

April 2026

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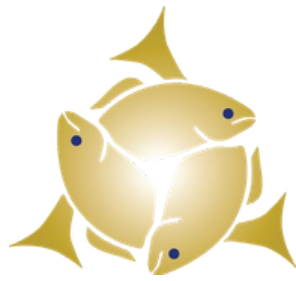


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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

The next magazine will be the **May** edition

The copy deadline is 7th April

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: Flowers laid near Shakespeare's grave in church last year from the Shakespeare parade

Back Cover: Children's activities at Holy Trinity - distributing Mothering Sunday posies plus fun at Bubble Church and Breakout Group

Website: www.stratford-upon-avon.org

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Phil Harper
*Children and Families
Minister*

THE JOURNEY FROM LENT TO EASTER



When this is published it will be on the cusp between Lent and Easter. Some will be reading it in the penitential final days of Lent, while for others it will be the joyous celebration of Easter. Two contrasting times, and in turn, contrasting tones to how I should write this.



But perhaps it's good to rest in this "in between" time or, as it was often referred to in my Lay Ministry training, the liminal space, like in a doorway the crossing point from one to another. As we transition from Lent to Easter what is it that we will take with us. What do we need to do when we take that first step?

A Lent lived well isn't a time dieting without chocolate or wine, it's a time to create in us a change, and I don't mean our waistline, but our spiritual selves. To be transformed by what we have read in daily reflections or participation in Lent courses. Or, having a deeper spiritual connection through more time in prayer and reflection perhaps by giving or taking something up.

The events of Easter changed not just individuals, but the whole world order. Jesus' death and resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death as well as empowering his followers to transform their lives and build a worldwide religion. Your transition from Lent to Easter may not be so world changing, but it may change the world as you see it and your place in it.

Some may not be aware, but I am a member of Diocesan Synod. If you don't know the structure of the Church of England it follows this system: each Parish has a PCC (Parochial Church Council). A couple of members of the PCC are elected to a Deanery Synod (local parishes coming together). From Deanery Synod a couple of people are elected to Diocesan Synod, involving clergy and laity from across the Diocese – that's the group I'm a member of. A couple of people from Diocesan Synod are elected to General Synod, the decision-making body with representatives from the entire Church of England. There will soon be elections for all these bodies, so perhaps part of your change could be taking your place in the decision-making structures of the church.

But I digress. At Diocesan Synod there is a time of change with our new Bishop of Coventry, Bishop Sophie. She is pushing forward and exploring with people a vision for our Diocese to guide all parts of it into how we build God's Kingdom. But it is also a time of change for us as a Parish as we explore a new five-year plan for Holy Trinity and in turn for the village churches. We are very much in a liminal moment in the wider church, about to step into what is currently unknown but will bring change.

continued...

...continued

Some are energised by these liminal moments, particularly when what is in the next room is unknown, while for others it's something to dread. But however you feel about it, it is coming, just as Easter follows Lent. The question is, what should be taken from the old to the new?



The first Easter was transformative and so should every Lent to Easter be. As we move from one Church season to another, I invite you to take time to reflect on how you may have changed this Lent. Or, if whatever you did or didn't do this Lent has had no impact that, too, is something to reflect on.

After Jesus' resurrection the disciples did not celebrate for weeks. It was a time of uncertainty; they tried returning to what they knew as fishermen, but the time with Jesus had transformed them and they couldn't go back.

It's OK to be fearful, to be unsure in our journey of faith, but the Easter story isn't the end, just another beginning leading to a liminal moment, as the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost laying the building blocks for the Christian faith.

But I'll leave the writer of next month's editorial to pick up the story and decipher the tone of that article.

Christ will be/is risen (delete as appropriate according to when you read this). Alleluia!

Phil

Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister




HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Services are at Holy Trinity unless marked otherwise.



March 29th - Palm Sunday

- 
- 9.00am Bubble Church (Parish Centre)
 - 9.30am Morning Praise with Phoenix Band (St. Helen's)
 - 10.00am Parish Eucharist with Procession of Palms and Passion Gospel
 - 5.00pm Evensong with healing ministry
 - 6.30pm Congregational Evensong (All Saints')

March 30th - Monday of Holy Week

- 7.30pm Witnesses - Easter story in words and music (*performed by Trinity Players*)

March 31st - Tuesday of Holy Week


- 7.30pm Holy Communion with homily (St Peter's Chapel)

April 1st - Wednesday of Holy Week

- 10.00am Holy Communion (Guild Chapel)
- 7.30pm Stations of the Cross



April 2nd - Maundy Thursday

- 
- 7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper *followed by the Watch*
 - 11.45pm Compline (*which concludes the Watch*)

April 3rd - Good Friday


- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 9.30am Journey to the Cross (*All Age Service*)
- 9.30am Good Friday Reflection (All Saints')
- 10.30am Walk of Witness
- 12-1.30pm Church open for private prayer
- 1.30pm The Good Friday Liturgy
- 2.30pm Good Friday Reflection (St. Helen's)



April 4th - Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)

- 8.30pm The Easter Vigil
- (including lighting the Easter fire and Paschal candles for the parish and first Holy Communion of Easter) *followed by refreshments*

April 5th - Easter Day - Alleluia! Christ is risen!

