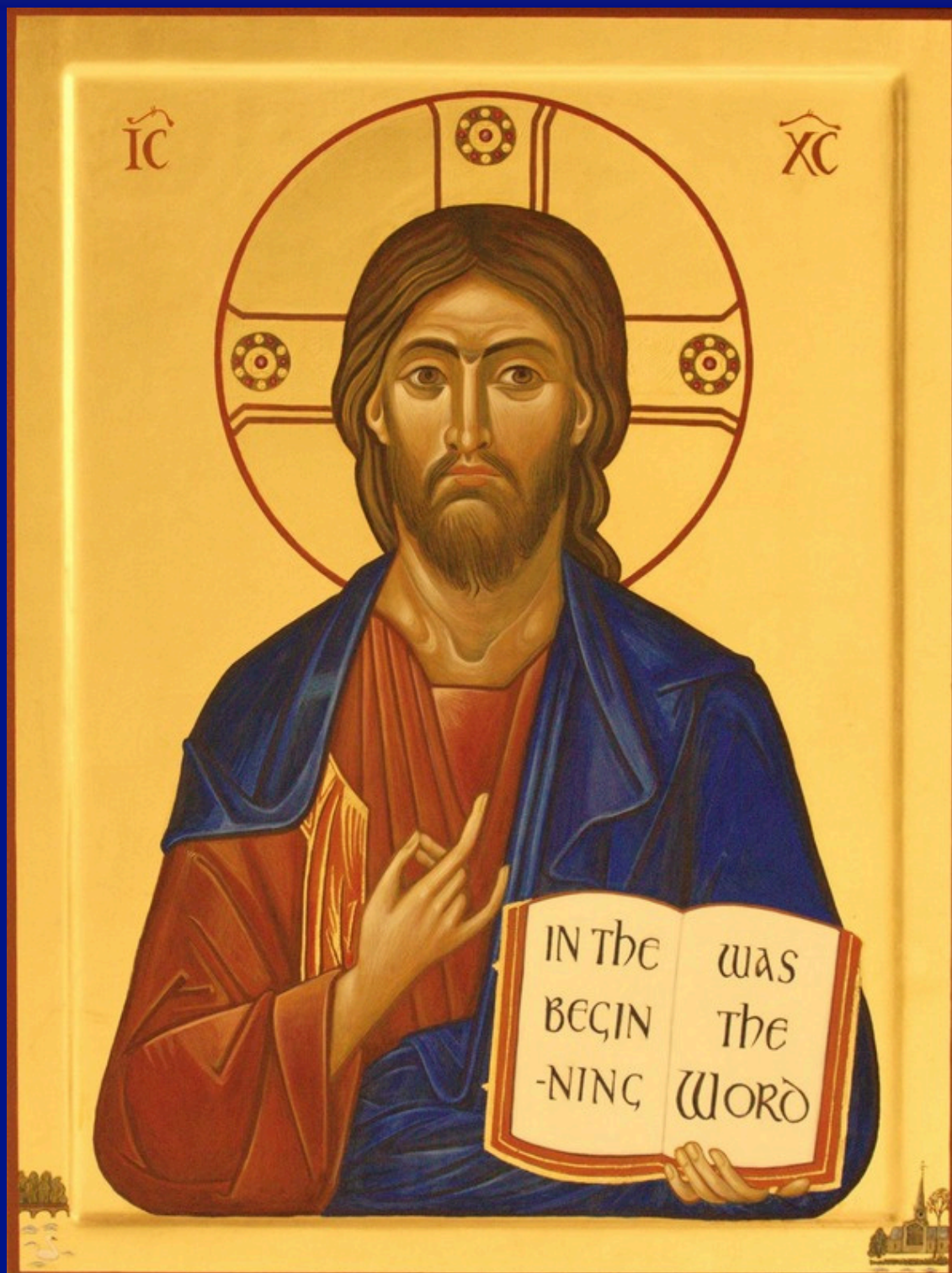
£1.50

THE PARISH OF
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



Editor - Revd Patrick Taylor

Deputy Editor—Phil Harper

Design Editor - David Guest

Features Editor - Judith Dorricott

Associate Editor - Anthony Woollard

Subscriptions & Distribution - Paul Lageu

Team Members—Paul Lageu and Carole Askew

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 **November** edition

The copy deadline is 15th October

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

For queries about editorial content please contact

Judith Dorricott - 01789 415131 or

judithdorricott@btinternet.com

For any queries regarding subscriptions or distribution or advertising of Trinity Times please contact: Paul Lageu 07434 328484 or

Email: paullageu@hotmail.co.uk

#HolyTrinity on social media



Front Cover: Revd Susan Mobberley's new Christ Pantocrator icon, now in the Becket Chapel, *photo: George Reah (see pages 12-13)*

Back Cover: top: the Parish Eucharist with Blessing of the Bags in September, *photo, George Reah*; bottom: a "surprise" visit by the Bishop of Warwick designate: Revd Canon Dr Tim Lomax with Revd Patrick, Revd Matt and Bishop Sophie. *photo, George Reah (see also page 11)*

Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd Matt Ford
*Associate Minister
Outreach & Nurture*



Phil Harper
*Children and Families
Minister*

Website: www.stratford-upon-avon.org

A NEW LOGO BUT THE SAME VALUES

I often notice people standing at the top of the North Path of Holy Trinity Church looking with interest at the notice attached to the railings. This states that we are part of a network of churches called Inclusive Church.



You may have noticed that the poster has recently changed. This is because Inclusive Church has a new logo and branding. The previous design was sometimes mocked for resembling a caterpillar (*pictured left*) and so the new branding (*below right*) hopes to communicate that fact that this is an explicitly Christian organisation. The multiple, interlinked buildings suggest a community of churches and people, with the individual elements coming together to include everyone.

For me, membership of Inclusive Church is important because it reflects our desire to be a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Being properly inclusive is not just about sexuality and gender: it covers many different human characteristics such as disability, economic power, mental health and neurological diversity. These are all a reality amongst the congregations and visitors at Holy Trinity, and so if we are to be true to our Gospel value of hospitality, it's important that we work hard to include everyone.

