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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



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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.

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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.

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**#HolyTrinity on social media**



Front Cover: Some of the crocheted and knitted poppies, each one a symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and peace, on the avenue of trees along the path leading up to Holy Trinity Church last year.

Back Cover: Revd Emma's installation as Minor Canon and Succentor at St Paul's Cathedral, London *photos, St Paul's Cathedral | Graham Lacdao*

## Holy Trinity Team



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Revd Matt Ford  
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## MAKING SPACE



As I write, I am reflecting on a full week where a consistent theme of inclusivity has occurred again and again.

In last month's editorial, Patrick invited us to join the journey of discovering what it means to be an inclusive church. Our recent inclusive evening with Revd David Runcorn and Revd Canon Kate Massey offered an opportunity to continue that exploration, bringing together theological reflection, experience of the wider Church, and the moving testimony of a member of our own congregation. I came away grateful for the honesty and generosity of those who shared with us.

Later that week, I travelled to Manchester for the 'Evangelical and Inclusive' Conference. We heard from New Testament scholar John Barclay, with his keynote 'Is There a Gospel Case for Inclusion?'. We also heard from church leaders and people sharing their own experiences of faith and belonging.



For me, it was an important opportunity to reflect on what it really means to be 'evangelical'. It's fair to say it's become an increasingly complicated word - there is so much baggage attached to it! I grew up in the Pentecostal church and spent many years in charismatic evangelical circles. That inheritance remains an important part of my faith: a love of Scripture, an openness to the Holy Spirit, and a conviction that the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for everyone.

It was therefore really encouraging to meet Christians from across denominational boundaries who shared that inheritance and were exploring what it means to be inclusive evangelicals. These questions reach beyond the Church of England! Making connections with people from different traditions, listening to their experiences and discovering common ground gave me much to be hopeful about.

But one contribution in particular has stayed with me.

A man called Peter shared his experience of coming to terms with his sexuality within a conservative Christian setting. He described reaching a point where he still believed the gospel was true, but it had ceased to be good news.

*continued...*

*...continued*

For many of us listening, all from evangelical traditions, it struck at the heart of something we hold dear. The gospel is the good news of Jesus. If someone's experience of the church has led them to a different conclusion, at the very least it should make us pause and take stock. Peter's story has left me asking what people encounter when they encounter the church. Do our words, our assumptions and our ways of being together help people discover that they are loved by God? Are we willing to hear when someone's experience tells a more painful story?

An evening or a conference can open up these questions, but the work continues in the ordinary life of a parish. It asks us to keep listening, to notice whose experiences we have yet to hear, and to consider what may need to change. There is always more to discover about one another, and about the love of God.

As we anticipate the beginning of Advent, we begin preparing ourselves afresh for the coming of Christ. We make space to attend to God's presence - we watch and wait. Perhaps that preparation can also sharpen our attention to the people around us, and Christ's presence within them.

As we make space for Christ this Advent, how can we embody, more fully and more faithfully, the truth that his gospel is good news for everyone, without exception?

*Matt*

**Revd Matt Ford**  
**Associate Minister**  
**Outreach & Nurture**

*Revd Matt, Phil and Stuart, the Bubble Church sheep, at the recent "Love Your Park" event on Stratford Recreation Ground*



## WORSHIP NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

### 1<sup>st</sup> November:

On 1st November we celebrate the feast of All Saints. At 9.30am All Saints, Luddington will celebrate their patronal festival. There will be a special service at 5.00pm at Holy Trinity to mark All Souls' Tide and remember those whom we have loved but who have died. We will be offering an invitation to those families who have had a funeral through this parish in the past year, but the service is open to anyone who would like to come to light a candle to remember a loved one.



### Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

At Holy Trinity at 10am there will be a short Remembrance Sunday Service for all ages without Holy Communion, lasting about 40 minutes. This is followed by the Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence in the Garden of Remembrance, which begins at 10.55am. The 5.00pm service at Holy Trinity will be the Parish Eucharist.

At All Saints' Luddington there is a 9.30am Remembrance Sunday Eucharist and at St. Helen's Clifford Chambers a special Remembrance Sunday service starting at the war memorial (situated on the edge of the churchyard) at 10.45am.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Full details will be printed in the December edition, but to help you with your plans for the season, here is the schedule:

### 29th November: Advent Sunday

5.00pm Advent Service of Light, Holy Trinity

### Sunday 13th December

5.00pm Christingle, Holy Trinity

### Sunday 20th December

9.00am Christmas Bubble Church

3.30pm Carol Service, All Saints

6.30pm Carol Service, St Helen's

7.00pm Quiet Christmas Service, Holy Trinity (*note time*)