- 
- 8.00am Holy Communion (Chancel)
 - 9.00am Bubble Church (Parish Centre)
 - 9.30am Holy Communion (All Saints')
 - 9.30am Holy Communion (St. Helen's)
 - 10.00am Parish Eucharist - a service for all ages
 - 5.00pm Festal Choral Evensong with incense

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL

Holy Trinity

Sunday 5th April — EASTER DAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
- 5.00pm Festal Choral Evensong with incense

Sunday 12th April — The Second Sunday of Easter

- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "Renewing Joy"
- 5.00pm Presence

Sunday 19th April — The Third Sunday of Easter

- 9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - "Restructuring Imagination"
- 5.00pm Taize service

Sunday 26th April — The Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 11.15am Shakespeare Service
- 5.00pm Parish Eucharist



All Saints' Luddington

All Sundays

- 9.30am Holy Communion

St Helen's Clifford Chambers

Sunday 5th April

- 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April

- 9.30am Holy Communion



FAREWELL TO THOMAS

Hello everyone,

Now that my curacy has come to an end, I want to thank everyone at Holy Trinity Church and the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon – the clergy team, wardens, office staff, volunteers, and especially the members and congregations in our three churches – for your encouragement, hospitality, and support during my curacy.

From the first day I arrived on placement in 2021, and again as curate in 2022, I was made to feel like a family member by the enthusiasm and genuineness of the welcome you gave me. I made many new friends during these years and I'll always be grateful for your kindness.



And for your patience! – for I came to the parish with a great deal to learn about priesthood and ministry and was painfully aware of how much of my learning was happening “on the job.” I owe a great debt to Patrick for his brilliance as training incumbent and role model, but especially to yourselves, for kindly tolerating the flaws and foibles of a priest in training. Every new priest feels something of an “imposter syndrome,” but your encouragement made it possible for me to learn and minister with confidence.

As for the future, my road is uncertain. As many of you know, I took extended study leave last year to consider options for future ministry. I've decided not to pursue normal parish ministry, which in any case is limited by my having passed the retirement age for clergy in the Church of England. In all likelihood I'll follow a more academic and contemplative path, but the exact form this path will take remains unclear.

Thank you again for your friendship and support. I'll always cherish the memory of my time in Stratford. I hope you'll hold me in your prayers as I hold you in mine.

With every blessing,

Thomas Powell

Words of thanks to Thomas from Patrick



It was such a blessing to have Thomas on the clergy team in this parish. He brought a depth of theological and biblical understanding that really stretched us, and the careful preparation he put into his sermons meant that we were treated to some fabulous teaching.

I'm also most grateful to him for his diligent work in pastoral care, which was especially helpful as his curacy coincided with the time we were without an Associate Minister. I'm pleased to be able to take this opportunity to thank Thomas for all he gave to us through his ministry and for being such a supportive and thoughtful colleague. I'm sure others will join with me in praying for him as he continues to discern the focus of his ministry in the years to come.

“THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY”

Julius Caesar, V. i



“Proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”

*William Shakespeare,
Sonnet 98*



SHAKESPEARE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 2026

Events taking place at Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 23rd April

7.00pm The Shakespeare Organ Recital

Friday 24th April

10.30am Coffee, Cake & Shakespeare

Saturday 25th April

11.00am-1.00pm Procession with laying of flowers

1.00pm-4.45pm Free entry to view the flowers in the chancel
for CV37 residents

5.30pm Friends of Shakespeare's Church drinks reception
in the Chancel with auction of the old quill from
Shakespeare's funeral monument



Sunday 26th April

11.15am The Shakespeare Service with the Shakespeare
Sermon preached by Bishop Rob Gillion
(previously Bishop for the Arts) and first performance of
the 2026 Shakespeare Anthem.

The new quill is placed on Shakespeare's funeral monument.



*All these events are organised by the church
and associated groups. There are also some
externally booked concerts taking place in
Holy Trinity as part of the Shakespeare in
Music Festival, details of which can be found
at <https://www.shakespeareinmusic.org>.*

SHAKESPEARE BY SHAKESPEARE



On Saturday 28th February, as part of our appeal to raise funds for a new sound system, members of the church and visitors were given the opportunity to read from Shakespeare beside his grave.