Ultimately our inclusive approach is an expression of the love that Jesus Christ has for all people. God's love never discriminates, despite the fact that we often exclude others, sometimes without realising it. I'm sure it's true that most of us rather like being surrounded by people who are like us. But if a church is only

made up of the same sort of people, then there may be a problem. Any church should be a diverse community which represents the full spectrum of its locality. This is especially true of a Church of England parish church! However, looking around Holy Trinity, is this really the case? Who is missing and what are the barriers that may make some people feel it's not a church for them? The support and challenge we receive from being part of Inclusive Church helps us to work through these challenging questions.



Our PCC members have, for some months, been giving consideration to how we can encourage the Church of England to pursue a more inclusive approach, especially when it concerns couples in same sex relationships. We thought about writing a letter to our bishop, but in the end decided to do some work to help us understand better where the Church has got to on this issue and why there has been so little progress in recent years.

continued...

...continued

To that end, we have organised an open meeting, Being an Inclusive Church, which will take place at 7.30pm on 14th October in Holy Trinity Church. This is open to anyone who would like to attend.

I am delighted that we will be joined by two speakers with much experience in this area. Revd David Runcorn, who is a member of the congregation at Holy Trinity and so well known to many, will speak about some of the biblical and theological foundations of an inclusive Church.

Our other speaker is the Revd Canon Kate Massey, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral. She has been a member of the General Synod of the Church of England for the past five years and has made notable contributions to the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process, which has been working through questions about sexuality and relationships.

If you would like to be part of our journey of discovering what it means to be a genuinely inclusive church, then I hope you will join us.



Inclusive Church

An ecumenical network of churches working together towards a shared vision

“ We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the Church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.** A Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is **scripturally faithful**; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel **afresh for each generation**; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows **all people** to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ

Here we **include**
invite
involve
invest in
everyone

Visit www.inclusive-church.org to join in & find out more



Registered Charity 1102676

Patrick

Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

OPENING HOURS

FROM

SEPTEMBER 7

*A place of welcome, worship and peace
in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon*

Monday	11am - 3.45pm
Tuesday	11am - 3.45pm
Wednesday	2pm-3.45pm
Thursday	11am - 3.45pm
Friday	11am - 3.45pm
Saturday	10am-3.45pm
Sunday	1pm-3.45pm

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OCTOBER

Harvest Festival Services

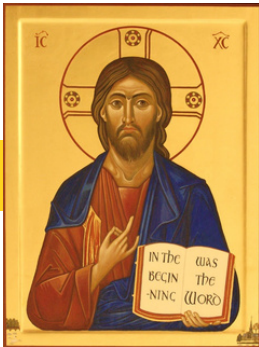
With August this year being the joint hottest month ever recorded (the other being July 2023) our Harvest Festivals are an opportunity to reflect on our impact on the planet, as we also give thanks to God for the precious food it provides. The dates of our Harvest Festival services in the parish are as follows:

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers: 4th October, 9.30am

Holy Trinity: 11th October, 10.00am with Trinity Voices and the Bubble Church puppets.

All Saints' Luddington: 18th October. 11.00am (note later time)

Donations for Stratford Food Bank of non-perishable items will be received at these services. Please see the weekly bulletin for further details nearer the time.



11th October: Rededication of the Becket Chapel 5.00pm

The reordering of the Becket chapel at Holy Trinity has now been completed and it will be rededicated by Bishop Sophie at a special service of Choral Evensong at 5.00pm on 11th October. The reordering has created in the chapel a dedicated space for prayer. The main focus is our wonderful new icon of Christ, and new benches and votive candle stands have been donated. There are also two large candles on brackets attached to the wall. One of these is a Peace Candle and replaces the previous temporary candle which was installed at the start of the war in Ukraine. The other can be designated for prayer according to specific needs or occasions. We will be joined at the service by representatives of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church and the Royal British Legion, both organisations having contributed to the restoration of certain features in the chapel.

18th October: Churches Together Service at 6.30pm

We will be joining Christians from other churches across Stratford at Stratford Methodist Church. Note there is no 5.00pm service at Holy Trinity on this day.



25th October: Presence Service 5.00pm

After an absence during September (due to Emma's licensing at Saint Paul's) the Presence service (a Eucharist with contemporary worship music) returns on the 25th October at 5.00pm. The visiting preacher will be the Reverend Canon Kate Massey from Coventry Cathedral.

All Souls-tide services

All Souls' Day is 2nd November. At St Helen's on 25th October there will be a Service for the Departed at 6.30pm where we will remember those whom we love but who have died. A similar service will take place at Holy Trinity on 1st November at 5.00pm. If you are coming to the services at Holy Trinity or St Helen's and would like the name of a loved one read out, please let the Parish Office know in advance.



Rev'd Patrick

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Holy Trinity

Sunday 4th October — The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
10.00am Parish Eucharist - The Unexpected Kingdom, Part 3
5.00pm Holy Communion (traditional)

Sunday 11th October — The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist - Harvest Festival
5.00pm Choral Evensong with rededication of Becket Chapel

Sunday 18th October — St Luke the Evangelist

9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Joint service at Methodist Church

Sunday 25th October — Bible Sunday (*Last after Trinity*)

10.00am Parish Eucharist
5.00pm Presence service



All Saints' Luddington

All Sundays (*except 18th*)

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October

11.00am Harvest service



St Helen's Clifford Chambers

Sunday 4th October

9.30am Harvest Morning Praise with Phoenix Band
then Pet Blessing at 11.00am

Sunday 18th October

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th October

6.30pm All Souls Commemoration of Faithful
Departed service



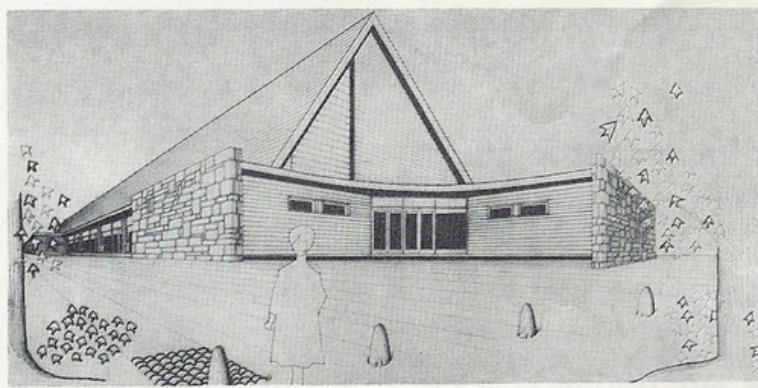
PARISH CENTRE AT 60



*This year, we are celebrating 60 years of the Parish Centre. Over the past six decades, the Parish Centre has been at the heart of our community, bringing people together, creating lasting memories, and changing lives in countless ways. Holy Trinity archivist, **Tim Raistrick**, begins a retrospective of the centre, which will be continued in the next issue.*

