

FEBRUARY 2024

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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

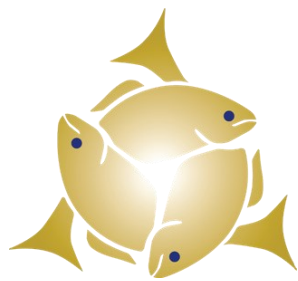


TRINITY TIMES



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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March 2024 edition

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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 able to be included in the magazine.

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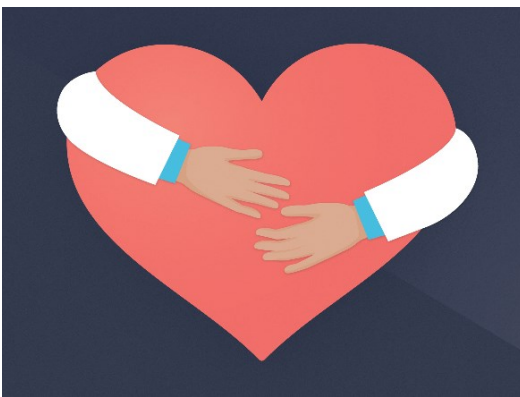
FEBRUARY EDITORIAL

Lent this year might be a bit of a challenge, as it starts on Wednesday 14th February which is Valentine's Day, so perhaps we might have to do any extra eating, drinking, and celebrating on the 13th instead which is Shrove Tuesday, at the same time as eating any pancakes. When thinking about what to do in Lent this year, I wondered why it seemed so much harder to take something extra up for Lent, than to give something up. For many years it was the fashion to give up eating chocolate or maybe biscuits and cakes, getting to the end of Lent and feeling that we had achieved our aim and perhaps having even added in some extra prayer when we would have been eating a snack.

As the recent trend has been to take up something extra, like reading a passage from a Lent book, walking more instead of driving or spending an extra period of time in silence in God's presence, I noticed that I have found this so much harder to do. Perhaps it is because you can guarantee that you will always get hungry, so it is easier to forgo something to eat, especially a snack, knowing that you will have a delicious meal anyway at several times during the day that you can look forward to.

Adding something in, means making a special effort to find a space in a busy schedule to stop and do this new thing. As there may not be a hunger for this, it can seem harder to remember to do it and before you know it, one or two days have flown by without reading even a page or two of the Lent book or remembering to stop for an extra quiet time.

This can feel disheartening and trying to catch up, by reading several pages in one go, does not give the same benefit as mulling over them one topic at a time. Perhaps this problem occurs because nearly everyone recognises physical hunger, but we find it so much harder to notice spiritual hunger. Sometimes it is other people who notice when we are almost running out of energy for praying or singing or worshipping God, but we just keep plodding



on regardless of how little we have left to give. This is why it is so good to have friends around us who notice what we need and when to take a break and look after ourselves.

Many wise people have said that it is not selfish to care for ourselves, because if we become depleted, we have nothing left to give for those around us who value our care and attention. So, as we come to the beginning of spring and see fresh new life all about in nature, let us use this Lent to give more time to ensuring that we are caring for ourselves, so that when Easter comes and we go out to share Christ's resurrection life with others, we have the words and actions that we need to show them the abundant life that God has for them too, when they follow in Jesus' way.

Kay Dyer



SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

4 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Who is Jesus? Part 3: Eternal Word
with separate children's activity

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

11 February - Sunday next before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Who is Jesus? Part 4: Son of the Father

5pm - Congregational Evensong

18 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Opportunities to Serve

5pm - Taizé

25 February - 2nd Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Making Space for God

5pm - Choral Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

4 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Morning Praise

18 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

4 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

11 February - Sunday next before Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

18 February - 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

25 February - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion



THANK YOU TO THE OLD EDITOR

The previous issue of Trinity Times was the last one produced by Felicity Howlett and so I want to take this opportunity to say how very grateful we are to her for all her hard work over the years as Design Editor. As Felicity herself discovered, it can be a challenging task to fit everything in and meet the many different expectations of contributors, but Felicity was diligent and reliable and each edition has been a joy to read. So thank you Felicity for all that you have done to enable Trinity Times to continue to be an exemplary parish magazine. We hope you are enjoying the respite from the demands of the role -it's amazing how quickly the next edition comes around once the previous one has gone to print!

With thanks on behalf of the whole parish and beyond.

and welcome to Claire!

We are delighted to welcome Claire Clack to the editorial team at Trinity Times as our new Design Editor. This is not something Claire has done before and we have been working together as a team to support her and produce this edition. So please bear with us! We're very grateful to Claire for taking this important role on so that Trinity Times can continue into the future.

Patrick

HELLO FROM THE NEW DESIGN EDITOR



My new job starts with an apology to Marie McDougall whose lovely photos of the Peregrine Falcon in the last were attributed to me. I'm guessing that given my shy, retiring, unopinionated nature that is not the only apology I will ever have to give as I struggle to fill Felicity's shoes. Luckily my job is layout and it is your voices and activities that I shall be trying to do justice to by making the magazine look as attractive as my limited computer skills can make it. George Reah made me have my photograph taken so any complaints should be forwarded to him. Talking of pictures, the one of the cast of the Mystery Plays leapt out at me for the front cover, but I didn't have the words to speak about why it

captured my attention. Patrick then sent me an email that reminded me of the core values of the Church which are Worship, Outreach, Welcome and Discipleship. For me this picture embodied those values as all ages and skillsets worked to produce something unique for Holy Trinity Church. I hope the magazine continues to help show our congregation fulfilling those very values.

I would like to say a big thank you to the existing team for their welcome and to Felicity, Phil and David Manson for answering my many Publisher questions.

Lastly thank you to all my friends within our Holy Trinity Community for supporting me and preventing me from going into complete melt down while I take on something very new and different.