This proved a successful and memorable experience for the participants. Our visitors fully embraced this opportunity and many were moved by the occasion. Students from the Shakespeare Institute came fully prepared, with some young people knowing their speeches by heart. Others were able to choose from a selection available on the day.

A total of £215 was raised in just over an hour.

Our thanks to the church guides on the day for their helpful input and to the sound system appeal team for running the event.

As the new sound system is being installed, our fundraising continues. Look out for 'Ring in the Spring' - a programme of readings, poems and music on the theme of spring. From Shakespeare to Sheeran, there's something for everyone on 28th March at 7pm in the Parish Centre (*see advert on page 22*).

Our grand finale concert 'SILENCE or Can You Hear me at the Back?' takes place on 19th April at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. This promises to be a wonderful evening of entertainment by some famous names in the world of theatre, particularly those who knew and worked with the late Rob Lister. Book early to avoid disappointment! (*see advert on page 24*)

Jane Southead



HOW DO WE CELEBRATE SHAKESPEARE?



Shakespeare's grave is surrounded by floral tributes. Several laurel wreaths – coronets for the poet – deck his monument. These are the markers of a Stratford-upon-Avon spring.

Morris dancers jingle, tap, and wave. Flags are unfurled in Bridge Street, High Street, and Henley Street – for different countries, organisations, and one for every Shakespearian work. Bands play and lead the procession past the Town Hall, New Place, King Edward VI School and Guildhall, The Shakespeare Institute, and Hall's Croft. Many hundreds of people carry the flowers through the town as part of the Shakespeare Birthday Procession, a time-honoured tradition. Some of them are wearing national dress, academic or religious gowns, some are costumed as Shakespearian characters. The great west door of the church is open, and the organ is belting out an appropriate voluntary.



Sprigs of rosemary are worn. 'There's rosemary, that's for remembrance', says Ophelia in Hamlet, meaning that the herb is good for the memory, as well as being a token of remembering, a keepsake.

The rosemary sprigs are sometimes tied with strips of yellow and black ribbon, the colours of Shakespeare's coat of arms.

Other annual features of the Shakespeare Birthday Weekend include the Shakespeare Birthday Lecture on the Friday afternoon and the service of thanksgiving for Shakespeare in Holy Trinity Church, which includes the Shakespeare Birthday Anthem and the Shakespeare Sermon, on the Sunday morning.

The lecture is co-organised by The Shakespeare Institute and The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. This year, four guest speakers will present their fascinating research on a book that belonged to Shakespeare's friend and neighbour, Richard Quiney, who was twice bailiff (mayor) of the Corporation. The book importantly prompts historical and biographical enquiry into the cultural and intellectual life of the town. All are welcome to attend, and tickets are available via shakespeare.org.uk.

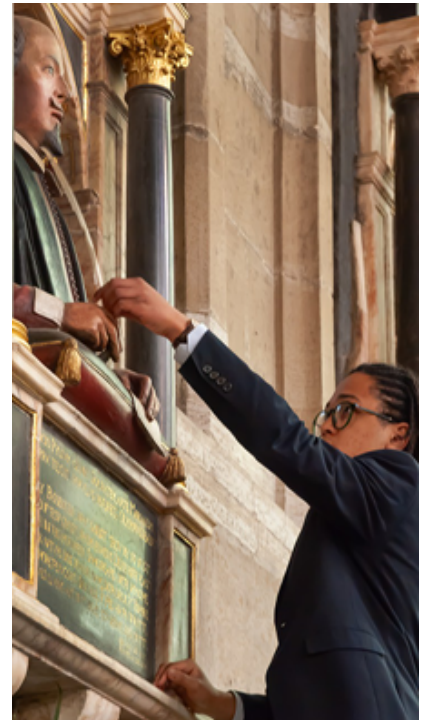
On the Saturday, there are lunches, speeches and toasts. The Pragnell Prize is awarded to someone whose career has enhanced the enjoyment and understanding of Shakespeare, and there is a performance of a Shakespeare play by The Royal Shakespeare Company in the evening.



Traditions stay, some go, some are re-invented. By the time they happen for the second time, they have become ‘part of the tradition.’ The receiving of a quill from Shakespeare’s Birthplace by the head pupil of King Edward VI School is one tradition that has been successfully reinvented in recent years.

The quill – a goose feather from Mary Arden’s Farm - is held aloft at the front of the procession. On the Sunday morning, at the beginning of the church service, it is ceremonially placed in Shakespeare’s right hand, in his monument, above his grave.

Processions, flags, rosemary, ribbon, floral tributes, Morris dancers, toasts, speeches, a lecture, sermon, a prizegiving, a performance, an anthem, a thanksgiving service – none of which should be taken for granted – illustrate, year on year, the town’s unconditional affection for and celebration of its most famous son. They remind us that Stratford-upon-Avon is Shakespeare’s, and therefore a town for the world.