### Tuesday 22nd December

7.00pm Lessons and Carols, Holy Trinity

### Thursday 24th: Christmas Eve

2.30-5.00pm Walk-through Carol service, Holy Trinity

5.00pm Christingle, St Helen's

11.30pm Midnight Mass, Holy Trinity

### Thursday 25th: Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion, Holy Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion St. Helen's

9.30am Holy Communion All Saints

10.00am Parish Eucharist for all ages, Holy Trinity



*The above list does not include regular Sunday services, which follow the usual pattern.*

**Revd Patrick**

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

### Holy Trinity

#### **Sunday 1st November — All Saints' Day**

9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
5.00pm All Souls' Service for the Departed

#### **Sunday 8th November — Remembrance Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Remembrance Service  
5.00pm Parish Eucharist

#### **Sunday 15th November — Safeguarding Sunday**

9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre  
10.00am Parish Eucharist - "Love Protects"  
5.00pm Presence service

#### **Sunday 22nd November — Christ the King**

10.00am Parish Eucharist  
5.00pm Choral Evensong with healing ministry

#### **Sunday 29th November — the First Sunday of Advent**

9.00am Bubble Church, Parish Centre  
10.00am Parish Eucharist - "The Jesse Tree Part 1: The Patriarchs"  
5.00pm Advent Service of Light



### All Saints' Luddington

#### **All Sundays**

9.30am Holy Communion  
(N.B. November 1<sup>st</sup> - Patronal Festival)

#### **Sunday 29th November**

3.30pm Evensong



### St Helen's Clifford Chambers

#### **Sunday 1st November — All Saints' Day**

9.30am Morning Praise with Phoenix Band

#### **Sunday 8th November**

10.45am Remembrance Service

#### **Sunday 22nd November**

9.30am Holy Communion





## 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
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).



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](mailto:trinitytimes@stratford-upon-avon.org)) for inclusion in the December/January edition of the Trinity Times, by not later than 10 November.

## A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER AT HOLY TRINITY



It has been a wonderfully successful summer at Holy Trinity, with thousands of people coming through our doors to explore, discover, pray and enjoy this special place.

Between the beginning of summer and the end of the season, 56,263 people visited the church, with 27,302 choosing to pay to go beyond the pay desk and discover more of what Holy Trinity has to offer.

A particular highlight has been the opportunity to see a replica of William Shakespeare's will, kindly loaned by the National Archives. This has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

The summer has also been a tremendous team effort. Our staff and volunteers have worked incredibly hard to welcome visitors, answer

questions and keep the church looking its best. A huge thank you to everyone who has given their time and energy.

### Keeping Holy Trinity open through the winter

We are delighted to have agreed to open Holy Trinity on weekdays during the winter, giving local people and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the church, spend time in quiet reflection or prayer, and explore this special place. From Monday 2 November, the church will be open Monday to Friday, 12pm–2pm. Please note that the church will be closed on weekdays from 5–18 November for the installation of the new sound desk, and during the first two weeks of December for school Christmas services.



At the PCC meeting of Tuesday 15th September, the first main item on the agenda were the projects for the Five Year Plan. Andrew Boyes-Varley presented his paper summarising the results of the PCC Awayday which took place last July, and the subsequent discussion on which projects should take priority for each of the six focus areas. The intention of Andrew's approach was to analyse the trade-off between potential impact and effort, with priority given to projects with high potential impact and low effort such as the Estate Plan and the Coffee Shop. The level of support from PCC members was also taken into account.

Some 14 projects were considered worthy of putting work in hand such as the Skills Audit led by Jane Armitage, with some already underway such as the Read/Pray/Lead list led by Paul Lageu and the College Placement sponsored by Matt Ford.

Additionally, the paper included suggestions for "project leaders" for working groups, supported by "PCC sponsors". These were agreed, and Andrew promised early further guidance to those accepting these positions. Also, some thoughts were given to how frequently the working groups should report on their progress. However, it was agreed that this discussion can be postponed until the projects are underway as different projects have different timelines.

The second main item on the agenda were the reports from the village churches of St Helen's Clifford Chambers presented by Pat Woolvin and All Saints in Luddington presented by Debbie Thorpe.

The problems and opportunities seemed similar in each case. The numbers of people regularly attending worship seem to have recovered since the dramatic dip during the pandemic in 2020, but it is an ageing congregation and predisposed to slowly decline. There are few families with children, reflecting the village demographics, and this has led to a proposed abandonment of Christingle services. The congregations tend to swell in number on special occasions, and show some commitment to new initiatives in the community, such as the Make It Café in Luddington. However, the two churches' committees are struggling to find people willing to commit themselves to church building repair and other work needed (or to undertake the work which would be required to restore more frequent services at St Helen's). It was agreed that a possible solution could be found in the Skills Audit, one of the projects proposed under the five-year plan for Holy Trinity. The PCC agreed it should be given priority in order to find individuals in the congregation of Holy Trinity willing to put their skills at the disposal of St Helen's and All Saints to help in some of these areas.