Claire Clack

WORSHIP NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Lent begins early this year and is a good opportunity to review our spiritual practices. Does the way I pray work and is it a regular pattern? Am I making joining others for worship enough of a priority in my life? What about time to read the bible, and what do I use to help me do that (e.g. bible reading notes, phone app)? If nothing else, perhaps you might commit yourself to reading a Lent book this year (see recommendations on page 7) and attending our Lent Course which is led the by the Rev. Richard Cooke and promises to be very special (see below for details).

Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February and there are two opportunities to receive the sign of the cross in ash as a reminder of our dependence on God's grace and need for forgiveness and reconciliation as we begin our journey through Lent:

10am Holy Communion (Guild Chapel)

7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Patrick

'QUICK-EYED LOVE'

LENT 2024 WITH GEORGE HERBERT

Join us as we travel through Lent with the poet George Herbert, guided by the Rev. Richard Cooke. All sessions take place at Holy Trinity church. The final one on Easter Day will be given as the sermon at Choral Evensong at 5pm.



Weds 21 Feb	'Love Bade Me Welcome' - Love (III)
Weds 28 Feb	'No more' - The Collar
Weds 6 Mar	'The soul's blood' - Prayer (I)
Weds 13 Mar	'The famous stone' - The Elixir
Weds 20 Mar	'Come' - The Call & 'Sin and love' - The Agony
Sun 31 Mar (5pm)	'As larks, harmoniously' - Easter Wings

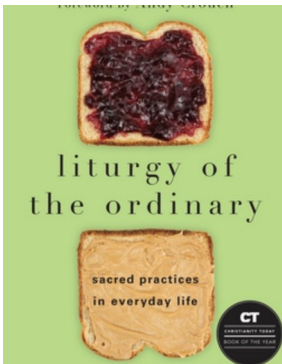
George Herbert (1593-1633) was the writer of some of the most powerful poetry on spiritual themes in the English language. In these sessions during Lent we will explore a different poem, its background and what it might mean for us, each week, in a way suitable both for those who feel they have little knowledge of poetry and also for those whose passion it is! Copies of the poems for each week will be available.



Richard Cooke is Rector of the Ilmington Downs and Stour Valley Churches, and was Principal of the Coventry Diocesan Training Partnership from 2010-2021.

NOURISHMENT FOR LENT

Lent is a good time for devotional reading and below are reviews of three books recommended by members of our clergy team. If you're not able to get hold of a copy yourself, they can be ordered through the Holy Trinity bookshop.

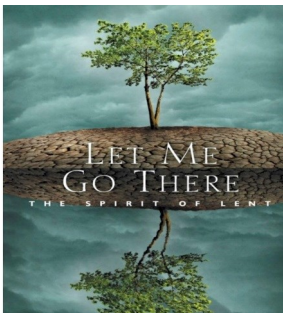


Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life by Tish Warren Harrison (published 2016)

Chosen by The Rev. Thomas Powell

I feel this book is very well suited to the season of Lent. The author is an Anglican priest in North America, and she writes in a friendly and accessible style. The book has eleven short chapters, each of them readable in less than 20 minutes.

Here's how the book is described on its cover: In overlooked moments and routines, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Each chapter of the book looks at something that the author does during the day, making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, the author opens up a practical theology of the everyday. Each activity is related to a spiritual practice as well as an aspect of our Sunday worship. Come and discover the holiness of your every day.

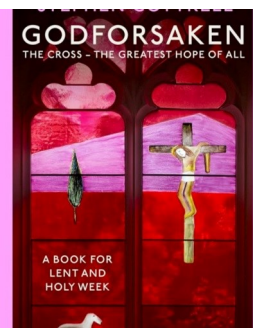


Let Me Go There: The Spirit of Lent by Paula Gooder (published 2016)

Chosen by The Rev. Emma Harrington

Paula Gooder is the Canon Chancellor of St Pauls Cathedral. She is a theologian and lay reader who specialises in the New Testament. This book takes its title from the R. S. Thomas poem The Coming and explores the themes of wilderness and discipleship. The core of the book consists of a chapter for each week of Lent, each chapter being divided into six sections of Bible readings and commentary.

The short reflections are suitable for daily reading but the structure offers plenty of flexibility for those who prefer to approach it in a different way. They combine both detailed, enlightening scriptural analysis and deeply felt reflection to provide a profound study of the wilderness in the Old and New Testament, and the joys and cost of discipleship.



Godforsaken: A book for Lent and Holy Week by Stephen Cottrell (published 2022)

Chosen by the Rev Patrick Taylor

Much of this book was written during the Covid pandemic, a time of isolation and fear for many. It digs deep into the meaning of the last words of Jesus on the cross:

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Although they are words despair and anguish, the Archbishop of York writes that we can also discover that the resurrection of Jesus "brings hope and meaning to our lives precisely because he has participated in such passion and separation.'

There are seven short chapters, each with questions for reflection at the end which will help the reader to make connections between their own life, scripture and the suffering and resurrection of Jesus.



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



Lent Lunches

Parish Centre

Fridays 23rd Feb – 22nd Mar

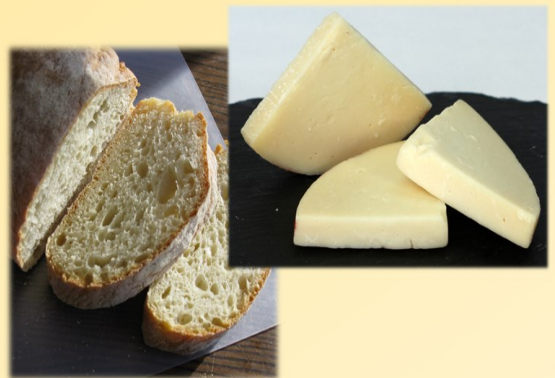
12– 2pm

Thought for the Day

Invite a friend or neighbour

Donations to Stratford Foodbank

Share together a
simple lunch of
soup, bread and
cheese.



Lent Lunches Feb-March

Are you free on Fridays, could you make or serve soup or help put out tables and chairs? If YES, please would you help with LENT LUNCHES?

Volunteers needed. Please contact Chris Cottrell asap on 07843755506 or email: cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com. Thank you.