When it was suggested that I might compile an evocation of the Parish Centre to commemorate its 60th anniversary, I instantly agreed in my capacity as Holy Trinity's Archivist. However, it quickly dawned on me that I have been associated with the building for almost its complete history.

Another realisation was that the building has always had many functions and thus played a part in so many people's lives over the years such as being a place to be entertained, to exercise, have meetings, to work or to celebrate life's milestones.



ARCHITECT'S IMPRESSION OF NEW HALL

We are desperately needing a Parish Hall where the younger members of our congregation can hold their Sunday Schools and where we can introduce social and cultural activities for all members of our Parish family. Without a Hall our parish life is incomplete and for many the spiritual life of the Parish begins and ends on Sunday.

A page from the 1963 fundraising brochure for the Parish Centre

**£30,000
required
to build a
Parish Hall**

I was delighted to be given by Margaret Edwards her late brother John White's copy of the fundraising brochure for the building.

In his introduction, the Vicar Tom Bland states: "There is an urgent need for a Parish Hall where our children can meet for instruction and social activities; where the youth of the parish can grow up together into the Church of tomorrow; where our adults can

assemble for meetings of such bodies as the Mothers' Union, the Church of England's Men's Society, the Young Wives' Fellowship, the Churchwomen's Group, and Missionary Fellowships, etc. Because we have no meeting-place we are frustrated."

He wrote this in October 1963 and, as we now know, it took nearly three years to raise the funds, estimated to be £30,000 and finally costing £32,275, to build the hall which opened in March 1966 in time for the annual church meeting.

Various organisations had helped with the fundraising, most notably the Churchwomen's Group whose contributions had covered, amongst other things, the crockery (costing £165) much of which is still in use.



The centre in 2012, © Copyright Jaggery

Many individuals are acknowledged in the parish magazine of April 1966 for paying for the chairs in the hall which have subsequently been disposed of but some of which occasionally appear in RSC productions as stylistic icons of the 1960s. Indeed, the style of the building, so redolent of the period, led it to featuring as the Great Slaughter Town Hall in one of the episodes of the Sister Boniface Mysteries.

Drama has always played an important part in the hall's use. When it was new, there was a large stage with dressing rooms to the left, but these were sacrificed to provide offices and the stage cut back to provide a meeting room behind, rendering the stage largely unusable. Thus, theatrical productions have largely used a temporary stage or played on the floor of the hall.

Many people have very fond memories of the amazing Nova youth musicals organised by Jon and Sheonagh Ormrod involving large casts of children from the church community and beyond, supported by a few of us adults. The first of these was Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and some of the smallest children playing sheep would progress through the productions to being part of Fagin's gang in Oliver!, possibly the most ambitious production of all and featuring as Bill Sykes the hardly stereotyped Martin Gorick, then Vicar and now Bishop of Dudley. For at least one production raked seating was brought into the hall and some of the audience sat around the thrust stage.

More recently, Trinity Players have used the hall equally imaginatively for many plays and readings. Who can forget Chris Cornford appearing from under the stage on his entrance as Mole in Toad of Toad Hall? That area under the stage is important in providing much needed storage for the vast collection of costumes that Trinity Players has acquired or been made by members of the congregation over nearly 20 years. Other items stored under the stage are some of the shop stock, historic paperwork and furniture removed from the church. When I was a schoolboy, I used to spend hours in this dark space creating full sized rubbings of the epitaph on Shakespeare's grave from a facsimile stone which were then sold in the stock.



Churchwomen's Group 40th anniversary in 1985 showing original members who would have helped in the fundraising together with Vicar Revd Dennis Spiller.



Lola and Michele in the Parish Office

This had been one of the ideas of the church's first business manager, Cmdr William Hutton-Attenborough ("Bill the Bursar") who, along with Evelyn Taylor, were the only lay staff working in the hall. Evelyn, the Vicar's Secretary, had the office that now houses the photocopier, and the Vicar had the adjoining room, where Lola and co work, as his office. Now, with the secretarial staff, clergy, Parish Nurse and Director of Music all having desks there can be as many as eight people working there at any one time.

To be continued



Photo of Guild Chapel, Harry Lomax

SHAKESPEARE SAYS...

"When I do count the clock that tells the time,
And see the brave day sunk in hideous night;
When I behold the violet past prime,
And sable curls all silver'd o'er with white;
When lofty trees I see barren of leaves
Which erst from heat did canopy the herd,
And summer's green all girded up in sheaves
Borne on the bier with white and bristly beard,
Then of thy beauty do I question make,
That thou among the wastes of time must go,
Since sweets and beauties do themselves forsake
And die as fast as they see others grow;
And nothing 'gainst Time's scythe can make
defence

Save breed, to brave him when he takes thee
hence."

William Shakespeare,
Sonnet 12



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Can you help us
**CREATE A SEA OF
REMEMBRANCE POPPIES?**

Last year our wonderful community helped us begin covering the tree trunks along the path to **Holy Trinity Church** with beautiful handmade poppies for Remembrance.

THIS YEAR WE'D LOVE TO MAKE THE DISPLAY EVEN BIGGER – AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you can **knit or crochet poppies**, whether you make one or twenty, every poppy will help create a meaningful tribute to those who gave so much.

Please consider **joining in** and encouraging your friends, family, knitting groups or crochet clubs to take part too.