The time had come to choose the 2026 Christmas Charities. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Masicorp will continue to be our international charity. The Epilepsy Society has been chosen as the national charity, and the local branch of the Cleft Lip and Palate association was chosen as our local charity.

Next, Malcolm Robinson updated the PCC on negotiations with the Deanery over the 2027 Parish Share offer to the Diocese. He explained the traditional formula for calculation of Share (clergy costs, plus a tithe of net unrestricted income) and said that national decisions have resulted in a sharp (15%) increase in stipends and training costs in order to make up for recent shortfalls. Subsequently and as expected, the Diocese has requested a 9% increase overall. However, Stratford's Share as calculated by formula would result in an increase of nearer 12%, to about £166,000, reflecting recent healthy income and modest offsetting expenditure. Final decisions would be taken later in the autumn.

Malcolm also reported on generally satisfactory trends in both regular giving and visitor income, despite a continuing current deficit situation. The proportion of visitors paying to enter the chancel is rising, and Patrick agreed to ask for the PCC's congratulations to be passed on to the visitor welcome assistants for their contribution in encouraging this.

The various reports on safeguarding and related matters were approved, subject to some clarification on the boundary between "church" and "non-church" activities in relation to children and vulnerable adults. It was considered that individuals in these categories casually visiting the church or attending scheduled services are adequately catered for by existing provisions and arrangements already in place.

Under any other business, John Riley was unanimously elected to one of the two casual PCC vacancies. Pat Woolvin declined a nomination for the other, preferring to attend by invitation when matters affecting St Helen's were discussed.

The next PCC meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17th November.



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 7TH NOVEMBER**  
**IN THE PARISH CENTRE**  
**9AM-11AM**



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

SHAKESPEARE SAYS...



"Let us not burden our remembrances with  
A heaviness that's gone."

The Tempest, V,i, 198-199

Photo, Marie McDougall



PET BLESSING AT CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



Patrick blessed pets at the Clifford Chambers Apple Day on 3rd October,  
the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis




## PARISH CENTRE AT 60 - Part Two



*This year, we are celebrating 60 years of the Parish Centre. Holy Trinity archivist, **Tim Raistrick**, concludes a retrospective of the centre, the first part of which appeared in the October issue.*

I said earlier that I had been associated with the building for almost 60 years since, before starting Primary School, I had attended a daily morning playgroup organised by the church in the room we now call the Lounge but was then known as the Refectory. In due course I got to use this room as the place where the choir had teas, following trips to the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre each January, before party games in the hall.

Subsequently, as I reached the right age, the hall was used for some of the Youth Group meetings although a lot of these were held in the Curate's house in College Street.



*The PCC meeting in the centre in 1981*

In due course, I joined the PCC in the 1980s and this body used to meet in the back committee room up the stairs. I dread to think how many hours I have spent in meetings over the years in this room, although the PCC now meets downstairs.

Other church organisations have used the hall for meetings, notably

Trinity Fellowship which has evolved from the Churchwomen's Group and Ladies' Forum. Similarly, organisations from around the town like the RSC, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford for Europe to name but few have made regular use of the building. Badminton, Tai Chi, Move It or Lose It are some of the more physical activities that have made use of the space.

Less exhausting uses (other than for the organisers) have been the countless social events over the years. Many of these were organised by the Social Team and Chris Cottrell, the stalwart leader of this team over many years and I am very grateful to her for contributing further reminiscences which can be seen in the next issue.

There have been Barn Dances, Burns Night Suppers, the annual Sidesmen's Suppers, Harvest Suppers, Ascension Day Breakfasts, Souper Fridays and, most recently, the Men's Breakfasts (*pictured right*). On a couple of occasions, the Revds Derek and Maureen Turner organised Passover Suppers too.





*Catherine and Rob Berry's wedding reception*

worship for less formal worship, for the start of the Palm Sunday services and on occasions when the church heating failed.

Numerous famous actors have visited the hall for the Friends of the RSC talks; David Suchet joined the choir and clergy there for breakfast after the Radio 4 Service on 23rd April 2016; the cast and crew of Shakespeare and Hathaway used it as their headquarters for changing and resting when filming nearby and Douglas Hurd, the former Home Secretary, ate supper there with supporters of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, to name but a few celebrity visits.



*Children's Holiday Club in 1997*



*Harvest Supper in 1992*

The hall has been a place of outreach, serving the community in many ways such as currently being the rehearsal space for the Stratford Chamber Choir and home to the Brownies.

