

March 2024

£1.50

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

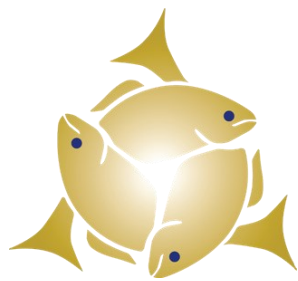


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



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

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

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Congratulations to those who were recently Confirmed (photo by George Reah)

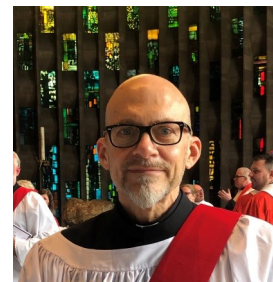
Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell



Revd. Emma Harrington
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Focusing on Jesus

5pm - Holy Communion – Traditional

10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

10am – Parish Eucharist – Mothering Sunday

5pm – Choral Evensong

17th March – 5th Sunday of Lent

8am – Holy Communion – Traditional

10am - Parish Eucharist – Revealing Jesus

5pm – Taize

24th March - Palm Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist with Passion Gospel

5pm - Choral Evensong

25th March-Monday

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

26th March-Tuesday

7.30pm Holy Communion with homily

27th March-Wednesday

10.00am - Guild Chapel Holy Communion

7.30pm *Witnesses* - The Easter Story in Words and Music (performed by Trinity Players)

8th March-Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by the Watch, concluding with

11.45pm Compline

29th March-Good Friday

8am Morning Prayer for Good Friday

9.30am Journey to the Cross (All Age Service)

10.30am Walk of Witness (meet at Bancroft Gardens)

12-1.30pm Church open for private prayer (with Stations of the Cross outside)

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

30th March-Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)

8.00pm Easter Vigil including lighting the Easter fire and Paschal Candles for the parish and First Holy Communion of Easter. Followed by refreshments.

31st March - EASTER DAY

8am Holy Communion Traditional

10am Parish Eucharist

5pm Festal Choral Evensong



ST HELEN'S CHURCH, CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Morning Praise and Christening

Good Friday 29th March

2.30pm Good Friday Reflection

Easter Day 31st March

9.30am Holy Communion



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LUDDINGTON

3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.20 - Holy Communion

10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

9.30 – Holy Communion

17th March – 5th Sunday of Lent

9.30 – Holy Communion

24th March – Palm Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

29th March—Good Friday

9.30 Good Friday Reflection

31st March – EASTER DAY

9.30 – Holy Communion



LUDDINGTON CHURCH ENJOYING PANCAKE DAY

Dear Trinity friends

Please find attached a photo of our Shrove Tuesday challenge themed pancake party.

You can see the adults were just as busy with the puzzles and challenges in order to 'earn' their pancakes as the children. One little girl was so absorbed with her new skill she tossed her pancake 200 times!

Thank you to the Warm Hub fund for hire of the hall, those who made pancakes, created puzzles, and helped prep and clear up the considerable debris!

DEBBIE THORPE



OCCASIONAL OFFICES

This last month has been full of new experiences as I continue my curacy training. I had the wonderful delight of conducting my first baptism. I will admit to being somewhat nervous with the combination of anointing oil, water and a small wriggly child but readers will be relieved to know that everyone escaped unscathed.

The baby was duly baptised and welcomed into the family of the Church and this curate managed not to get herself completely drenched in the process. Although, I may need a box for future baptisms as the designer of the font clearly expected the ministers of Holy Trinity to be somewhat taller!

I have also had the privilege of booking in my first weddings taking place after I am ordained priest at the end of June. It has been lovely to meet several couples as they plan the next stage in their lives together. So I have been giving some thought to what the Church calls

“occasional offices,” those special services which mark important life events such as baptism, marriage and funerals.

This trinity of “hatching, matching and dispatching” might be called “occasional” but is in many ways the bread and butter of clergy ministry in a parish.

Just as the occasional offices mark the journey of life, we can also see they provide opportunities to impact the journey of faith. There is nothing like a birth or death to focus one’s mind and heart on what really matters in life. Our role as the Church is not to provide easy answers to life’s difficult questions. (I’m afraid there aren’t any.) Instead, we are called to provide a listening ear and a safe place for people to process big emotions.