THE HOLY TRINITY MYSTERY PLAYS



Spending the summer months reading and adapting the Medieval Mystery Plays for performance in November was most enjoyable, especially when progressing slowly down the Oxford canal in a narrow boat; I even dreamt in rhyme. But then came the challenges! How could we stage plays, originally presented on carts in city streets, inside the church on a fixed set? How imitate the spectacle which thrilled the first

audiences? How would the Players make speaking in rhyme and respecting rhythm sound natural; play several very different parts; change costume within a few bars of music? Chester Cathedral had a budget of 400k to present the Chester Cycle of Plays earlier in the year - we didn't have budget at all. Would audiences think they were coming to an evening of Agatha Christie?

In the event, the Stratford Herald pronounced our Play 'a triumph of biblical proportions', and for that credit goes to all the Players. Tony Guy and James Willetts immediately set to work on spectacle, with film, slides, lighting, and effects. Tim Raistrick and Margot McCleary demonstrated that the script could still communicate today, and Roxanne Bennis and Catherine Spratt researched medieval music. The brave Cast threw themselves with gusto into their various roles – notably, changing in the south side store cupboard from shepherd to king and back to shepherd again or Pete Cubitt, drumming throughout with a pause to ad-lib hilariously as Coll the Shepherd.



Finding young people proved unexpectedly difficult as sadly, some were uncomfortable about acting in a 'religious' play. We were delighted to find Paige and Jamie who clearly have very promising futures on the stage but with them came an unforeseen problem: in addition to Marie McDougall, our own licensed chaperone, we now

needed licences for the 4 under 16s, and an inspection. Racing against time, Helen Warrillow met all Warwickshire and Gloucester Councils' requirements and saved the Show.

The good news is that, through the generosity of our audiences, we raised £2000 for Holy Trinity Church, some of which will replace the most battered pew bibles with others more compact.

Ursula Russell December 2023



MYSTERY PLAYS pictures by George Reah



The word of God brought to us by James Willet 's film and Tim Raistrick as God

Below devils played by Kade McDougall and Jamie O'Neil. Lucifer played by Margot Mcleary and Bad Angel by Phil Harper



Above Eve (Orion Johnson) being tempted by Margot Mcleary as the Serpent



Mark Spriggs as Noah sending out the Doveand his family eagerly awaiting its return



Pictures from the Mystery Plays Birth of Jesus



Mary played by Paige Hopper Joseph by Brian Russell and Elizabeth by Val Cubit.



King Herod played by Mark Spriggs. Below Left Herod's dancing bear played by Kade McDougall and led by Nehemiah Spriggs.



Below we three kings Tim Raistrick , Phil Harper and George King



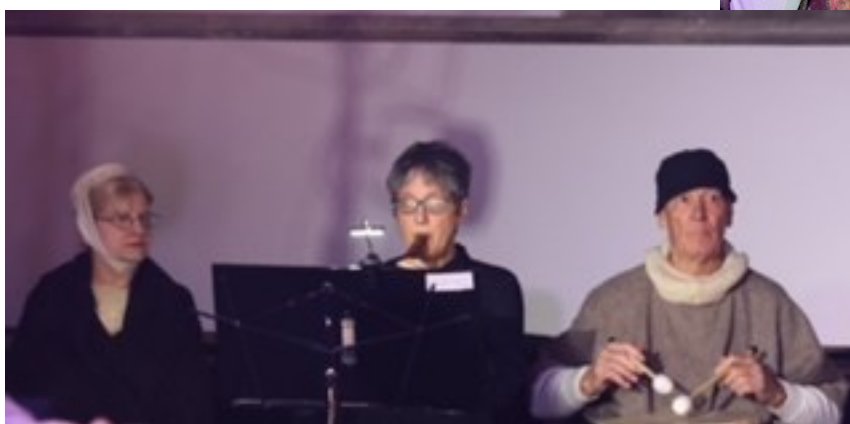
Mystery Plays—Sheep stealing

Below Helen Warrillow as Gil berating Phil Harper for stealing a very well known sheep. You can spot him on page one of the article.



Two of the shepherds Col and Gyb discussing the theft.

Below just two snap shots of some of the music provided throughout the plays by Catherine Spratt Roxanne Bennis and Pete Cubitt
Below right Sophia



There were so many wonderful pictures from this production I doubled the amount of space given to the article but have still only been able to provide a snapshot of all those involved. Then there were all the people behind the scenes that contributed so much time and effort to making this production come alive.

FRIENDS OF ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Friends of St Helen's held their AGM after Morning Prayer on 6th January. Although the Annual Report covered the year from April 2022 to April 2023, the treasurer Winston North also mentioned the two recent fund-raising events: the Open Garden at Clifford Manor kindly arranged by Sir Peter Rigby our Patron and Marian, followed by the successful Promises Auction run by auctioneer Christopher Ironmonger and family.



The Friends was set up in 2017 as a means of enabling people who may not be regular church goers but who are appreciative of St Helen's as the oldest building in the village and wish to give it financial support. Last year FoSH helped St Helen's with a donation towards comfortable cushions for the pews in memory of David Renfrew and with more modern hymn books. The old central heating system is still holding up but will

need replacing this year. Repairs to the organ are needed now and work on the bells is scheduled for 2025.

It was a joy to listen to the choir from Holy Trinity lead the singing at the Carol Service, and on Christmas Eve there was hardly a seat in the house and the congregation included 42 children for the popular Christingle service. This shows that the church still holds a place in the hearts of this community especially at Christmas time.