However, it remains essentially our church hall and has, for 60 years, more than fulfilled those original needs that the Vicar had set out.

**Tim Raistrick**



## HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

### HARVEST AT HOLY TRINITY





Photos of Holy Trinity Harvest, George Reah;  
Photos of St Helen's, Pat Woolvin

## HARVEST AT ST HELEN'S



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



*Children and Families Minister, Phil Harper, reports on Harvest gifts, a crafty pun and thinking of God's promises with a parachute.*



To echo the Harvest feel to the rest of this issue of Trinity Times, Matt and I were lucky enough to share in the Harvest Eucharist celebrations at Holy Trinity School. Matt blessed the Harvest gifts that they had collected for the Foodbank, as I shared the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and the miraculous event thanks to a small donation from a young boy.

Our monthly Breakout Group for Primary and younger children has returned this term. At one group after hearing the parable of the two sons, we made good inTentions tents - I love a good craft pun! We discussed the difference between the two sons and wrote on our tents the good intentions we would do.

This month our Breakout Group is on Sunday 22nd November, as part of the 10.00am Parish Eucharist.

At Bubble Church we've begun right back at the beginning of the Bible and last month we had a couple of services focused on Noah and his Ark. A highlight of this was playing with a parachute, and thinking of God's promises to us. I think the adults had as much fun with the parachute as the children. We'll be continuing our journey through the Old Testament this month, with our services on 1st, 15th & 29th November 9.00am in the Parish Centre (Breakfast from 8.45am).



I've had a couple of new volunteers to help with Bubble Church, but a few more would be handy. If you're interested, contact me for more information.

Looking ahead to the start of Advent, for those who want to get the date in their diary, our Christingle Service this year will be on 13th December at 5.00pm.

**Phil Harper**



## HARVEST SUPPER

The evening of Saturday October 10th was grey and chilly as we set out for the Harvest Supper to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Parish Centre.

Catherine and I had never been to such a supper, we were not sure how many people would be going or what would be happening, and so this would be a new experience for us. But there was no need for any concern. The warmest of welcomes greeted us and over 50 people were there, several of whom we knew from Sunday services, some faces very familiar and others we didn't know at all. But everyone was very friendly, and as we sat down we read each other's name tags and I, for one, promised myself that I would try to remember them all!



Our Vicar Patrick's words of Grace reminded us of why we were there and urged us to remember all those less fortunate or who could not join us.

And then we moved to the buffet, where there was a choice between chicken or vegetable dishes, all prepared by Marie, and my plate was filled with an absolutely delicious vegetable hot pot. I asked her for the recipe, but I think it might be a closely guarded secret.

Tim Raistrick had kindly arranged a slide show with images of previous harvest suppers, and people could happily recognise old friends. Tim also had a challenge for us all. "If you have a blue dot on the table underneath your plate, stay where you are. If the dot is red, walk in a clockwise direction to the second table away from you and sit there." So, this was why it was called a Movable Feast! Fortunately, his instructions were very clear and a quick glance at my watch showed me which way was clockwise, so I met the challenge easily and enjoyed a pudding, prepared by volunteers, and every bit as delicious as the main course, while chatting to new people. Judging by the numbers asking for a second helping, and the well cleared plates, I was obviously not the only one enjoying the excellent food.

This also reminded me that the organisation of such events resembles an iceberg: all of the hard work of so many people is hidden beneath the surface, so thank you to Christine and everybody else who helped to make the evening such a success.



The conversations ranged from the everyday happenings in the town and parish; our reminiscences of student life; travels around the world, and the good and bad points from the latest news. These last were short conversations, but then the evening itself seemed too short and nearly three hours had gone by before I even realised it. On leaving another short chat started, this time with Roger about the person who discovered the long-buried body of Richard the Third. The conversations were as varied as the guests!

Then we had to leave, but the autumnal night seemed far less cold as we talked of the people we had met and our enjoyment of such a wonderful evening. As Catherine said as she drove us home, the 61st birthday celebration of the Parish Centre cannot come soon enough.

**Martin Sullivan**



## SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE OUTING FOR RINGERS

Stratford-upon-Avon bellringers and ringing friends from Clifford Chambers and Alveston set sail on Wednesday 6 October on the River Avon from the Shakespeare Marina, bound for Bidford on Avon.

We are very grateful to Nick Goodall, the owner of 'Katona' and someone who has learnt to ring in the last 18 months at Holy Trinity, who kindly agreed to host us. Nick is moving to London with his work, so the trip on the boat was his thank

you for all the help and support he has received during his time at Holy Trinity church. We will all miss Nick and wish him well for the future!