I have found the most important thing I can do in these situations is to “hold space” for people and give them permission to be honest about their feelings.

It is a privilege to be able to walk alongside people in the big moments of life wherever they might be in their faith journey. These services are not just important for the particular families involved, but for the church as a whole. In baptism especially, we recognise the role of the whole community in raising a child and training them in the faith. So this isn’t just a job for the clergy. All of us are called to walk alongside others in different ways. It may be in the big moments such as a bereavement, illness or crisis of faith. But it is just as often in the little everyday things. A kind word when someone’s having a down day or the offer of practical assistance when they are struggling can be transformative.



As we journey to the Cross this Lent I wonder who we are journeying with and who we might meet on the way. In this season, there are many ways to serve and get involved in church life and in supporting others in their faith journey. Some are listed in our new Opportunities to Serve leaflet. Perhaps this Lent, in addition to thinking about what we might give up to focus on Christ, we might also consider if there is something new we could pick up in order to serve his body the Church and those whom we have the privilege of accompanying.

Emma Harrington



‘LENT AND EASTER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES’



At our Forest Church Services last month, we had both a loving Valentines theme and thinking about the journey we were beginning through Lent. We got into an “Art Attack” spirit by making a large heart out of things we could find. As we worked together, we were reminded of how working together helps the love grow between us, thinking of each other’s needs and working around what each other brings to complement each other.

There was an opportunity to be still and see nature as a sign of love from God. In March our Forest Church services will be on 6th ; 20th March, meeting at 4:15pm at Stratford Methodist Church, before heading to Holy Trinity Churchyard for the service.

We have held the first of our Breakout Groups during the 10am Parish Eucharist. Giving the primary aged children the opportunity for some teaching and worship aimed at their age group. After introducing each ourselves and sharing in a creative way of telling the Gospel reading, we decorated a candle. This candle will be a symbol for the children that will be taken to the group and back into Church, reminding us that we are still a part of the worship in Church. The next meeting of the group will be 24th March.



A reminder that we will once again be offering our interactive Journey to the Cross Service on Good Friday (29th March) at 9:30am. The story of Holy Week is explored through prayer stations remembering the events of the week. This service is for anyone of any age who wants to pray and worship in a creative way.

Phil Harper

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER



A big thank you to Chris Cottrell and all those who helped to organise the Holy Trinity Burns Night supper on Saturday 20th January. Guests arriving at the Parish Centre were greeted by the sounds of the bagpipes played by piper Joe Moore resplendent in highland dress.

Once everyone was at their tables, one enormous haggis was piped in, addressed and sliced open before being piped out to the kitchen.

The traditional Burns Night Grace was said and we all enjoyed a delicious supper of traditional or vegetarian haggis with neeps and tatties and gravy. Bread and butter pudding and lovely fruit crumbles, with lashings of custard, were then served, followed by tea or coffee.

‘Despite being so wonderfully fed, we managed some very energetic dancing the Circassian Circle, The Gay Gordons, The St Bernard’s Waltz, the Flying Scotsman and others, expertly led by Sarah Cushing.’



This very sociable evening was rounded off with Auld Lang Syne.



A TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

By Sherron Guise



It was on a cold but slightly sunny Monday afternoon 15 members of the congregation of Holy Trinity met at the Parish Centre for a coach journey to Liverpool. Why such a trip on a cold day (with the threat of snow hanging over us) on what is considered the lowest day in the calendar (Blue Monday)?



To go and see our former Associate Vicar Revd. Steve Jarvis being Licensed in his new parish of Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, and to say our final farewells.

A merry band of men and women went to off on a coach journey, arranged by Helen Warrilow, and overseen on the day, armed with a clipboard, myself. The journey started well and the lovely driver, Harry, took us all on a smooth journey up North, with much chatter and getting to know new people. We stopped off at Knutsford service station for a stretch of the legs and something to eat and drink. This was very welcomed and once bellies were full, we boarded for the last leg of the journey, ensuring all were on board (I can just see the headlines, Vicar left at service station by church group). We managed not to loose Patrick...