If you'd like to help or would like more information, please contact Marie at:
mariemcdougall73@gmail.com

Let's remember together

THIS NOVEMBER
LEST WE FORGET

EVERY POPPY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

#Remembrance #Poppies #Knitting #Crochet #Community #LestWeForget
#HolyTrinityChurch #StratfordUponAvon

The Friends of
Shakespeare's Church
Annual Lecture 2026

'Shakespeare: Keep Calm, and Carry On'

given by
Professor Emma Smith

Thursday 8th October – 7.30pm – 8.45pm
Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

Professor Smith is a Fellow of Hertford College, University of Oxford and a Governor of The Royal Shakespeare Company. She says: 'We've always found the Shakespeare we need at particular moments: the national hero, the political machiavel, the poet of love. This talk discusses Shakespeare's adaptability to different times and suggests that the plays we need now are comedies, drawing especially on Twelfth Night. I don't suggest comedies are light and frivolous - far from it - but I do contend that they have practical comforts in an age of anxiety.'

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church are delighted that she accepted an invitation to give this year's lecture, following in the footsteps of Michael Wood, Martin Bell, Douglas Hurd, Rowan Williams and other distinguished speakers.

Tickets £15 from www.shakespeareschurch.co.uk
or on the door
(For Members of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church the ticket price is £10)

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church is a registered charity dedicated to ensuring that the 800-year old Holy Trinity Church, Stratford's oldest building, is preserved for future generations.



A WARM WELCOME FROM HOLY TRINITY BELL RINGERS

The summer period is always a joy in the Tower as we never quite know who might visit us on a Tuesday practice night or to ring for the Sunday service.

This year we've had more than our fair share of interesting visitors which have included local ringers from Alveston (able to attend as their normal Tuesday activities are on hold over the summer), a violin teacher (considering taking up ringing) and his uncle, a newly trained ringer from Clifford Chambers making the most of



the chance to ring on ten bells (arguably the finest in Warwickshire), and last but not least grandmother Jane from Birmingham and her two daughters from Stratford.

Jane had recently celebrated her 80 birthday and had written a 'bucket list' of things to do before 90. It included visiting a bell tower and witnessing the bells being rung in close proximity.

What she hadn't bargained on was joining us for a drink at the Windmill afterwards for further chat about the history of ringing and other anecdotes. As Jane headed away with her daughters she commented, "I will always remember this evening, thank you so much."

Charles Wilson, Tower Captain

Being an Inclusive Church

**7.30pm, Wednesday 14th October,
Holy Trinity Church**



You are invited to an evening to renew our understanding of what it means to be an inclusive church, in the context of the ongoing discussions in the Church of England about same sex relationships and marriage. Revd David Runcorn and Revd Canon Kate Massey (Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral) will speak. This event has been organised by the PCC and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

"SURPRISE" VISIT OF BISHOP DESIGNATE



The Revd Canon Dr Tim Lomax is to be the new Bishop of Warwick. Tim is currently Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of St Albans and Residentiary Canon at St Albans Cathedral.

On the day the new Bishop of Warwick was announced, Holy Trinity was asked to host a special service of Evensong to end the day he spent touring the diocese with Bishop Sophie.

She wrote to Patrick afterwards, "It really was the perfect end to a most wonderful day and I know that the Bishop of Warwick designate was truly delighted. Please do pass on my sincere thanks to everyone who went the extra mile at short notice."

The Bishop Designate trained at Ridley Hall and prior to taking up the role in St Albans he served parishes in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Tim is married to Kate (*pictured with Bishop Sophie and Tim, right*), who is also ordained and they have three young adult children.

On his appointment Tim said: "I am looking forward to returning to the Midlands and getting to know the people and places of Coventry and Warwickshire, listening to their stories and discovering where God is already at work and where the Holy Spirit may be opening new possibilities."



Photos, George Reah

BLESSING OF THE ICONS



A new icon of Christ Pantocrator has been placed in Holy Trinity Church after being blessed by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, in Stratford-upon-Avon.

One hundred and fifty people gathered in Stratford Town Hall to hear talks by Dr Williams and Abbot Jeremias Schröder, Abbot Primate of the world-wide Benedictine order. The occasion was the reception of three icons, two for St Gregory's Catholic Church and one for Holy Trinity, funded by the Stratford Town Trust.

The Christ Pantocrator icon was written by Revd Susan Mobberley, a retired priest in the Diocese, whose work appears in a number of local venues. Since her mid teens Susan felt a strong desire to learn the art of icon painting following her conversion to Christianity. Many years later the opportunity arose to explore this call with Stephane Ree, Coptic iconographer, and some short courses with Fr Iacovos from Mount Athos. Later she was privileged to be accepted onto the three year icon diploma taught by Orthodox Iconographer Aidan Hart at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts. During the last 13 years she has helped facilitate the ecumenical icon centre of St Luke's in the Warwick area to promote awareness of iconography locally and its importance in our devotional lives.

The subjects of the St Gregory's Church icons were St Benedict, founder of the Benedictine order, and St Gregory, who sent the first missionaries from Rome, led by St Augustine in 597. They were written by Fr Alex Echeandía Loro OSB.

Dr Williams spoke about one of St Gregory's books entitled *On Pastoral Care* written in the sixth century but full of insights into the qualities needed by all leaders, whether Christian bishops or not. Abbot Jeremias spoke about the fact that Benedictine monks had often not stayed in their cloisters, as people expect them to, but had reached out all over the world to spread the gospel.



Dr Williams and Revd Susan Mobberley with her icon

The celebrations moved to the Guild Chapel where monks from three monasteries sang Latin antiphons and psalms and members of the choir of Holy Trinity sang a Magnificat setting by Stanford and the anthem 'If ye love me' by Thomas Tallis.

Dr Williams blessed the icon of Christ Pantocrator for Holy Trinity Church and Abbot Paul Gunter, Abbot of Douai Abbey, in Berkshire, who provide the priests at St

Gregory's, blessed the icons of St Benedict and St Gregory. Revd Patrick and Fr Oliver Holt OSB of St Gregory's led the prayers.

The churches of Holy Trinity and St Gregory's are grateful to the assistance and advice given by the staff of Stratford Town Hall and the Stratford Town Trust through their financial support and the use of the Guild Chapel.