The ceremonial placing of the quill at Shakespeare’s monument last year

photo Harry Lomax

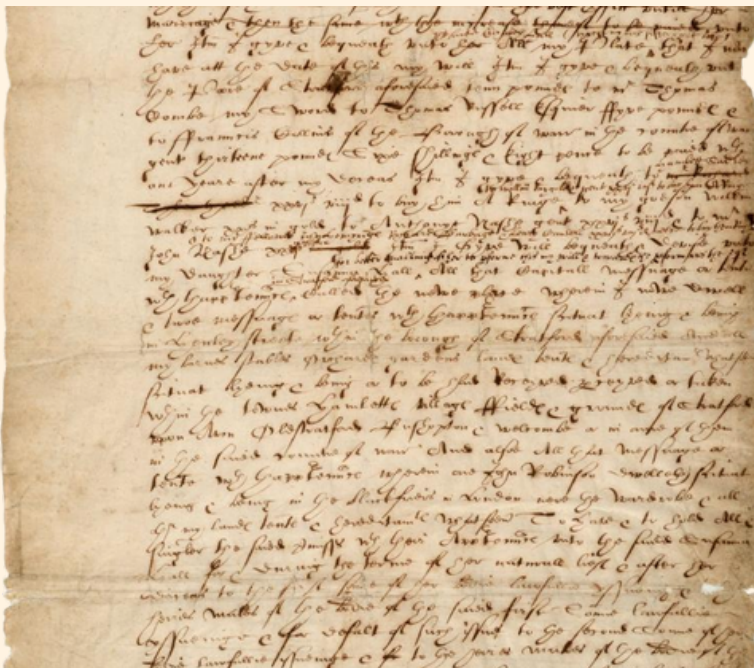


Revd Dr Paul Edmondson
The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

SHAKESPEARE’S WILL



William Shakespeare is known around the world for his plays and poetry. But this document reveals something more personal.



Shakespeare’s Will shows him as a husband, father, property owner, and friend.

Written shortly before his death in 1616, Shakespeare’s will shows us the man behind the legend.

Like wills today, this document shows what Shakespeare wanted to happen with his money and property after his death.

It also clearly shows his life and work and how that spanned both Stratford upon-Avon and London.

The original will is preserved by the National Archives in London. This display shows an authorised replica.

Shakespeare's Will is now on display in St Peter's Chapel, Holy Trinity Church.

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 4TH APRIL
IN THE PARISH CENTRE**

9AM-11AM

**TO BOOK
SCAN THE QR CODE,**

**OR CALL/MESSAGE JONATHAN ON
07772001369**



A group of men from different backgrounds come together to cook, eat and wash up every first Saturday of the month, 9.00am in the Parish Centre, cost £5. You can book your place at the next breakfast using the details in the poster.

Skittles & Pizza

Saturday 9th May

5-8pm

Parish Centre

Pizzas ordered, made & cooked fresh
by Luca Loves Pizza on the day
£11-13

Book your places using the QR code,
the link in the e-bulletin
or the sheet in church.



Bring your
own drinks
& snacks



Booking closes
6th May, or fully
booked



THE PARISH OF
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TRINITY PLAYERS

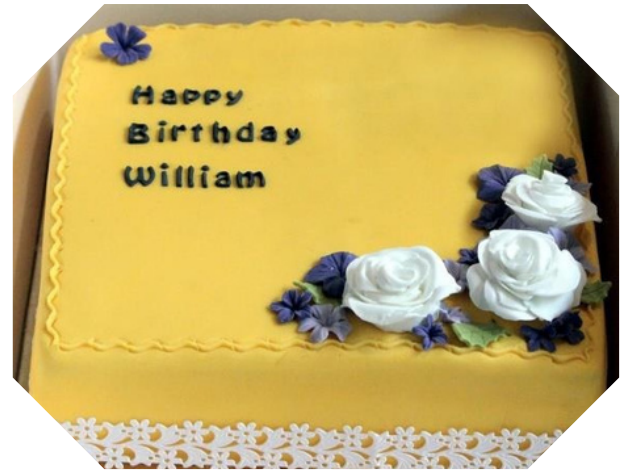


WITNESSES - Monday 30th March at 7.30pm

We invite you to join us in the Chancel for our customary telling of the Easter Story. Each Witness will share their own memories, some recent, some decades later, of Jesus' last days. The programme, including poems and music, will last for approximately one hour and ten minutes. Afterwards wine and soft drinks will be available and we encourage you to stay to talk about it with the Players and with Emma, our Curate. This has become an annual presentation both theatrical and as a form of a service in Holy Week.