Harry got us to Walton-on-the-Hill in plenty of time, dropping us off at the right next door to St Mary the Virgin church. We all piled in and had a lovely surprise of seeing Steve Jarvis with his parents and friends, having a quick supper before the service. We all descended on him, in a friendly manner, I like to think, rather than a pack of vultures, and greetings and hugs were exchanged.

After a quick drink we made our way to the church, where we were made to feel most welcome. It is a beautiful church, rebuilt after it was destroyed by 2 incendiary bombs hit the roof during WW2. Some original parts do still exist. The fascinating part was that we could see into the bell tower and see the bell ringers, ringing the bells. Charles Wilson was lost to us all as soon as we heard them ringing in the pub, and was up there making new connections.

The service by the Rt. Revd. Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool and the Venerable Miranda Threfall-Holmes, Archdeacon of Liverpool went very well considering they were doing both licensing of Steve and the collation of his Team Rector and Priest in Charge Lynn Davidson at the same time. (Interesting fact, her son, who was there went to KES and our lovely James Sorel-Cameron taught him.)



Afterwards we had some tea, pasties, pork pies and cakes, and got to chat with the members of the church. As well as some lovely pictures taken. Steve looked very well and relaxed, obviously his sabbatical and holiday had a positive effect but he was much better in himself and looked refreshed and raring to go. You could tell that he was happy and comfortable in his new position and that being there suited him. It was lovely to see him back to his old self and renewed with energy.

We will all miss him at Holy Trinity and I really don't think that he has realized just how many people he touched, but it was good to not only say goodbye but to also see him settling into his home. So whilst I left feeling a bit sad at losing him in our Parish I also left happy that his new Parish will the benefit of this renewed Steve where I know that he will feel that he can make a difference and touch the lives of his new congregation.

May God bless Steve in his new endeavours and light up his new path.



A BIG “THANK YOU”!

FROM STEVE JARVIS

Dear All

Just a quick note to say a big “Thank You” to all those who braved a cold January day to travel up to Liverpool.

It was lovely to see so many of you on the evening of my licensing into the new team in Walton, and thank you for raising my profile with the locals in the Black Horse – it certainly provided a platform to build up from. Also, and big thanks for the well-wishes, gifts and cards from those who were unable to attend.



First month is fully revealing the work my colleague, Lynn, and I will be needing to tackle, but really loving being closer to family and friends in the north west, and also in being able to be hands on within the communities the Walton Team serve.

Liverpool Diocese can certainly be summed up In the words on one Dorothy of Oz...”we’re certainly not in Kansas anymore!”, but thank you for accepting my ministry during my time with you and for the generous send off.

With every blessing to you all,
The Rev’d Steve Jarvis
Team Vicar
Walton Team Ministry



LORI AND MICHAEL SHANEBECK

“It has arrived...our last month in England.”

I wrote that sentence in my journal last week when the calendar turned to February, and then put my pen down, overwhelmed with memories of the past three and a half years and what led to us to pick up and move thousands of miles from home.

We might have arrived in 2020, but the journey actually began in September 2017 as I sat alone in my bedroom, in my favourite chair, asking God for wisdom to help me make a very difficult decision about my professional future. I had been given the choice; take the easy way out, or the longer, tougher path. As I prayed, a still small voice spoke to my heart. It was one I had heard before and I knew God was asking me to take the more difficult path. However, he also added a promise. He said, “If you do this I will have something for you that is beyond what you can ask or image. Trust me.” It wasn’t easy, but I did trust Him and while the path I chose was indeed tough, God kept his promise. He gave me more than I could ever ask or imagine.....he gave me England, Stratford, Shakespeare, and you Holy Trinity.



I don’t think I remember a time in my adult life that I did not dream of living in England. But I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to live where he was born, let alone study his works for an advanced degree. It just didn’t seem possible, yet there we were in September 2020, quarantined in an Airbnb on Scholars Lane wondering what adventures God had in store for us. As it turned out, the adventures were many; visiting Bath and York, Chatsworth

House, Bakewell tarts, Chester Mystery Plays, London theatre, meeting Judi Dench, an epic Beatles tour in Liverpool, and working in the house where Shakespeare was born were just some of the wonderful experiences. We were privileged to live here during an extraordinary time in Britain’s history; celebrating the 70th Jubilee, mourning the Queen’s death, standing on the Mall as her cortege passed by, and rejoicing in a Coronation.