The first tower of the day was Welford-on-Avon, St Peter (*pictured left*) - eight bells, tenor weight 9.3.1 in G, accessed via a ladder to a first-floor ringing chamber. The church of St Peter, is located off the main village street close to the river, about five miles west of Stratford. The current building has been largely restored, although the tower is still unbuttressed and Norman to the string course. The arch to the nave is low, pointed and unmoulded. Higher up are two lancets, i.e. an early 13 C continuation and then a perpendicular top. There

are examples of Norman work, including a doorway with fluted capitals and a crude tympanum. The old rood stairway and its doors remain and nearby is a trefoiled piscina.

Following ringing, lunch was enjoyed at the Four Alls, which is adjacent to the river on the edge of the village.

The final tower of the day was Bidford-on-Avon, St Lawrence (*pictured right*) – eight bells, tenor weight 14.0.24 in F (Ground floor ringing chamber). The church of St Lawrence, enjoying a picturesque situation commanding a lovely panorama of the Avon Valley. The church was rebuilt from locally sourced blue lias stone in 1835, although the chancel still retains some good early 14th century details, including a canopied piscina.



The photo on the left was taken outside Bidford church at the end of a lovely trip, a day which started in rain and ended in sunshine!

It was a great day - here's to the next one!

**Marion Mitchell**





Dear Members,

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 18th November. This will be my last meeting as leader of Trinity Fellowship and I would like to thank all of you for your support and friendship over the past 20 years as Chair. It has been my privilege and pleasure to lead this group and although I am stepping down I will remain a member and have the pleasure of seeing you all regularly.

I am very happy to announce that Barbara Bartos will be taking over and I am very sure that she will continue to grow the group and make it a "must come to" meeting for you all.

At our AGM we will announce the donations we are making to charity and Barbara will be choosing carols and finding readers for the Carol Service. Please come if you can and also let the committee know what sort of speakers, outings etc you would like in the future.

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 members of the Guild Chapel at 10.00am for the morning service.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 18th November.

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, we will be delighted to see you.

**Gina Lodge, Chair**



Everyone was able to choose from the vast array of delicious homemade cakes. A great big Thank You to our wonderful team of bakers and helpers. I am delighted to report that their efforts helped us to raise a grand total of £585 towards this very worthy cause.

**Paul Lageu**

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 26th September, we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Holy Trinity Church. We were joined not only by parishioners and local residents but by visitors from across both the UK and wider world.



## NEW LOOK SOCIAL TEAM

At the beginning of the year, with reduced numbers, the Social Team was struggling to cope with the many tasks required to organise successful social events. We knew that it would be impossible to continue without some fresh energy.

Thankfully, five members of the congregation responded to my request for help and they have all decided to join the team, each taking on a specific role thus dividing the overall responsibility load more evenly.

Our new members have made the following comments:



**Debbie Thorpe:** "Having moved to Luddington five years ago, it wasn't long before I found myself part of the All Saints' Team. The village congregation is quite small and it is difficult to organise social events ourselves, so I joined the Parish Social Team to encourage friendship, support and collaboration across our wider parish. Joining the team warms my heart as I get to know new faces and, in turn, they recognise me; it helps me to feel like I belong."



**Sarah Sizeman:** "I started coming to Holy Trinity nine years ago after losing my mum and after experiencing a Road to Damascus experience. I often attended Social Team events to meet new people and was asked to volunteer. When the opportunity came to join the team, I jumped at the chance to help plan events and bring the church family together."

**Sandra Davies:** "After my husband passed away, I moved to Stratford, totally alone. Holy Trinity embraced me, and I was asked to join the Social Team. It was a revelation to find out what was going on. This was the best decision I made: lovely, friendly people who are a joy to be with. I have found my Heaven on Earth."



**Phil Coldicott:** "I'm enjoying helping the Social Team and I really enjoyed the Skittles night. It was great seeing everyone again on Sunday July 12th at the picnic and being part of a big family."



**Ildi and Elizabeth Solti:** "At the end of one of the Sunday services Chris stood up and said that Pancake Day might not happen if more members did not join the Social Team. We thought this cannot be allowed to happen. We joined immediately and have enjoyed being part of the welcoming family of Holy Trinity ever since."

The longer serving members of the team feel energised by the enthusiasm which the new members have brought to our monthly planning meetings.

Owing to her increased workload, Lola can no longer record the minutes of our meetings. We are grateful for her support over the last 12 months and would be delighted to hear from anyone who could do this for us. Thank you.

**Contact: Marie (07875 018282) or Chris Cottrell (07843 755506)**



November is of course the “month of Remembrance”. When I was younger, I must admit I found Remembrance Sunday a bit irrelevant; World War I and II were so long ago. Today, with so many actual and potential conflicts around the world (Ukraine and the ghastly Middle Eastern problems to name but two areas), which affect our own nation even if so far very indirectly, it looks a bit more relevant.