COFFEE, CAKE & SHAKESPEARE – Friday 24th April at 10.30am

We look forward to seeing you at our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday with a programme of speeches, scenes, songs and sonnets written by or inspired by Shakespeare followed by a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake and a welcome cup of coffee. Admission is free though a contribution to refreshments is very much appreciated.



Further information on both events from urussell93@outlook.com or 07887 642216

TRINITY TIMES MAY EDITION



Please note!

The deadline for the MAY edition of Trinity Times will be earlier than usual.

Please send all items to us by **April 7th**
at the latest.

Thank you.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Children and Families Minister Phil Harper reports on recent Bubble Church services, Breakout Group and other events focussed on children and families

It's been wonderful over the last few Bubble Church services to see it becoming its own service as part of our church family. We've had a variety of families attending, often with no previous experience of church, and it is becoming a regular congregation of people worshipping together.

At our service at the beginning of March the puppets told the story of the Last Supper (*pictured below*). Afterwards we shared chocolates with each other, and resisted eating them till we got home!



Mothering Sunday fell on one of our Bubble Church Sundays, giving an opportunity for children to think about those who care for them and a reminder of God's love for them.

We meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month, and because of this we will be able to have services on both Palm Sunday (29th March) and Easter Day (5th April). I'm very excited to share with both the children and their families this important part of our Christian story.

If you know of someone with a young child around the 0-7 age group, please let them know about this service. We have breakfast from 8.45am and the half hour service begins at 9.00am.

At the recent Breakout Group, we explored the story of Martha and Mary. The children drew a picture of themselves with Jesus and then acted out the story of the two sisters. We were reminded that Jesus loves us as we are, whether we are busy or still. The upcoming dates for the group are during the Parish Eucharist on 12th April and 10th May.



Pictured on this page: top, the Bubble Church puppets tell the story of the Last Supper; right, singing together at Bubble Church .

As part of our Easter offering there will once again be the Journey to the Cross service on Good Friday at 9.30am. This is an interactive way of engaging with the story of Holy Week and Easter, with a selection of prayer stations positioned around the church.

One thing I want to highlight is that although aimed at children and families, it is not just for them, as people of all ages, with or without children, attend. One of the most powerful parts is near the beginning of the service when people walk up to the chancel, stand under the striking stained glass window of Jesus' crucifixion at the East End and throw a nail into a metal bin. As the noise echoes around the chancel you can almost feel it and for me it stirs a feeling of what it might have sounded as Jesus was nailed to the cross. Please feel free to join us for this service and to experience it yourself. As a final encouragement there are also hot cross buns served before the service.

The celebrations for Easter continue with the Easter Day Parish Eucharist, 10.00am at Holy Trinity, with the now legendary Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard afterwards.

Phil Harper



MOTHERING SUNDAY



Photos above, right and below, George Reah



TO HEAR OR NOT TO HEAR

"To hear or not to hear" we asked, and you responded generously!

We are delighted to announce that at the beginning of March our new sound system was installed by the wonderful team from NoiseBoys.

"Projects in buildings like this always come with their own challenges," they explained.

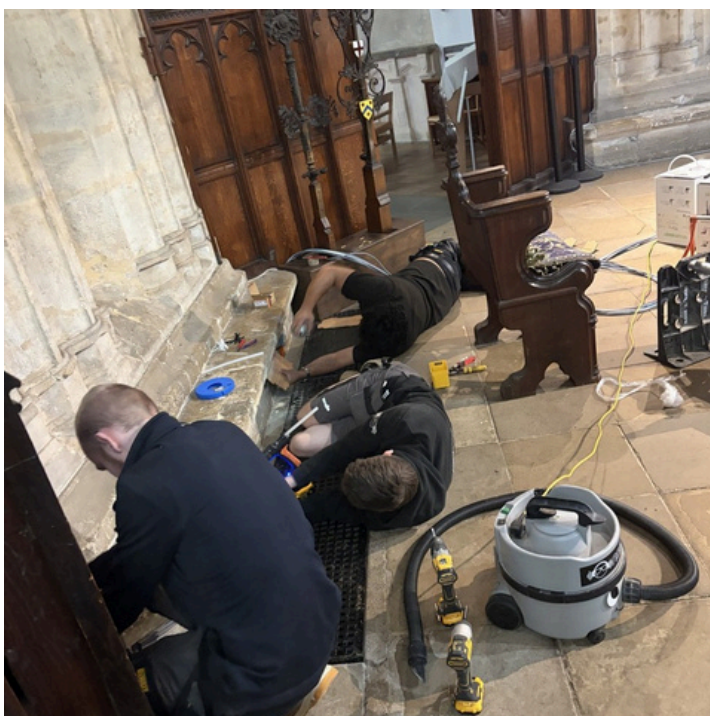
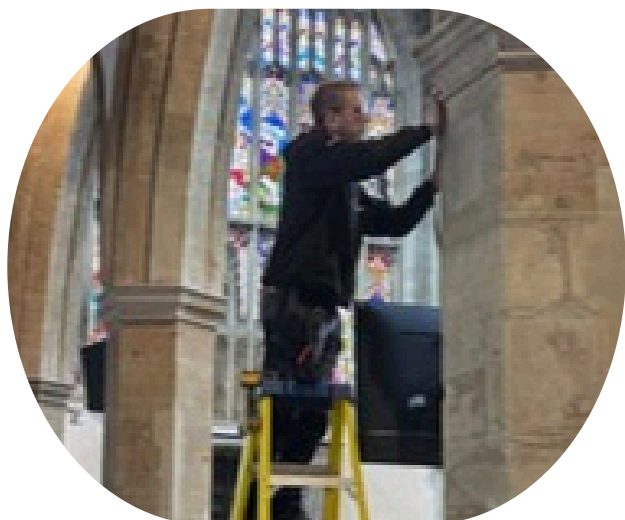
"Cable routes aren't necessarily straightforward, access can be awkward, and you can't just drill a hole wherever you feel like — such is life when working in historic spaces.