Revd Patrick discusses the icons with Fr Alex Echeandia OSB and Revd Susan Mobberley



Left, Revd Patrick praying in front of the new icon in the Becket Chapel; right, the choir singing during the ecumenical service in the Guild Chapel.

Photos by George Reah and Judith Dorricott



The new icon was installed in the Becket Chapel during the Parish Eucharist on the 15th Sunday after Trinity.

Blessing of the icon of Christ Pantocrator by Archbishop Rowan Williams

Lord God of all creation, you have made all things by the hand of your Son, the perfect and eternal image of your glory, and have created men and women to reveal his likeness in the world by the renewing power of the Holy Spirit: protect, bless, and sanctify this image for the honouring of your holy Name; may it be for us a sign of your faithful presence and a window into your Kingdom, where you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. All: Amen

Pictured right: Dr Rowan Williams blessing the icon watched by Revd Patrick Taylor



PRISONS WEEK 2026

Prisons Week began in England and Wales in 1975. The Prisoners Week committee, consisting of Prison Chaplains and other Christians involved in work with prisoners and their families, was formed to encourage prayer within churches and the wider community for the needs of prisoners.

It had its beginnings as a Roman Catholic initiative started by Bishop Victor Guazzelli, but quickly gained ecumenical support and became an ecumenical observance, receiving the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Westminster, the Archbishop of Wales and the Moderator of the Free Churches Group. In 1993 Prisoners Week became a registered charity and in 1995, seeking to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but on all those involved and affected by prison (including prisoners' families, victims of crime, prison staff, those working in other parts of criminal justice and many volunteers), the week became known as Prisons Week, and the committee known as the Prisons Week Committee.

For more than 40 years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons.



Prisons Week raises awareness and generates prayer. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts in prisons and in their own communities. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

Prisons Sunday is the second Sunday in October and marks the beginning of the week of prayer each year, running through until the following Saturday.

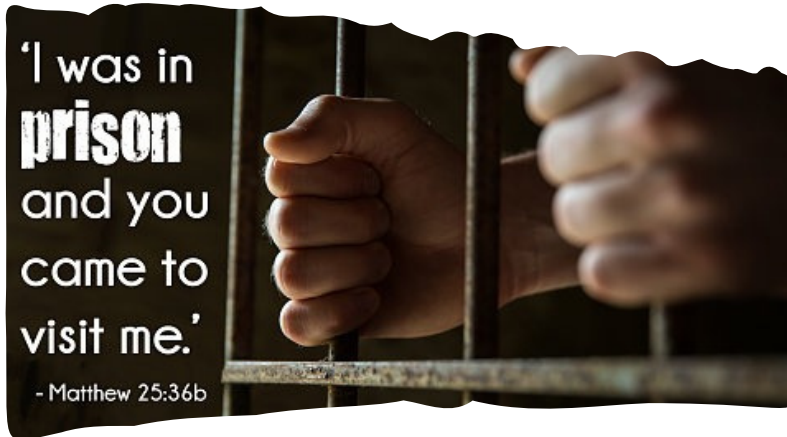
Prisons Week this year is from Sunday October 11th to Saturday 17th, and aims to encourage prayer and awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prison staff and all those who care, reflected in the Prisons Week Prayer offered throughout the week:

**Lord you offer freedom to all people.
We pray for all those in prison
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends,
prisons staff and all who care.
Heal those who have been wounded by the activities
of others, especially the victims of crime .
Help us to forgive one another
To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ
In His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.**



Centered around the ecumenical theme “Show Mercy”, the week focuses on prayer, awareness, and advocacy for prisoners, their families, victims and staff. Local churches, cathedrals and support organisations host nationwide events. The mercy of Christ is comprehensive. It must not stand outside the courthouse or the prison gate. The word “mercy” would be ill-at-ease on the gates of the Lubyanka and it is not obviously present in our own penal system.

Prisoners Sunday is an opportunity to think about how we, as individuals, as a Church, and as communities, serve our brothers and sisters affected by imprisonment.



Prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families, can find themselves on the margins of our society. Yet Jesus challenges us, “I was in prison, and you came to me...”

Our prisons are in crisis: there are record numbers of people behind bars. Britain’s prisons are in the news more than ever, and generating more grave headlines.

The same words and phrases keep cropping up: crisis, scrutiny, overcrowding, violence, prison officer action, private companies, drugs, drones, “a disaster waiting to happen.” Inspectors regularly report instances of vermin, violence, and self harm and people languishing in cells with nothing to do. At the same time too many people are released with no home, no job, no family, and no hope.

The ripple effects of this crisis are felt well beyond the prison walls. The lives of hundreds of thousands of families and children are affected as they, too, serve a hidden sentence. Having a mother, father, husband or wife, in prison can have a devastating impact – more than half of families tell us they are struggling to afford the basics for themselves and their children.

Good things happen too: good rehabilitation, good preparation for life “on the outside” - not least through the work of Chaplains, visitors and volunteers.

I invite members of Holy Trinity to offer their prayers in this ecumenical Prisons Week, all summed up in the words of this prayer:

Come Lord, break into this world of ours and reorder our understanding; where the hurt and damaged find healing, the oppressed are granted justice, and the stranger is welcomed. Stir up within us your compassion. Give us a new heart, a new vision of who we are as your people, and how you call us to live with one another. Hear our prayers for change; that your Kingdom may come here in our homes, our places of work, our prisons, and our communities. Amen.

Revd Dr Roy Lodge MBE Ret'd



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children and Families Minister, Phil Harper, reports on a busy summer and looks ahead to autumn activities.



Over the last month I've certainly hit the ground running with the beginning of the new school year.

It was once again very special to mark this point in the calendar with the blessing of the bags service at Holy Trinity. This was a chance for new school bags, as well as work and other bags used in daily life, to be blessed for the work that we will do with them.

Throughout the summer holidays our Bubble Church services continued (*pictured left*).

It was important for the families, and for us, to be able to offer the service in the usual pattern. At the end of September we marked the first anniversary of Bubble Church. We have about 12-13 families who come regularly, some more infrequently. Over the last ten months we have had 37 families trying out the service. What's encouraging is that with about 90-95% of those families we had no contact with them before Bubble Church.