And then, twenty years ago at my father’s funeral, I discovered he had been on the beaches at Dunkirk. What spiritual scars my parents’ experiences of World War II must have left within them. And I began to understand how those scars must have affected my family life and my own inner wounds.

November is also the “month of the dead”. As I, and others in our circle, face up to imminent mortality, the need to reconcile our own wounds, and find healing for them, becomes ever greater. And we need to try to recognise those wounds in others also, everywhere from our own most intimate relationships to those who exercise leadership in the wider world. If those people are all very obviously fallible, and sometimes seem to lack integrity, in the face of current national and international challenges, we cannot excuse those failures but maybe we can begin to understand them.

Is there, then, hope for the human race? Sometimes it seems almost as if we are all imminently doomed, and the only question is whether World War III or the climate emergency will destroy us first! We proclaim the Christian hope of God’s final Kingdom in our worship each Sunday, but many of us really struggle to understand what that might mean. Can we glimpse it just a little in our everyday lives? If not, what if anything does it all amount to?



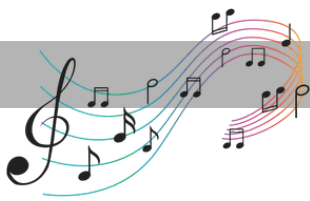
One of my involvements outside the parish is with the national organisation Modern Church, which stands for a reasoned, questioning approach to faith. It was set up over 100 years ago at a time like ours, when crises in the world made “literal faith” ultra-difficult and the Church was almost torn apart as a result.

Our members vary greatly in how agnostic they are, and about what. But we all want to affirm a faith in which it is OK to ask questions.

And in the coming year we will be looking actively for signs of hope in the political and economic changes of our time as well as in the lives of our churches.

I could try to offer some here, but they might be controversial, and I have written enough already. Watch this space!

*Anthony*



## MUSIC MATTERS



At the end of September we welcomed twins Alex and Philip Mitroi as our organ scholars. We are very grateful to The Friends of Music at Holy Trinity, who fund the scholarship. This allows young people the opportunity to develop their skills, whilst contributing to the life of the church.



*Above: the first choir rehearsal of the new season*

*Below: Trinity Voices sing at the Harvest Festival (photo, George Reah)*



*The Choir and Trinity Voices sing an anthem by John Rutter at the Harvest Festival (Photo, George Reah)*

### Midweek Choral Evensong Sung by the Choristers



First Wednesday of  
each month

5:30pm

Holy Trinity Church

*We are excited to have started a new midweek Evensong service, led solely by our remarkable choristers. The first service took place on October 7th, Do show your support for this new initiative, and our dedicated choristers. They will take place on the first Wednesday of each month, at 5:30pm.*



## FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC

The Friends of the Music weekly lunchtime Soundbites concerts continue on Wednesdays in church or the Parish Centre

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](http://www.htcfom.co.uk); and via email to all members.

- **4th November** – in the Church: Mary Glasby (Oboe). *Musician from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The programme will include a range of folk-inspired music from across the world, focusing on aural tradition and storytelling.*
- **11th November** – in The Parish Centre: To be confirmed
- **18th November** – in the Church (subject to availability or The Parish Centre): Ciara Thompson (Piano). *Programme: Mozart Sonata in c minor k.457, Rachmaninoff Preludes op23 no.s 1-4*
- **25th November** – in The Parish Centre: Fosseway Chamber Orchestra

### MOZART AND BACH'S SACRED MASTERPIECES COME TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Stratford Choral Society will be joined by the Regency Sinfonia and an exciting lineup of professional soloists for an evening of choral music featuring Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor K427 and J. S. Bach's Ascension Oratorio.

The concert brings together two monumental works of the choral repertoire. Mozart's Mass in C Minor composed in Vienna in 1782 and 1783, when he was aged about 26, after his marriage, when he had moved to Vienna from Salzburg, with its first performance in Salzburg in Oct 1783. The work is celebrated for its dramatic scale, expressive arias and magnificent choral writing with double chorus.

Bach's Ascension Oratorio was probably first performed on 15 May 1738 and tells the story of Christ's Ascension through vivid recitatives, arias and choruses.

The concert will be conducted by Music Director, Oliver Neal Parker. This performance takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 14 November at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Tickets are available on the website [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or at the door on the night if seats are available. Tickets £25, or £23 if purchased online up to two weeks in advance. Tickets for 25 years or under and in full-time education are £10. Children 18 years or under admitted free.