"There's going to be plenty of careful cable dressing on this one. While cables are mechanically fixed where required, some visible runs will be glued and painted into place to keep everything as discreet as possible. It's a slow process — and we've tried more than a few types of hot glue over the years — but once it's done, it blends in nicely and doesn't draw the eye."

The upgrade will bring a significant improvement to the experience of the many people who come to Holy Trinity for services and events.

There is still some money to raise for the project, so look out for opportunities to get involved!





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



This year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer service, hosted by St Gregory's RC Church, was held on Friday March 6th.

The women of Nigeria had designed the service around the theme: "I will give you rest, come". We were fortunate that Mrs Jane Smith, the organising team's secretary, had worked with her husband in the Church in Northern Nigeria and was able to provide us with an insight into the problems Nigeria faces as well as items, many in green and white, to represent the country and its culture.



Table illustrating the country and culture of Nigeria at the service

The service included testimonies by four Nigerian women whose faith had helped them overcome difficult circumstances. These words, interspersed with prayer, made for a very moving service. We were delighted to welcome 120 people who joined in heartily with the singing as well as Year 5 pupils from St Gregory's School who sang their two songs with great enthusiasm.

We all felt truly uplifted by the positive message of hope which we took with us as we shared refreshments, provided by the St Gregory's team.

The WDP team, representing all the Stratford churches, said goodbye to two of its longest standing members, Clodagh Mallison (St Andrew's Shottery) and our own Eithne Mulryne. The ecumenical organising team expressed our thanks by giving each of them a bouquet of flowers (*pictured below*).

It will be Holy Trinity's turn in 2027 to host this service, which is always held on the first Friday in March at 2.00pm. We have three short daytime planning meetings before March.

I would very much appreciate some help in organising the service next year and the refreshments that follow it. Please do get in touch if you can offer any help.



Chris Cottrell Contact 01789204273 or 07843755506, email: cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com



The year is moving on and it will soon be summer. At our April meeting we were hoping that Margaret Dews was coming to tell us about the street names in Stratford but, owing to her expecting an operation at the time of our meeting, she is unable to come but we hope she will come and speak to us in the autumn. Barbara has contacted Mr Alex Wilson, a jobbing actor, and he is coming to tell us about the interesting life he has led going from one production to another.

We have now arranged our outing for May 20th. There is a choice of two events. The first is a river cruise with fish and chips. The cost of this trip is £24, which includes the cruise, fish and chips with bread and butter and tea, coffee or a soft drink. This is on the boat moored at the back of the Crowne Plaza, which is the one we have been on before, and this will start at 2.00pm.



The other choice is a cream tea upstairs in the RSC Royal Shakespeare Theatre and this will cost £8.50. Please let Diane Edwards know which one you would like to attend and please pay for your trip in April if you can. Cheques should be made payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC. I have also arranged for a Cream Tea at the RSC for our July meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 15th April

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 third Wednesday in the month, when we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair

MARATHON FUNDRAISING FOR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY



Danielle Benge, a member of the Holy Trinity congregation, will be running the Brighton Marathon this April (Sunday 12th). She has decided to take on this challenge in support of the Alzheimer's Society.

"This cause means a great deal to me, as the charity works tirelessly to support those affected by dementia and to fund vital research," said Danielle.

"Any support, whether through donations or simply sharing my fundraising page, would mean the world and will help make a real difference to individuals and families living with Alzheimer's."