Some of you reading this may have heard my appeal during my talk at the Parish Eucharist on 23rd August; if not you can watch it back on YouTube. It would be great if Bubble Church could be run weekly, but the only thing stopping us from doing this is the number of volunteers and like any service there is a variety of jobs and skills required. We need people to help as welcomers, puppeteers, audio visual operators (pressing a button and pushing three sliders up and down), making refreshments (tea, coffee and heating croissants), advertising the service (you don't even need to attend). If you'd be interested in helping, please speak to me. There is a similar need for our Toddler Groups and other work with children, so if you're interested, please get in touch.



Cara helping at Bubble Church with a chocolate coin given to her by one of the children

It may seem a little early to mention Christmas but forgive me! We want to upscale the nativity figures used in the Christmas Eve Walkthrough. They were last rejuvenated in 2024 (*see left*).

With the success of the service they are getting lost in the large crowds of people. If you'd be willing to help with this, I need a mixture of people with ideas and artistic people to make it into reality. If you would like to join this team, please contact me on phil@stratford-upon-avon.org



Phil Harper



CHRISTMAS CHARITIES AND CHRISTMAS CARD AMNESTY 2026

It has been agreed by the PCC that the parish should support, in its Christmas Eve and Christmas Day collections, the following charities - two the same as last year:

1. On an "international" basis, the charity Masicorp, working in a very deprived borough in South Africa (*see article in last magazine for more details*).
2. At a "national" level, the Epilepsy Society, the UK's only charity transforming the lives of people with epilepsy through world-leading research, advocacy and care..
3. On the basis of "local" interest amongst some particular members of our congregation, the Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA).

MASICORP

**epilepsy
society**

CLAPA 
Cleft Lip & Palate Association

As a further contribution towards the charities, we also invite readers to take part in a Christmas Card Amnesty. In return for a donation (suggested minimum of £10) their name will be printed in the December/January issue of Trinity Times, sending an all-inclusive Christmas greeting to their fellow members of the congregation. What better way to start the 'Season of Goodwill'!

Donations should be made in one of two ways : Preferably by bank transfer to our 'Stratford-upon-Avon PCC' account at HSBC: Sort Code: 40-43-19 Account No: 20649430 Ref: Charities (your surname) Or by cheque made payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC and sent to the Parish Office. Please mark envelopes clearly for Attn: The Hon Treasurer, together with the Name of the Donors and the words "Christmas Charities". Where donors have signed a Gift Aid declaration for Stewardship, a further 25% will be added to the donation in respect of tax reclaimed on the sum.

Please send your names to us digitally to the Trinity Times email: (trinitytimes@stratford-upon-avon.org) for inclusion in the December/January edition of the Trinity Times, by not later than 10 November.



TRINITY FELLOWSHIP



Dear Members,

It's October already and we will no doubt be planning for Christmas before we know it. But here at Trinity Fellowship we are thinking about our October meeting on Wednesday 21st. Our speaker on that day will be Fiona who is going to give a talk on Medical Detection Dogs which should be extremely interesting. It will be quite an eye opener to see how they train the dogs to find different substances, as well as detecting medical conditions in people and find people who go missing, etc. I am sure that we will all find it fascinating.

My I remind you that on Wednesday November 4th we will be remembering the foundation of our group and you are invited to join the congregation at the Guild Chapel at 10.00am for the morning service.

Our meetings are held in the Parish Centre and start at 2.00pm and 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, when we will be delighted to see you.

I look forward to meeting up with you all again at our October meeting.

Gina Lodge, Chair

LUDDINGTON WALK



On Saturday 12th September, a group of 12 met at Luddington Village Hall to enjoy a walk together. While 11 of us took the longer walk, Jane Beesley, the Luddington representative on the PCC, showed Frances around the church and then they both walked along to the lock

The ten other walkers and I set off cautiously along Luddington Road until we could enter a field leading down to the riverbank. The usual path starts nearer the village hall but one of the bridges was blocked by a fallen tree! We strolled along, heading upstream towards Stratford, walking through private gardens, with public access. Various conversations were being enjoyed, giving people the chance to meet new faces, whilst enjoying the fresh air. The weather was kind and we also had the company of two four-legged friends.

Time passed incredibly quickly; a photo opportunity arose, before Chris, our leader, turned us around to retrace our steps.

Those of the group who stayed enjoyed refreshments including teas, coffees and a lovely selection of cakes! This was kindly organised by Debbie Thorpe with the help of the friendly Luddington Team.

Many thanks to Chris for organising a super way to spend a Saturday morning.

Maxine Horsman



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

COME AND JOIN US AND
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 3RD OCTOBER
IN THE PARISH CENTRE
9AM-11AM



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



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

Souper Fridays

12.30pm

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

30th Oct
& 27th Nov

Homemade soup
& pudding

Recommended
donation £5

Everybody welcome
Come and enjoy a sociable lunch

Lives changed through God's love



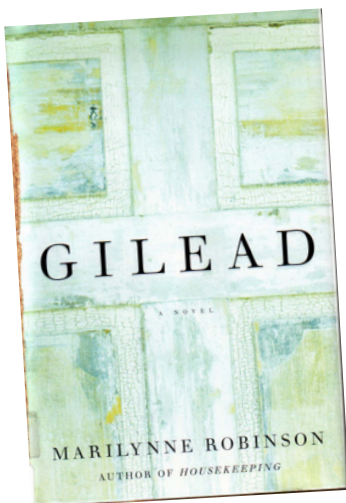
Anthony Woollard's **WINDOW ON THE WORLD**



In recent years, we have heard quite a bit about “the death of the book”. With all information going online, we are told, nobody will buy or read books any more, and bookshops will go out of business. Well, it does not appear to be true. Yes, some of us cheat and use Kindle to access some of our books. But they are still BOOKS, and, however much rubbish may have been published, the book is one of the glories of our civilisation, and people are buying and reading them still.