Stratford Choral Society  
Charity No. 502020

SEASON 2026-2027

www.stratfordchoral.org.uk  
FOUNDED 1836

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2026 7.30PM  
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Mozart's  
**Mass in C Minor**  
JS Bach's  
**Ascension Oratorio**

Miriam Allan Soprano  
Louise Wayman Soprano  
Elisabeth Irvine Mezzo Soprano  
Sebastian Hill Tenor  
Johannes Moore Baritone

The Regency Sinfonia

Oliver Neal Parker Conductor

Tickets may be bought in advance online at [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or at the door on concert night.

Stratford Choral Society is sponsored by the Rigby Foundation and Holiday Inspirations Ltd.

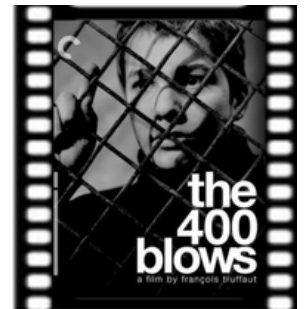


## FAITH AND FILM: AUTUMN PROGRAMME

All films are shown 4.00-7.00 pm in the Holy Trinity Church Lounge.

**Friday, 20 November: The 400 Blows** (1959, Dir. Francois Truffaut)

**The 400 Blows** is one of the defining films of the French 'New Wave'. Its semi-autobiographical story follows the adolescent years in Paris of Antoine Doinel (Jean-Pierre Léaud) whose rebellious spirit is at odds with his uncaring parents and the 'old school' educational establishment (here: pre-1968; though you might not know that from the French news just now!). What future for this young man emerging alone into adulthood and criminal marginality? Ranked no. 29 in "The 100 Best Films of World Cinema" in 2010 and voted eighth 'greatest foreign-language film' of all time in BBC's poll of 209 critics in 43 countries.



**Friday, 4 December: Lourdes** (Franco-German-Austrian film written and directed by Jessica Hausner (Educating Rita). Released 2009 (Austria), 2011 (France).

Awards: Venice Film Festival (2010): Critics' Prize 'Best Film' and Ecumenical Jury Prize; 2011, Sylvie Testud (as Christine): Critics' award for Best Actress (Europe). Follows in documentary style a few days in the life of a group of sick and handicapped pilgrims, their accompanying carers, and onsite nursing personnel of the Order of Malta. With the group comes Christine, paralysed, able to make only head movements. Will she be miraculously cured? What, for faith, is more desirable - and yet more difficult to understand, accept or count on - than a 'miracle'? 'Brilliant' (Times, David Jenkins). See recent visit to Lourdes (September 2026) by Pope Leo XIV.

## BUMPER FUN AT THE MOP FAIR



*Revd Patrick Taylor enjoyed his drive on the dodgems with Councillor Dani Hunter at the annual Mop Fair which came to the town on October 11th-12th.*



## SHAKESPEARE: “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON”

### The Friends of Shakespeare’s Church Annual Lecture

Tragedy versus comedy: which of these is more important in the works by William Shakespeare? Professor Emma Smith from Hertford College, Oxford University gave the lucky audience at Holy Trinity Church a fascinating talk on both the timelessness and the timeliness of Shakespeare’s plays.

She explained that while the whole canon is relevant because it depicts our common humanity, the popularity of different plays has risen and fallen over the centuries. The play “Richard II” about the overthrow of a monarch was particularly pertinent in the 1600s as Elizabeth I had no natural heir. “Othello” resonates with audiences in the 21st Century with its problems of severe unrest in Mediterranean countries and of religious differences.



According to Professor Smith, tragedies have been described as “death drives in five acts”, while in a comedy the characters show normal behaviour and interact with one another. In “King Lear” or “Hamlet” for example, there is an inevitable – and bleak – outcome. We watch the doomed glamour of tragic characters with no future. However, in the comedies, while the laughter and humour may have a violent edge, the characters have a chance to recover from their problems. In a comedy there is hope for the future!

It is interesting to reflect that the two best-known tragedies and comedies “Hamlet” and “Twelfth Night” were both written in 1601. While “Hamlet” has a moral seriousness to it, the characters in “Twelfth Night” learn how to reform their behaviour. The issues of migration and national identity are highlighted in this comedy, as are the problems of sexuality and same sex attachments. It is definitely a 21st century play.

After her talk, Professor Smith took questions from the audience, including some interesting queries by students from the Shakespeare Institute. She emphasised her point that while mistakes in a tragedy were fatal, those in a comedy were not, and reminded us all that, as Dr Johnson said, “Shakespeare is not of an age but for all time”.