Angela Wylam

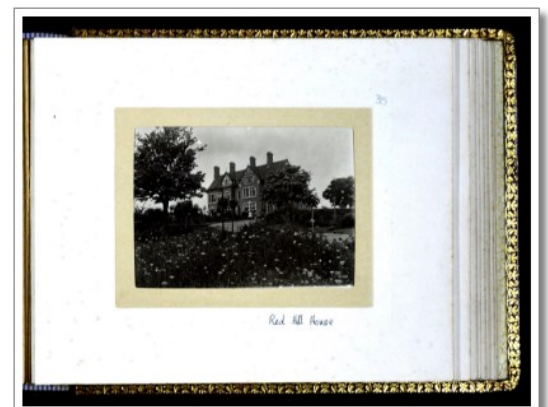


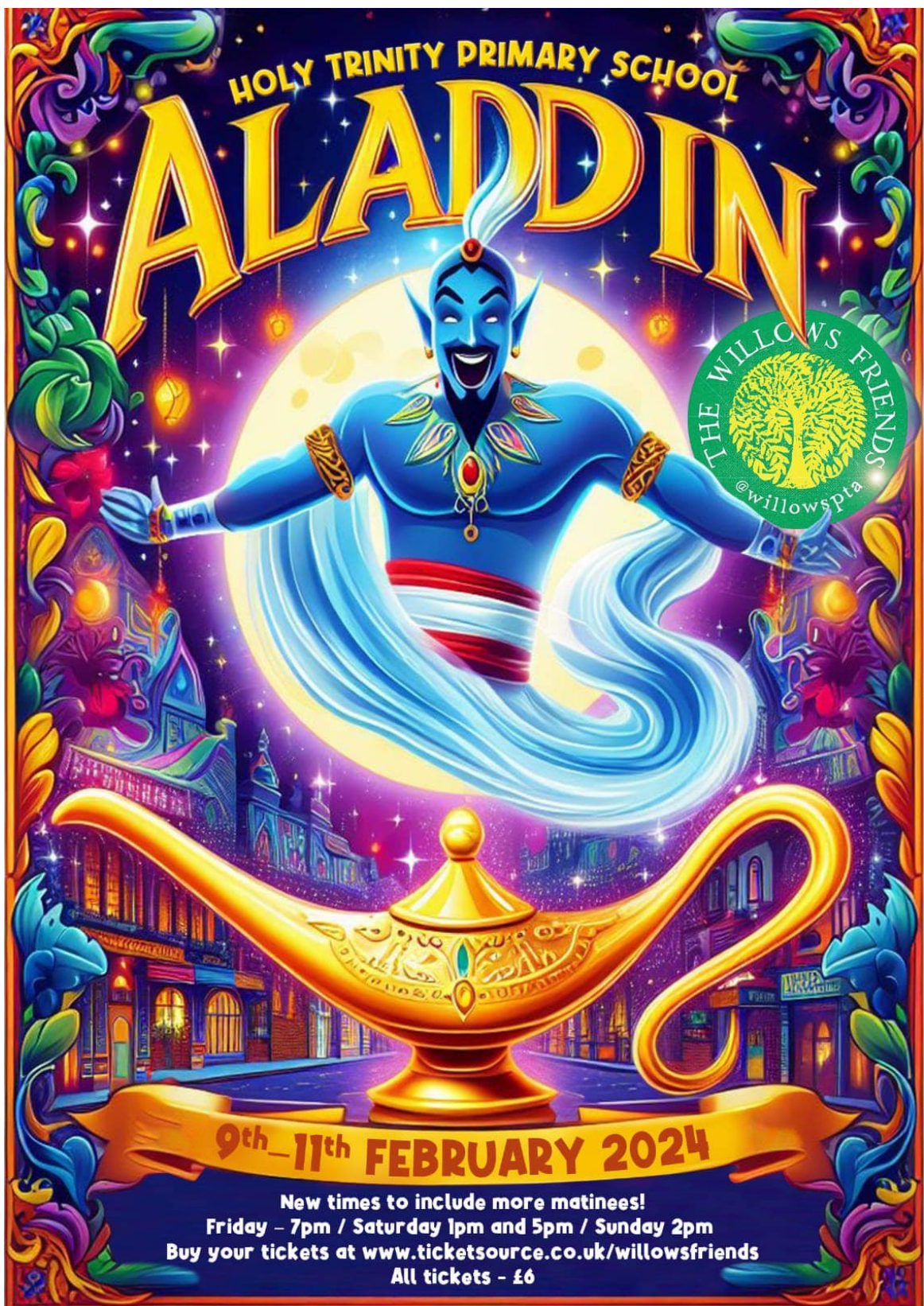
THE RECORDS OFFICE

This January the records Office featured an album of photographs taken by Rev'd William Pippett, who was the Rector of St Helen's, Clifford Chambers, from 1895 to 1918. . For more information about the Rev's Pippett, please see Angela Wylam's article on page 28.

If anyone is interested in seeing the featured album, it can be viewed online at:

<https://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/CalmView/showcase.aspx>





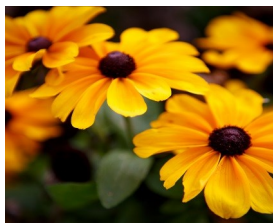
HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PANTOMIME

It's panto time at Holy Trinity School, oh yes it is!!! This year they are putting on Aladdin, and Phil our Children & Families Minister is taking part as the big baddy. The money raised from the Pantomime supports Willow's Friends, who raise money for the school.

Tickets are £6 and can be purchased at www.ticketsource.co.uk/willowsfriends or for ease scan the QR code here.



The cast is made up of teachers, parents and people associated with the school. Anyone is welcome to come along and have fun.



PCC MEETING– ACTION PLAN FOR 2024

A representative from All Saints' will be invited to PCC meetings as non voting member.

St Helen's Bells require maintenance and the funding for this is being discussed.

Discussions have commenced regarding a New Worshipping Community.

A designated person would be named to lead funding bids for the Choir School and Assistant Organist Role.

The Creative Corner has been reviewed for space and noise and steps to alleviate this problems should begin in January.

Helen Warrillow was confirmed as Parish Safeguarding Officer and she continues to work with volunteers and teams to meet the necessary requirements.

A Safeguarding Meeting has been scheduled for All Saints for January.

The appointment of a replacement 'Associate Vicar' was discussed and the Job Specification should be ready in January 2024.

Three new Church Wardens and a Treasurer will be sought in the Spring.