The parish’s Novel Theology group has existed for over 20 years, and celebrates the idea that books of all sorts (mainly but not just novels) are worth reading and can indeed offer surprising insights which can be relevant to everyday life and faith. But numbers at our monthly meetings are never more than a dozen and often less. This is an opportunity for personal growth, learning and fellowship on which most are missing out.

For various reasons, the October meeting, usually the first Thursday of the month at 1 Chestnut Walk at 8pm, has had to be delayed a little until Wednesday 7 October. This gives me, as leader for the time being, an opportunity to publicise it in these pages. Might this be your chance to try it out?



The book for October happens to be a particularly suitable one to start with. It is *Gilead*, by the noted modern US author Marilynne Robinson.

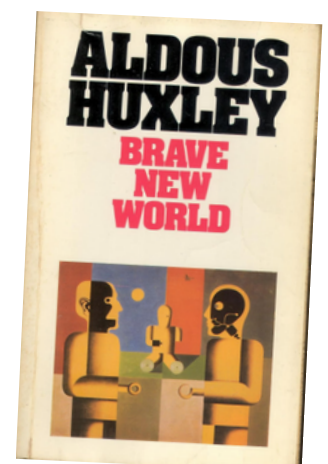
This novel is based on the idea of an elderly American clergyman writing a lengthy letter to his son, passing on the things that have mattered to him in his life – almost an autobiography at times, but with plenty about Midwest culture, family dynamics, and within these contexts quite a bit of theological reference and reflection!

Highly relevant to those of us who are getting on in life, their relationship with their children and grandchildren.....and perhaps not least clergy and other church leaders and their families!

Our most recent book was a very different one, Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, a vision of a society of “manufactured” people who were guaranteed happiness, with sex and drugs as a substitute for religion and ethics. That gave us plenty to talk about!

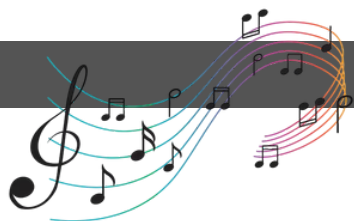
Going forward into the winter, we have no fixed programme yet; we might go back to some great classic, or dig further into more modern literature.

Everyone in the group has a voice in the choices, so this could be your chance to influence the cultural life of the congregation!



Books take time to read, ponder and discuss. Those of us who still take newspapers see more and more articles about how our society is over-busy and time-poor. Novel Theology gives a real opportunity to take time out together.

Anthony



MUSIC MATTERS

OUR CHOIR'S BUSY SUMMER

The choir enjoyed a busy but rewarding week "on tour" at the end of August.



Director of Music, **Colin Millington**, reports on visits to Coventry Cathedral, travelling to St Davids in Wales to be the choir in residence at the

Cathedral, plus days of rehearsals, fun and a recital at Holy Trinity.



The Choir at St Davids Cathedral



The choir tour over the bank holiday weekend was a great success and a wonderful first outing for the choir in quite a while! The choristers kicked things off by singing a double bill of Soundbites in Holy Trinity (pictured left) and Evensong in the Guild Chapel.

This was a great first upper voices service, which demonstrated all the hard work they have been putting in week in week out, and was a brilliant way to set up our midweek services led by the choristers on the first Wednesday of each month.

The back row joined us from the Thursday onwards, with an outing to Coventry Cathedral before getting the coach early on Friday to head over to St Davids.



The choir in Coventry Cathedral



The cathedral was a beautiful space, not necessarily helped by the fact the floor had a slight tilt in the choir stalls: luckily the music didn't slide off for us!

Over the course of the week, the choir sang for six services (as many as they would sing for in a month) with an exceptionally high degree of flair and musicality. Singing in such wonderful spaces allows a group of singers to grow and progress in new ways, and they certainly developed a rich sense of ensemble over the few days.



It was not all services and rehearsals, as there was plenty of downtime for all. A beach trip was braved by a few, and luckily there was little rain to hinder us.

I must thank all the support of the choir chaperones, Rebecca and Jim for their support and expertise, for the Friends of the Music and to our kind donors for their financial support, with a special thanks to Caroline Thomas for all her help in planning and organising. Most of all, I must thank the choir for without them there would not have been a trip. Let's see what 2027 brings...

(Photos, Marie McDougall and Heather Fletcher)



FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC



THE FOUNDING OF THE FRIENDS

The first chair of Friends of the Music, Richard Osborne, takes a look back at the group's formation 43 years ago



"Since singing is so good a thing, I wish all men (*and women*) would learn to sing."

So wrote the famous Elizabethan composer William Byrd in his 'Reasons to Sing' in 1588.

(My italics - it took 400 more years for cathedral and collegiate choirs to accept girls and ladies!)

Attending last June's Friends of the Music AGM, at which over a dozen prizes were presented for a variety of attainments towards the music of Holy Trinity Church, followed by a delightful entertainment by the choir's younger members, I was asked over tea and cakes how the 'Friends' came to be formed back in 1983, and how it came to be so named.

I had joined Holy Trinity church choir in 1981, two years after Peter Summers' appointment as its Director of Music. For five years I was a full-time chorister, and later returned as an occasional deputy. In 1980 my family had moved to Alcester for my engineering day-job after twelve years in Suffolk, where Gwyneth and I

had both developed our vocal skills singing choral and solo with groups around East Anglia, making many life-long friends in the process. Holy Trinity, Stratford proved an ideal haven to find new friends, and we soon picked up choral and solo work with West Midlands choirs and choral societies. I joined Ex Cathedra, Gwyneth studied at the Birmingham School of Music (now Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) graduating in 1986, and our daughter Clare played her flute in Stratford upon Avon Wind Band Association (SAWBA).

Peter, whose day job as a school head of music was distant from the parish, wished to create a support group for the



A picture of the choir from more than 20 years ago - including four chairs of the Friends!

choir that would bond parents, congregation and clergy into a more active interest in the music of this famous much visited parish church. Peter, Tim Raistrick, and I, together with some enthusiastic parents, brought 'The Friends of the Music of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon' into being, electing a committee with me as its first chairman.