Judith Dorricott



### CHRISTMAS FAIR, COFFEE MORNING AND BOX OPENING

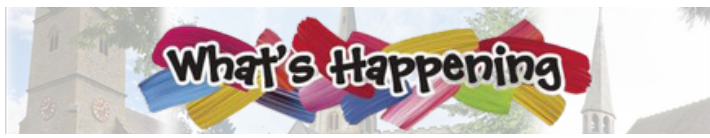
**Saturday 21st November 2026, 10-12 noon**

**St Andrew’s Parish Centre, Church Lane, CV37 9HQ**

The Stratford Committee is holding its Annual Christmas Fair, Coffee Morning and Box Opening for Holy Trinity and St Andrew’s on Saturday 21st November from 10-12 noon at St Andrew’s Parish Centre. This event is open to everyone whether you are a Box Holder or not. Christmas gifts, crafts, cards, homemade jams and marmalade, books, raffle available.

Please support if you are able or you can donate online

[www.justgiving.com/page/2024stratford-fundraising-committee-1702996514995](http://www.justgiving.com/page/2024stratford-fundraising-committee-1702996514995)



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

**Souper Fridays**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**12.30pm**  
**Holy Trinity  
Parish Centre**

**Homemade soup  
& pudding** **Recommended  
donation £5**

**Everybody welcome**  
**Come and enjoy a sociable lunch**  
**All profits to be donated to Stratford Foodbank**

Lives changed through God's love

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Social Events  
Programme 2027**

**Murder Mystery**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**Pancake Party**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Quiz with fish & chips**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Nature Reserve Walk  
and Scavenger Hunt**  
**19<sup>th</sup> June**

**Parish Picnic**  
**18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Harvest Bring & Share**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Oct**

For more information  
please contact Chris  
on 01789 204273

**SOCIAL  
EVENTS**

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

**Make your own  
Christmas Pudding**  
**2pm Saturday 21st Nov**  
**£8 per pudding (pay on the day)**

**&  
Christmas Wreath Making**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am or 1.30pm**  
**£42 per wreath**  
**(make individually or as a group)**

**Both events at the Parish Centre**  
**Sign up using the QR Codes or the link in the Weekly Bulletin**  
**Booking ends: Pudding Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**Wreath Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, or when fully booked**

**Christmas  
Pudding**

**Wreath  
Making**

**SOCIAL  
EVENTS**

For more information please  
contact Marie McDougall on  
**07875018282**

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS IN OCTOBER



### BAPTISMS

11th Alana Raisen  
25th Lily Walker

### WEDDINGS

10th Sheyla Galvez Peisl and James Bowkett



### FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICES



1st Caroline Watson  
7th Karen Joseph  
21st Kevin Gildea  
22nd Laura Reynolds

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on **Wednesday 4th November**. 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 on **December 2nd**

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



# A.E.BENNETT & SONS

## INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Family owned and run since 1848*

*Private Chapel of Rest*

*Members of the N.A.F.D.*

**Tel: (01789) 267035 (24hrs)**

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

## PARISH CONTACTS

Website: [www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org)

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

*Tel. 01789 266316 Email: [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:office@stratford-upon-avon.org)*

### Clergy Team

Vicar: Revd Patrick Taylor, 01789 508155, [vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Associate Minister: Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, [associate@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:associate@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Children & Families Minister: Phil Harper, 07791 005696, [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto: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](mailto:davidianharrison@hotmail.com)

### Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Officer: Helen Warrillow, 01789 266316, [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:office@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Safety and Compliance Officer: Liz Roper-Kemp, 01789 266316, [liz@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:liz@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Revd Patrick Taylor, 01789 508155, [vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Revd Matt Ford, 01789 266316, [matt@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:matt@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 02476 521345

### Parish Nurse

Karen, 07907 550704, [nurse@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:nurse@stratford-upon-avon.org)

### Parish Staff

Visitor and Marketing Manager: Lola Spetsioti, 01789 632811, [lola@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:lola@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Safety and Compliance Officer: Liz Roper-Kemp, 01789 266316, [liz@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:liz@stratford-upon-avon.org)

Parish Administrator: Michele Nicol Hilton, 01789 266316, [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto: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: tba

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, [associate@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:associate@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, [associate@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:associate@stratford-upon-avon.org)

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

Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Team: Lindsay MacDonald, 01789 293110

## REDEDICATION OF BECKET CHAPEL



At Choral Evensong on October 11th Bishop Sophie re-dedicated the Becket Chapel after its restoration. In attendance were representatives of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church and the Royal British Legion, both organisations having contributed to the restoration. The reordering has created a dedicated space for prayer, including the new icon of Christ, new benches and votive candle stands.



*On Sunday 20th September parishioners travelled to St Paul's Cathedral in London for the Installation of our curate, Emma, as Minor Canon and Succentor. Emma was put in her stall by the Dean, the Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, at the start of Evensong (pictured below) and then she preached about St Matthew (it was the eve of his feast day). The above photo shows Emma after the service with the cathedral Dean and Chapter, our own ministers and other friends who robed.*