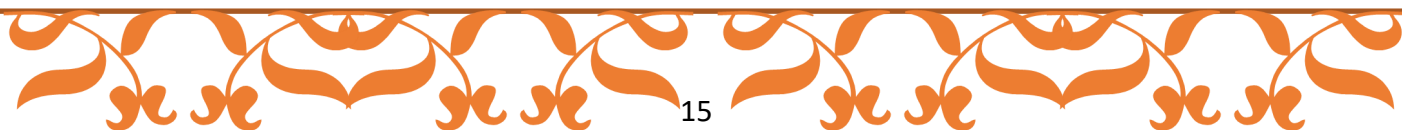


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. Friday March 1st (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. Beginning in Samoa prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa 38 hours later. Please join us at the United Reformed Church on Friday March 1st at 2pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including pre-school children and men, to the service and chatting with you over refreshments.



**ADIEU RATHER THAN FAREWELL
LIESL, AMELIA AND FRAN**

‘I can make no other answer but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks’

TWELFTH NIGHT



Three years ago as the pandemic raged across the globe Amelia and I made our way across the pond and found ourselves settling along the banks of the Avon here in Stratford.

We started coming to Holy Trinity online, then in person with restrictions and eventually all relatively back to ‘normal’ I started volunteering and making myself useful and found a warm welcome.

Thank you all for welcoming us both into the community of faith at Holy Trinity and making room at the Table for both of us. It has been a joy journeying with you and being part of the ministry of the Church.

We look forward to a time when we can return so don’t consider this ‘goodbye’ but rather an until we meet again’.

With love and affection, grace and peace to you all

Liesl and Amelia

I would like to add a post script hoping that you are back with us soon so you can continue your journey of faith with us .

I would also like to say congratulations to you and Jeremy and David on your confirmation on the 14th January.

All my prayers will be with you both in 2024

Claire.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to all those who attended our Christingle Service and for all the money raised for The Children’s Society. A big thank you to Trinity Voices for singing and to all the Christingle makers!



Pictures by George Rhea

Promising New Collaboration: 'Novel Theology', & 'Faith and Film'.

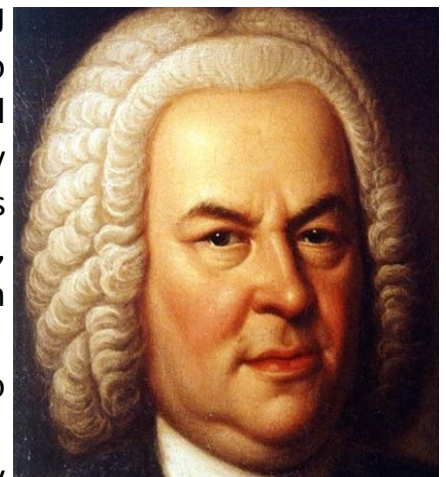
At Holy Trinity, we are lucky enough to have not one, but two groups designed for those who like to see the larger picture and hear with the spiritually receptive hearing of the artist. Better still: we have two groups that think like-mindedly ; and are looking to explore the immense treasure that artistic creation represents for central aspects of our religious life.

The first, 'Novel Theology' run by Anthony Woollard, has been running for over 20 years. It is currently looking to extend its range and rejuvenate its membership by collaboration with the younger 'seventh art' - that of the cinema. This first group, in the past year, has looked at novels that seem likely at any moment to generate a film or, at least, a downloadable TV drama series!



I'm thinking of Robert Harris's accomplished page-turner and ecclesiastical thriller, *Conclave*; but also of Lydia, Paula Gooder's fictional reconstruction of the times and mind-frame of the earliest Christians in the Greek city of Philippi in the first Century AD.

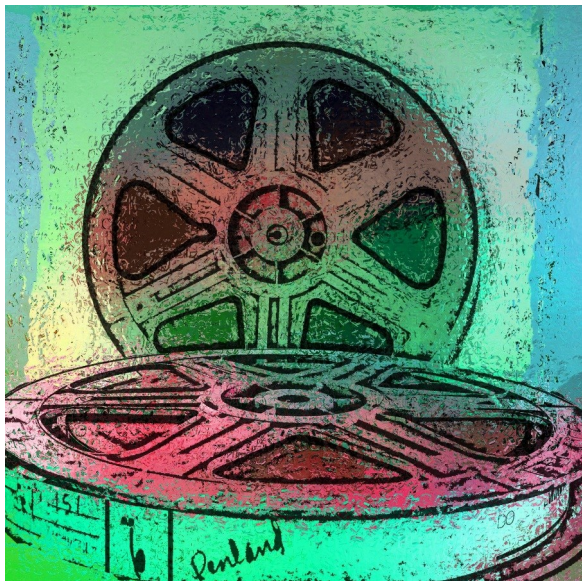
There was a fictional 'biography' of J S Bach (James Runcie's *The Great Passion*). How interesting to see the connections between a religious sensibility, a cultural moment and a true vocation to create fine music to the glory of the Lord! And then there was *The Choice*: Michael Arditti's sensitive fictional account of modern day Anglicanism, seeking, with all the goodwill of its newly feminised clergy, to nourish an authentic flame of faith within storm-tossed times. Fundamentally, they are times torn between the impulse to 'include' in a church a perilously sexualised artwork, and, contradictorily, a reactive puritan conscience, accentuated by secular 'correctness'.



My own favourite remains Ian McEwan's brilliant *Lessons*. This traces the hero's precocious sexual initiation, at the hands of his unbalanced female piano teacher (and abuser) while still a childlike adolescent at boarding school. The controlling mystique created by this oddly ecstatic sex-cult becomes, in adult life, an addictive ersatz religion, producing a permanent failure to build fully personal relationships and an ongoing spiritual disappointment; even where the hero, as a committed atheist, is always trying to accept and make the best of his mediocre life. The novelist (also an atheist) shows that his private story is entwined with the political shocks and traumas which have marked the public sphere in our time.

Cont...

Promising new collaboration Cont...