<https://2026brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/danielle-benge>

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



As we approach Easter, against the background of increasing darkness in the wider world, it is worth reflecting on what a Lent we have had in this parish! Not always (especially for the ministry team) exactly the “rest” which was one of our major themes, but one of the most thought-provoking seasons that I can remember.

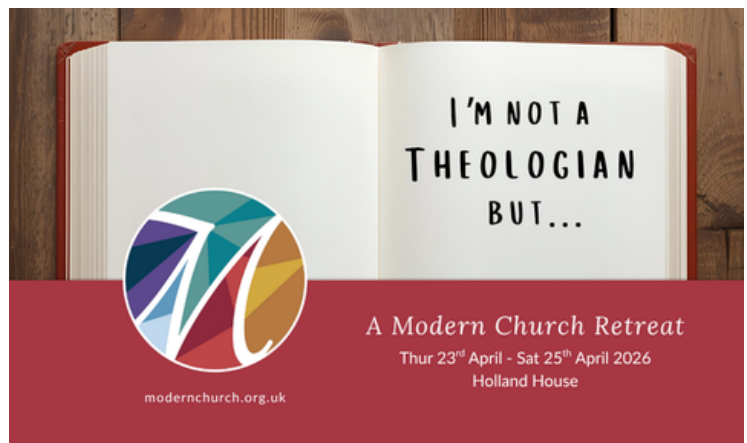


Not only David Runcorn’s Lent course, and some outstanding sermons (including Bishop Jackie’s remark about the need to “preach to herself” as well as to the congregation). But also the opportunity, in both the Faith and Film group and Novel Theology, to reflect on the film and the book of Graham Greene’s Brighton Rock and its treatment of the nature and origin of evil. And that opportunity was prefaced by Roy Lodge’s article on the same theme in our last edition, based on his long experience as a prison chaplain; do go back if you missed it!

Of course, in the Easter season, our thoughts should turn from the “dust” to the “glory” of human existence under God. But we do well to keep our darker sides in mind. What is the origin of evil? Is the distinction between good and evil, in individuals and in the wider world, quite as absolute as some would like to paint it? Is it all about keeping and breaking rules, or about love and the lack of love? Jesus gave us a clear answer to that. But working out its implications is a lifetime effort. And it is a branch of theology – making us all theologians whether we recognise it or not.

Just down the road, at Holland House retreat centre in Pershore, there is a three-day conference/retreat in late April called “I’m not a theologian, but...” which is on that very theme. Details can be found online at www.modernchurch.org/events.

Perhaps a few would like to use this opportunity to explore further their own place in theological endeavour?



I am not personally involved in that conference, but I should love, as a theologian myself, to see us as a truly theological community. And I should be more than happy for others to share the writing of this column! I cannot go on for ever, and amongst all our new and especially younger members there must be many whose “windows on the world” give a view rather different from mine, and deserve to be more widely shared within our diverse congregation.

Anthony Woollard

SAFEGUARDING SURVEY



How do you feel when you see this picture? Are you comfortable that safeguarding is taken seriously in the Parish? Do you know where to go for support? Does the topic simply switch you off?

Whatever your thoughts, the Church of England wishes to know them and this is your opportunity to share them in confidence. Everyone with any connection to the Parish is being asked to complete this online survey which will inform an assessment of the effectiveness of current Safeguarding practices across the Diocese, to establish what is being done well and where improvements can be made.

Therefore, the more responses received, the better the assessment will be and we encourage as many of you as possible to engage with it.

Please access it via the QR code above
or visit www.coventry.anglican.org/safeguarding/ineqe2026.php

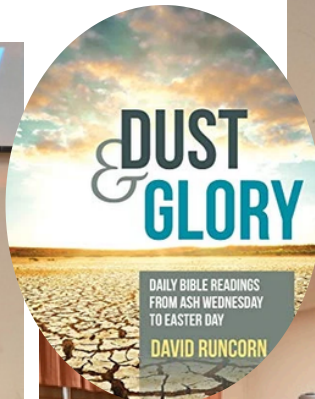
The survey is live until May 6th, 2026.

Please contact **Helen Warrillow** (PSO) on safeguarding@stratford-upon-avon.org or via the Parish Office if you have any queries or concerns.

DUST & GLORY

Our Lent course this year has been Dust and Glory, based on the book by Revd David Runcorn and with each session guided by him. We explored core aspects of Christian faith and prayer with some guided input, opportunities for discussion and questions and space for personal reflection and prayer. The evenings closed with an act of prayer together.

David Runcorn is a member of Holy Trinity. He is an Anglican priest, speaker, writer and spiritual guide. You can find out more about David at: www.davidruncorn.com and in the February edition of *Trinity Times*.