It was all pretty amazing.

But it was the church that welcomed us so warmly, the opportunity to serve, and the people we met as a result that enriched our lives and filled our time here with laughter, love, and joy. I adore England, but it is the people I will miss so very much when we return to California on 5 March. I will miss how nearly every conversation begins with some comment about the weather, the British sense of humour, your just get on with it attitude, and the kindness and hospitality you have so graciously shown at nearly every turn.

I will miss saying hello to people I pass but do not know who smile and greet me in return, scones, walking the Greenway, fish and chips, and popping into a pub on a cold winter evening for a drink. I will miss giving walking tours, eating goose at Christmas with dear friends, and the view of Holy Trinity from across the river as I walk the path. And I will miss the weather; the change of seasons, the clouds chasing across the sky on a cold winter day, snowdrops promising the coming of Spring, and sitting outside at a pub in the countryside on a warm summer day.

Most of all, I will miss you; the friends and neighbours who have welcomed us, had us to dinner, hugged us, invited us to your special celebrations, took us on adventures, and gave us the opportunity to be involved in projects and events we could have never imagined,... but God could and did. So thank you from the bottom of my heart for....well for everything.

You were God's gift to us, the keeping of a promise, and we will always be grateful.



HOLY TRINITY, THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB AND THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS PART 1

BY SANDRA MACDONALD

The Garrick Jubilee 1769



It was during David Garrick's ill-fated Jubilee Celebrations, from 6 to 8 September 1769, that Shakespeare's monument and grave were decorated with wreaths and flowers for the very first time, though the planned extravagant pageant and most of the rest of the event was a literal wash-out, with illustrious guests trying to flee home in carriages on water-logged highways.

By contrast, on the first morning, the floral tribute was a great and enduring success: 'They found his monumental Bust decorated with laurels, a wreath encircling his brows,

and festoons suspended from the pillars: and at the head of his gravestone some pious hand had placed a garland of flowers, evergreens', all said to be the work of Mrs. Garrick and other ladies.

The Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon, was founded in 1824, when, on Shakespeare's birthday, some twenty gentlemen' of Stratford-upon-Avon met together at the Falcon Hotel and brought the Shakespearean Club of Stratford into being over dinner with toasts and speeches. In April 2024 the Club will celebrate its bicentenary and its claim to be the oldest Shakespeare Club in the world still in existence. This will be the Club's 962nd and meeting since it was formed. It will emulate its founders with an event in Stratford Town Hall in mid-April to consider its early history and celebrate with tea, cake and songs and its members will take pride of place in the Stratford Birthday procession on 20 April.

By 1834, the Club had around four hundred members, which included the majority of the respectable residents of Stratford and the surrounding area. At its 10th anniversary dinner, the speakers issued a challenge to their fellow members to take action to preserve the town's Shakespeare relics, particularly the Holy Trinity memorials, thus defending the Bard's memory. Mr. T.S. Serle, speaking first, claimed that,

'Thus too would the Shakespearean Club acquire a still higher title to esteem by exhibiting a religious care for the remains of him who, born in their town, and brought up among their forefathers, became the wonder of the world'. Dr. John Connolly then addressed the company, exhorting it to take on the responsibility of repairing the damage to, and preventing further deterioration of, Stratford's Shakespearean buildings.

In response, The Shakespearean Monumental Committee was set up, with Connolly as its Chairman, in co-operation with a London committee, founded by antiquarian John Britton, who had long taken an interest in the Holy Trinity Shakespeare Monument. The aim was to raise money for improvements to Holy Trinity church; the Vicar, Rev. Dr James Davenport, and other town worthies served on the Stratford committee, which also included Shakespeare Club members. During the 1836 Birthday celebrations, Britton displayed designs by the architect, Harvey Eginton, to the whole Club in the old theatre on 2 Chapel Lane, but the work wasn't completed on schedule in time for the following Birthday. Nevertheless, Club members formally processed to the church in April 1837 to inspect the improvements in progress, and the project was deemed a great success. Britton's final verdict was that, 'the preservation of the Shakespeare Monument was not only secured, but it has been rendered beautiful to the eye'.