The more recent 'Faith and Film' group has been taken forward this year by James Sorel Cameron. It opened its account last year, with a fine array of films for Lent. This initiative had a tricky launch, set in the shadow of both Covid and Cancer. It also coincided with a fiercely severe winter and the departure of Steve Jarvis, second mover in the trio championing the new initiative.

For all that, the original 'dynamic trio' behind the 'Faith and Film' group managed to put together a programme of top-flight viewings: *Life of Pi*; *I, Daniel Blake*; *Lord of the Flies*; *Sophie Scholl*; and *Shadowlands*. All bearing, in some eye-opening

way, on the Lenten theme, 'Deliver us from Evil'. This trial run produced some lively discussions. We were able to distinguish different types of participation; attempting to meet them all, using different strategies, meeting places and modes of interaction. That helps us serve a 'broad church'-- as is appropriate, given the open, diverse and democratic character of the 'seventh art'. In 2023-24, we are centred, experimentally, around the general notion of 'Suffering and Redemption'. We have viewed Ingmar Bergman's powerful film of the return of the Crusader Knight to a plague-stricken Europe (its title: *The Seventh Seal*, comes from the Book of Revelation). It asks searching questions about the relationship between religion and the omnipresent sense of death in Medieval times. More secretly, it can be understood as suggesting a renewed form of the same haunting in our own.

Then came *Secrets and Lies*, a beautifully crafted film about social identity, personal fulfilment and racial origin in a changing context of the British working class metropolis. In prospect for 2024 is the most challenging of films: 'Amen' (Dir. Costa Gavras). How did the hidden monstrosity of the Shoah (Holocaust) emerge to view during the war in Germany? Who knew about it? What did they do -- and /or not do -- about it? Did Christians, in the Nazi-time, and in wartime, simply say: 'Amen'? The two groups described here are bound together by overlapping aims and group memberships. But to what end? What are they trying to achieve?

Traditionally, everyone used to understand intuitively the religious value of the artistic imagination. Rowan Williams, when he came to Holy Trinity last year on a Shakespearian ticket, didn't have to actually say that Shakespeare's 'good' Kings were avatars of the servant King, the Prince of Peace.... But we notice: the link is clear only as long as we are looking at ages when the authority and power of religious orthodoxy engaged the most celebrated poets, musicians, painters and sculptors as auxiliaries in its own liturgies, and as the agents of its own worship, defence and promotion.

Cont...

Promising new collaboration Cont...

The connection becomes more fragmented and obscure in secular ('modern' and 'post-modern') times. But it is, arguably, also more interesting and more valuable. Nowadays, the ambient culture is predominantly indifferent to religion; or, more likely still, averse to and suspicious of it. The artistic imagination becomes the major bridge to the re-discovery of faith; the key to its misunderstood stories and neglected hymns, its unsuspected values and ideas. A source of vivid modern parables. Viewed through this same shared lens, theology itself becomes enlivened, relevant, freshly significant. Better still: we can then live without schizophrenia, in two worlds; and become the ambassadors -- missionaries! -- in re-connecting them. Isn't that something like what St Paul achieved? And why not follow his example if we indeed believe, as he did, that a genuinely flesh-and-blood human being is our true mediator to the mystery of the Divine; the Key to the Kingdom of Heaven, come, coming, and still to-come among us? This way of seeing the artistic imagination at work in our times (at least in the modes of novel and film) suggests the best opportunity for both collaborating groups to serve the whole membership of our Church.

It points to the moment of 'Soul Space', on the one hand; and, on the other, to the time of deepened spiritual attention and thoughtfulness in Lent. For our calling is both to broaden the reach and to deepen the understanding of the gospel confided to us (we think again of St Paul). So what of this coming Lent? How can we support the lecture series of Richard Cooke on a celebrated Anglican poet and hymn writer? It's simple. 'Novel Theology' will devote an open session on Music at Midnight. The Life and Poetry of George Herbert. 'A magnificent biography, I finished it with a sense of exaltation (Diarmaid McCullough).

We hope that 'Film and Faith' will offer a subsequent open session to discuss 'Clips on creativity, human and divine' (from Amadeus, Mr Turner and a YouTube video of young elephants, in mimesis and at play. Sound track: Carl Denver).

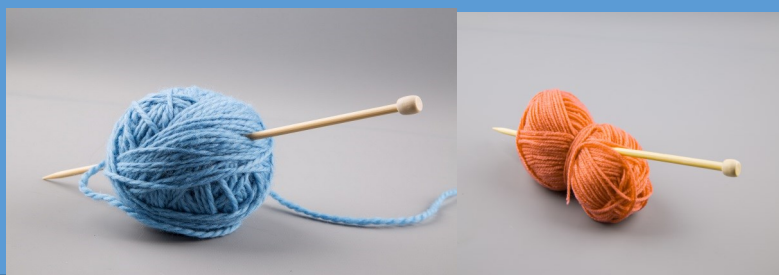
Paul Gifford



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP?

HELD FRIDAY 3.30 FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT FEDERICA 07533410003 OR BARBARA 07971354487



Trinity Times Subscriptions for 2024

The annual subscription for a printed copy of the Trinity Times is now due. The price for 2024 will be the same as 2023 i.e. £10 for 10 issues. A small number of individual copies will also be available for purchase from the Church Shop at £1.50 each. Electronic copies will continue to be available, via the Newsletter and Church website, free of charge. A pdf version can also be sent via email if you do not receive the Newsletter (please send you email address to: paullageu@hotmail.co.uk).

For those subscribers living outside the Stratford town boundary, who would like a printed copy, they can either collect their copies in church, after a Sunday service. Alternatively, they can have them posted to their home address (there is an additional annual charge of £16 for this service, to cover the cost of postage and packaging).

Paul Lageu

Trinity Times Editorial Team



Holy Trinity Church Christmas Wreath Making Workshop



With the Festive Season fast approaching Marie McDougall organised the annual Christmas wreath making workshop at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre on Saturday 25th November. The day was divided into two sessions, morning at 10.30am and afternoon at 1.30pm. The workshops were open to families, groups and individuals and both sessions well attended with 18 enthusiastic participants in the morning and a further 20 in the afternoon.