Interacting with ashes



Collecting ash as part of reflecting



Photos on this page show Revd David Runcorn speaking at the Dust and Glory Lent course, with Revd Matt Ford leading



What's Happening

Social Events Programme 2026

Skittles Evening
May 9th



Parish Picnic
July 19th

Walk in Luddington
Sept 12th



Harvest Supper
Oct 10th



For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204273

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS LUDDINGTON • ST PETER'S LUDLOW CHURCH

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Ring in the Spring

Saturday March 28th 2026
In Holy Trinity Parish Centre - 7pm.

The Trinity Players present an evening of poetry, prose and music with a Springtime theme

Tickets £7
Bar and Raffle

Available via the QR code, the link in the Parish Bulletin or on the door.

Proceeds to the new sound system for Holy Trinity Church




Join in our

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

in the churchyard after the
10:00 service on Easter Sunday

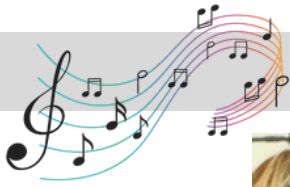
For **ALL AGES** of God's children!

A great opportunity to invite friends to church!

If you are able to donate any chocolate eggs of small to medium size please leave them in the box at the back of church before Palm Sunday

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON





MUSIC MATTERS

Trinity Voices
sing *A Mother's
Love Is A Very
Special Thing* at
the service on
Mothering
Sunday

Photo, George Reah



FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC



The Friends of the Music weekly lunchtime Soundbites concerts continue on Wednesdays in church. There are no concerts during Easter fortnight.

Refreshments will be available from 12.15pm and performances will begin at 1.00pm. Full details of the programme are publicised on our website: <https://www.htcfom.co.uk/> and circulated to members via email.

- ♪ 15th April: Wind and Piano, Jonathan Parapadakis, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- ♪ 22nd April: King Edward VI School, 'A' Level Students recitals
- ♪ 29th April: Eilidh Harris, Organist, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Shakespeare Organ Recital

On Thursday 23rd April, at 7.30 pm, we will be welcoming Rachel Mahon, Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral, to give the Shakespeare Organ Recital. Canadian born organist and conductor, Rachel combines life as a Cathedral musician with a busy international recital schedule, touring as soloist and as part of Organized Crime Duo. Along with concerts in Sweden and Germany, last year she made her BBC Proms debut in the Saint-Saens Organ Symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Rachel has appeared on radio as performer and presenter, most recently accompanying the BBC Singers in Choral Evensong and presenting Inside Music on BBC Radio 3 and This Is My Music on CBC Radio.

Rachel's programme for the recital will include works by Herbert Howells, Gerald Bales, J.S. Bach, Marcel Dupré and Healey Willan.

Tickets (£15) including a glass of wine or soft drink are available on the door or online at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthemusicofholyltrinitychurch/1817461>

Cake

Coffee & Chat



No charge,
donations
welcome

Friendship

First Friday of every month

Chat

Board
Games

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

in the Lounge

11am-1pm

Starts Friday
10th April

Lives changed through God's love



SILENCE

or

Can You Hear me at the Back?

Holy Trinity Church

19th April – 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

A programme of readings, mime, puppetry and music in aid of the fundraising to renew the church sound system

Performed in memory of Robert Lister by professional actors who worked with him during his career.

The group are volunteering their services and is likely to include David Bradley, Michele Dotrice, Sunny Ormonde, Chris Saul and others

Tickets £20

(unreserved seating)

"Holy Trinity is not only a monument, but a living church. A donation towards a new sound system would be a welcome contribution to the life of this historic building."

Alfred Enoch, Henry V, RSC 2026



Can you help?
Ken Kennett Toddler Group

We have two toddler groups that we run and Val Payne has been supporting me at our Ken Kennett Group on Tuesday mornings 9-10.30am. Val is stepping back from helping at the group and I want to thank her for all that she has done.

I'm hoping to recruit a group of volunteers to help with this group, so that people don't have to commit to helping every week. The main role requirements are to help make drinks, chat to people and play with the children. If you can help get the toys out that would be a bonus. If you'd be interested in helping please speak to me or email phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Phil Harper

FROM THE REGISTERS IN MARCH



WEDDING BLESSING

21st Sarah Jane Gibbs & David Foreman

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on **Wednesday 1st April**. 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 **6th May**.

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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34 SHEEP STREET, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, WARWICKSHIRE. CV37 6EE

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

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

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, 01789 266316, 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

Holy Trinity Office 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

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: Mike Warrillow, 01789 298928

Friends of the Music: Caroline Thomas, 01789 266316

Stewardship Officer: Chris Kennedy, 01789 299785

Home Communions: 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

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





Children distribute flowers at the Mothering Sunday service



Having fun at the Breakout Group



At Bubble Church flowers were decorated, "for someone who cares and mothers us"