From its start, 'The Friends' embraced its objectives to support the church's musical activities, raising funds, organising choir outings, presenting concerts, commissioning the 'Shakespeare anthem', and holding AGM's with prize giving, musical entertainment, a tea with splendid cakes (they still are!!), concluding with a Festal Choral Evensong, all of which continue so successfully, in recent years boosted by Holy Trinity's lucrative lunchtime 'Soundbites' recitals, introduced by former Director of Music Benedict Wilson.

The title 'Friends of the Music' came from a similar choir support group that Gwyneth and I had known at Hampstead Parish Church some 20 years earlier in the 1960s, where we two had first met singing in the choirs of its legendary organist Martindale Sidwell. Appointed to Hampstead Parish Church in 1946, Sidwell became a major influence in rebuilding the country's high-quality church and chamber choirs after World War Two; his choirs the birthplaces of our well-known ensembles of today, and the paving stones of many 'starlets' into professional music, a career pathway that remains today within our cathedrals, colleges, and many churches 'where they sing'. Hampstead's 'Friends of the Music' has become The Hampstead Music Trust, continuing to fund the music of its church.

Although no longer actively singing, I remain deeply grateful for the many doors that church music opened for me personally; a life-long process that began in my childhood, feeding my memory with an indelible store of sacred music on which hang the many biblical texts that continue to guide my faith. As it continues to play its part in the stewardship of its church's heritage, I hope and pray that Holy Trinity's 'Friends of the Music' remains in its good health, helping to provide its youngsters and its adults the valuable opportunity of a musical education and experience within the life and traditions of the worshipping church.

PS. I was delighted that Holy Trinity choir had sung the services at St Davids Cathedral this summer. My first visit there was in 1964 to hear a concert by St Johns Cambridge choir while working in Haverfordwest on student vacation. Unknown to each other then, Gwyneth had lived near my lodgings, and had sung solo in the cathedral with her school choir. Over the passing years, we have often returned to the county and attended Choral Evensong at St Davids.

Richard Osborne

Richard Osborne is a retired engineer and former semi-professional singer, in 1960s taught by Arthur Reckless at Guildhall School of Music while studying at UCL, followed by Olive Quantrill in Ipswich and Barbara McGuire MBE in Birmingham. His love of singing church music in context since childhood drew him into several Cathedral and Collegiate church choirs, including Holy Trinity Stratford, which remains his musical 'haven' where he often attends Choral Evensong as a listener. His technical skills help to maintain St Nicholas, Alcester, his home church.



SOUNDBITES

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

Refreshments will be 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.

- 7th October: Loxley Wind Quintet
- 14th October: Voice and Piano Duo
- 21st October: Zaska String Quartet
- 28th October: Julian Hellanby - piano



The Guild Chapel ORGAN RECITAL



Benedict Wilson

Witney

*Formerly Director of Music, Holy Trinity
Church, Stratford-upon-Avon*

**Saturday 3rd October
at 5pm**

ADMISSION: £10

As advertised on organrecitals.uk

Stratford Chamber Choir

Conductor: Stephen Dodsworth

Organist: Charles Matthews



AUTUMN CONCERT

A programme of French music including

Requiem - Maurice Duruflé

O sacrum convivium - Olivier Messiaen

Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël - Francis Poulenc

Hymne à la Vierge - Pierre Villette

Cantique de Jean Racine - Gabriel Fauré

and organ music by Maurice Duruflé

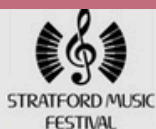
THE GUILD CHAPEL

Stratford-upon-Avon

Saturday 17th October 2026 at 7.30pm

TICKETS £20 (STUDENTS UNDER 18 £5)

Available online at www.stratfordchamberchoir.com,
by email stratfordchamberchoir@gmail.com,
from members of the choir or on the door from 7pm



**A Celebration of 30 years:
Last Night of the Proms**



The final event of the 30th Stratford Music Festival features the **Stratford Music Festival Orchestra and Choir** directed by Stratford's very own **Bruce O'Neil** and featuring International Baritone **David John Pike**.

The orchestra has been specially put together with principals from the **Orchestra of the Swan** supported by musicians from our local orchestras.

The programme contains traditional Last Night of the Proms music including Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No 1, Fantasia on British Sea Songs arranged by Henry Wood and Jerusalem as well as classics such as The Dambusters March, Parry's I Was Glad, Fantasia on Greensleeves and extracts from music by Walton for Henry V.

Saturday 24th October at 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church

Tickets £30 in advance from www.stratfordmusicfestival.com
or on the door

Come and Celebrate Harvest Harvest Moveable Feast

**Move about eating each course
at a different table**



Saturday 10th Oct 6-9pm

The Parish Centre

**Tickets £6,
under 3's free**

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or the link in the Weekly Bulletin**

Booking ends 5th Oct, or when fully booked



**social
events**

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



FROM THE REGISTERS IN SEPTEMBER



BAPTISMS

13th Darcie Faulkner

WEDDINGS

5th Leah Smith and Paul du Cros

5th Nicola Jeffs and Lee Billingsley



FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICES

4th William Stevens

22nd Mary Phillips

23rd Jim Main

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on **Wednesday 7th October**. 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 **4th November**.

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

The Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

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

Clergy Team

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

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

Children & Families Minister: Phil Harper, 07791 005696, phil@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

Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Officer: Helen Warrillow, 01789 266316, office@stratford-upon-avon.org

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

Parish Staff

Visitor and Marketing Manager: Lola Spetsioti, 01789 632811, lola@stratford-upon-avon.org

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



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Beautiful World concert

18 October 2026 7pm
Holy Trinity Church
Stratford-upon-Avon

Juliet Stevenson CBE
Wayne Sleep OBE
Janie Dee
Alexandra Gilbreath
(RSC Associate Artist)
Cassidy Janson
EM The Master
Mazaika Duo
Three's Company
and the Holy Trinity Choir
(artists subject to availability)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HEART
ENGLAND
FOREST

SWAN
for Wildlife

Net Zero





Revd Patrick asks God to bless the bags and those who carry them at the annual Blessing of the Bags during Parish Eucharist on September 6th at the start of the new school term



Revd Patrick and Revd Matt with Bishop Sophie and Bishop of Warwick designate Tim after the special Evensong held at Holy Trinity on the day of his announcement