Chris welcomed arrivals with a name badge, hot beverage and wonderful homemade mince pies, before moving into the main hall beautifully organised with tables readily prepared with the necessary tools and materials. Sally began the proceedings by demonstrating how to attach the basic foliage to the wreath frame and build up a firm but attractive base.

The next stage was to select and attach the decoration. There was a splendid choice of pine cones, dried fruits and different coloured baubles all wired ready to be attached.





There was a wide range of both patterned and plain ribbons in various colours and widths. So much choice made for a difficult selection process but most importantly, Sally and Julia helped in making beautiful bows some of us doubted we would be able to accomplish such a stunning finish. James, Sally's son, was delightful with much



assistance suggesting ribbons and colour schemes and later took photographs of the finished wreaths, along with their creators. The workshop provided a warm and friendly atmosphere as well as a sense of achievement when seeing the wreaths completed. As a member of a small group from Clifford Chambers Lynne Moseley, Heather Taylor and I all had a fulfilling festive afternoon and are delighted with our accomplishment. We certainly hope to join this workshop again in the future.

Thank you, Marie, Sally, James and Julia for organising the day. Linda Milson





The first edition of our magazine in a new year is maybe a time for looking back as well as forward. Most of us, whatever our views on current affairs, will probably have been glad to see the back of 2023. But what lies ahead – not just for our world and our nation, but for our church and ourselves?

A few weeks ago, I picked up a copy of this magazine for early 2018. It was a salutary experience. Much is the same, but so much has changed. That edition (in a very different format) was the last under the editorship of the late Steve Newman and his wife Hilary whom many of us greatly miss. It also contained the last article by the unforgettable Ronnie Mulryne. And these and other losses to our fellowship are in addition to the dramatic impact of “the Covid years” on the pattern of our personal and church lives.

“Change and decay” indeed, as the hymn has it. But should not that also be “change and renewal”? Many aspects of our life have been built up afresh. Many new and gifted people have joined us –and others have become more involved. The average age of our Church Council is the youngest I have ever known!

A recent topic of study in the Novel Theology group (now over 20 years old and keen to welcome new members also!) was Paula Gooder’s novel Lydia. This distinguished New Testament scholar has used her imagination to reconstruct church life in first-century Philippi, and her parallel novel Phoebe does the same for Rome, bringing alive in a new way St Paul’s letters and the Acts of the Apostles. For anyone uneasy about the Church and its future today – or indeed about life in general - I cannot recommend these books highly enough. They show how experiences of love and sharing can bring renewal to tiny, threatened, divided communities. And on that renewal has been built more than those early Christians could have begun to imagine.

Yet many of us still have losses to grieve, and uncertainties about the way ahead. On what may look like a trivial level (though dog owners know otherwise), this month is the first anniversary of our beloved Aphra’s death, admittedly at a good age for a spaniel. Should we try to “replace” her? It’s a hard call, particularly for older people. Part of me just wants to wait for someone to knock at our door looking for a home for a rescue dog of the right breed, age and so on. In truth, few dilemmas are so simply solved. But sometimes “waiting” is all we can do.

Our parish Lent course will be studying the work of George Herbert. The Novel Theology group on 1st February will be anticipating this with a look at a video and a biography of that great 17th century priest-poet. He knew all about spiritual struggles and waiting in uncertain times.

But the first words which come to me, for our personal lives and the life of our world, are from a more recent Christian poet, T S Eliot. That is my prayer for us all this new year and Lent.

I said to my soul, be still, and wait
without hope,
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing;
wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing.
There is yet faith,
But the faith and the hope and the love
are all in the waiting.....
So the darkness shall be the light,
and the stillness the dancing.

Pancake party



**With pancakes and
waffles made by
Lilys Waffles &
Crepes**

**Tuesday 13th Feb - 5pm
Parish Centre
Tickets £6.50**

Per person aged 3 and over

**Sign up using this QR Code or
the link in the Weekly Bulletin**



Sign up by 10th February



**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH**
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



WALK THROUGH CAROL SERVICE



The carol service was attended by over 1,000 people this year.



TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

I do hope that the New Year has started off well for you all. We have a full programme up until July which I hope that you will all find interesting.

At our February meeting on Wednesday 21st Pam Divine is coming to tell us about the paintings in the Guild Chapel. As you all know these paintings date back hundred of years and are of great interest to historians. I think that we are very fortunate to have Pam coming to tell us about them, so please come and bring your friends if you think they would be interested.

On Friday 1st March the World Day of Prayer is being held at the U.R.C church at 2 p.m. Please come to this annual event if you can. I look forward to seeing you all again on the 21st , if you would like to come to this meeting even if you are not a member you will be most welcome. Our meeting is held in the Parish Centre as usual and starts at 2 p.m. and is for the male members of Holy Trinity as well as the female.

Gina Lodge



A New Worship Service in Holy Trinity Church: 8am Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 19th February is the next 8am service of Holy Communion in Holy Trinity Church. The new service is now offered monthly, on the third Sunday of each month, and will follow the traditional liturgy of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The Reverend Thomas Powell will preside.

This service is now offered in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, and will include a brief homily, but no music. The service should conclude by 8:45am.

All are welcome to attend!



SOUNDBITES CONCERTS: WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM

We are delighted to announce that the Soundbites series of lunchtime concerts will recommence on February 7th.



Although a couple of the concerts remain to be confirmed, the outline programme is given below. (Updated information will be in the Holy Trinity Weekly Bulletin.)

Please note that, due to the refurbishment work being undertaken on the organ, we will be unable to host concerts in the church itself until 20th March. Thankfully though we are very happy to relocate temporarily to the Parish Centre for all but one of the concerts, which takes place in the Guild Chapel on 14th February.

With the exception of the concert in the Guild Chapel we will also be able to continue to offer sandwiches and hot drinks. Consequently we look forward to creating the welcoming, accessible and informal environment that we know our supporters enjoy. Do please come along!

Date:	Venue:	Performers:
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7 February	Parish Centre	To be confirmed
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14 February	Guild Chapel	Symphonic Brass Cardiff
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21 February	Parish Centre	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Brass Quintet
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28 February	Parish Centre	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Flute Quartet
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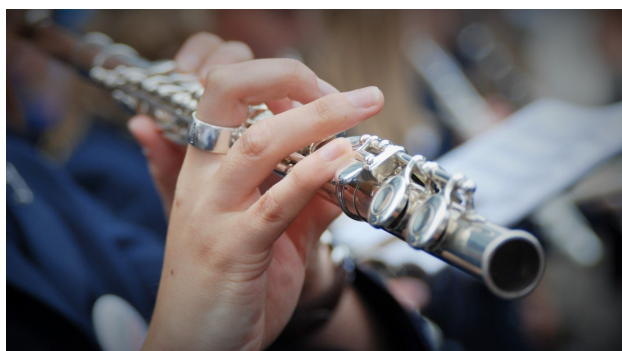
6 March	Parish Centre	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Peter Whitehead, Violin
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13 March	Parish Centre	To be confirmed
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20 March	Holy Trinity	King Edwards School, 'A' Level recitals
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**Caroline Thomas,
Chair, Friends of the Music.**



THE REVEREND ARCHIBALD PIPPET 1853 – 1930



There is a plaque on the south wall of the nave at St Helen's Clifford Chambers dedicated to Archibald Pippet, the only memorial inside the church to a rector. The explanation for this is probably that most rectors have retired and moved away, whereas the Reverend Pippet died in the house he had built for himself and his family on the outskirts of the village, Red Hill House. This is a striking red brick, eleven-bedroomed house very much in the Victorian style, very different from the house then considered the rectory; a timber-framed, sixteenth-century house that had spent the last century divided into two cottages. This did not measure up to the standards of the Reverend Pippet and his wife .

He came to Clifford in 1895, having had several previous incumbencies in different parts of the country and very soon showed his enthusiasm for enhancing the church building and improving the facilities of the village. It would be fair to say that Archibald Pippet really was quite a polymath. He is best known locally for the magnificent collection of photographs found in his dark room after his death. These were on glass plates which are now in the Warwickshire County Archive, but were put onto 35mm slides by Dr James Adam in 1980 which have been shown many times to an audience fascinated to see their village in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Pippet was very interested in local history and put together an extensive record of research into the pre-Norman history of the village. He was an avid bird-watcher and enjoyed drawing and painting those that visited the garden. He also had a collection of stuffed birds.

His artistic ability was shown in the improvements and additions he made in his time at St Helen's. Soon after his arrival he commissioned and had installed the beautiful east window by Ward & Hughes of London in memory of his parents. The church clock with two faces was added to the tower and he gave several fine items of church adornment, notably the bishop's chair by Payment of the Chipping Campden Craft Guild and the small stained glass window which he helped to design on the north side of the nave. He took a great interest in the village activities, being chairman of the school managers leading, with the help of head mistress Miss Wilding, to the school being commended as one of the best in (then) Gloucestershire. He was interested in the Scout Movement and started a Scout Patrol that lasted till 1939.

He had built the New Room in the Nashes which acted as the village hall till the Jubilee Hall was opened in 1935, and installed the rifle club there as he was "concerned that young men should be trained to be fit for the protection of their country" . The need to have fun was not neglected and as rector he organised the annual choir outing when everyone walked to catch the train at Milcote station.

When he retired in 1918 he was presented with a silver tray by the church wardens and a glowing tribute of thanks on behalf of the whole community. He continued to enjoy his many hobbies at Red Hill House till his death there in 1930. Sitting as I do in the pew beneath the plaque, I often think how much I should have liked to meet this interesting man.



FROM THE REGISTERS - DECEMBER & JANUARY

CHRISTENINGS

14th December - Arthur Kearney

14th December - Kai Jeavons

Wedding

1st December - Kaya Wales & Hugh Melhuish (Blessing)

Funeral

15th December - Primrose Packwood

5th January - Brian Vaugh

11th January - David Charles

15th January - Tracy Bunclark

17th January - Margaret Evans

22nd January - Joan Baord

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday. If you think it would help 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 2pm and we will finish at about 3.30pm.

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

David Harrison
Bereavement Co-ordinator



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to die for...

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"Who Killed the Dame?"

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2.30PM

Tickets £15 from Jackie Wightman

jswrightman@sky.com or 07773437916

Start of Play 3pm.

Welcome glass of Prosecco on arrival
followed by Cream Tea in interval.

St. Andrew's Parish Centre CV37 9HQ

IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG
Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Curate	The Revd Thomas Powell	01789 266 316	thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org
Curate	The Revd Emma Harrington	01789 266 316	emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
The Revd Penny Harrison	01789 266 316
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

Readers

Paul Gifford, David Harrison

Staff

Visitor & Marketing Manager: Lola Spetsioti 01789 266 316 lola@stratford-upon-avon.org

Parish Safety & Compliance Officer. Liz Marshal 01789 266 316 liz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Parish Administrator: Sarah Cushing 01789 266 316 sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org

Director of Music: Douglas Keilitz douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Church Wardens

Paul Lageu	07434 328 484	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	07989 318 965

Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	David Harrison	01789 612 634 davidianharrison@hotmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Warrillow	01789 266 316
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	tba	
Friends of St Helen's Church	Angela Wylam	01789 268 156
Holy Trinity in the Community		
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Roome	01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Caroline Thomas	01789 266 316
Home Communion		
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contacts	Parish Office	01789 266 316 or office@stratford-upon-avon.org
Welcome Team	Eve Archer	07826 574 854 or ega1912@yahoo.uk
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396
Churchyard Maintenance		
Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Service on Saturday 23 December with 300 people in attendance



Above Pre-scaffolding in December and below, post-scaffolding in January