Chancel of the Parish Church of Stratford upon Avon

Shewing the New Timber Roof Designed by Harvey Eginton, Architect; executed under the direction of the Committee of the Royal Shakespeare Club, To whom this Engraving is dedicated by THE ARCHITECT London, Published by J Britton, Burton Street, Nov. 1, 1837.

Image courtesy of Dr Lindsay MacDonald.

HOW I WENT FROM BEING AN ATHEIST WITH
A BIT OF
UNCERTAINTY TO A THEIST IN JUST OVER A
YEAR.....

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM GOD.

BY JEREMY HARROLD



As a child I had experienced Church of England Christianity at Sunday School, School Assemblies and Religious Education lessons at school, but nothing had meaning. At thirteen years of age, I was softly “press-ganged” into attending Confirmation classes with a friend from across the street. At one of the early classes, I had an overwhelming feeling that I shouldn’t be there. The time wasn’t right.

For fifty years I turned my back on God and Jesus, although aspects of Roman Catholic worship made themselves known to me when I married my late wife. Her early death both opened and hardened my mind to “what was God”. “Normal life” then took over and I felt I had no need for a spiritual dimension to my life.

Just over a year ago, I handed in my notice at Waitrose where I had a part time job. A week or two later, out of the blue I had an email from Lola Spetsioti (a previous work colleague from Halls Croft) letting me know that there were opportunities at Holy Trinity Church for Visitor Welcome Assistants. “Perfect timing” I thought! Thank you God.

I applied and was successful in my interview. Prior to starting at Holy Trinity Church, I thought I would “research” a Sunday Service to help me answer any questions from visitors. During the service, something within me changed. It is hard to explain in physical terms, but it was similar to a dormant seed being activated. I went back voluntarily the next week and felt the same sensation. At the end of the service, Patrick read the Church notices and the final one was an announcement of “Soul Space”. Perfect timing again! Thank you God.

In ten sessions of Soul Space, I went from “ Prove God exists” to “Okay, I’m getting there”, and then, I realised that the Soul Space sessions were ending. To be honest felt a bit “ lost”, at this point, so I read parts of the New Testament, some Theology books and talked to work colleagues and volunteers who were members of the congregation and received fantastic support from everyone.

I was at a crossroads, my mind was confused what to do?

Although I had been going to the Sunday Services, I decided (or was I led?), to attend Morning Prayer at the Church. This proved to be an emotional moment and it restored my need to continue forward in faith .I was fortunate whilst working at Church to cross paths with Curate Emma Harrington..... (Thank You God) and had the opportunity to sit down with her to discuss some of my questions. It moved me further on, but there was still more soul searching for me.

Then Patrick dropped the bombshell, “ Do you want to get confirmed?” PANIC!!!! Do I put it off? Something was telling me I should stop resisting. I asked a colleague who was also getting confirmed and she wisely said “Jeremy, sometimes you have to believe in the Mystery of it”. Thank you God.

My next dilemma..... I am very close to my two sons, but I was struggling with how, or even if to tell them of my decision to seek God. I had never told them to be agnostic or atheist, but a parent often leads by example. They were both with me over Christmas. On Boxing Day, sitting in the kitchen after our meal, and generally chatting, out of nowhere I asked if they had any ideas for their New Years resolutions. At that moment I knew the opportunity was there for me to tell them of my Spiritual Feelings..... Thank You God.

After they had spoken I told them of my decision. Their reaction overwhelmed me. They were amazed that I would be asking for their understanding, when for them this was unquestionable and they told me that they would wholeheartedly support me. They affirmed how during their lives I had always supported their decisions, offering help and guidance without judgement and that they would do they same for me. It was a moment where I truly felt Gods love enveloping everyone in the room...Thank You God.

On the fourteenth of January 2024, I was confirmed by Bishop Jonathan Meyrick in what was a very spiritual and emotional experience for me. Thank you God.



Now, on reflection, I can see the many times that God guided me and also provided me with the invaluable support of others to reach this point in my spiritual life.

I pray that I will continue to grow in faith and reflect God’s love to others.

'Quick-eyed love'

Journeying Through Lent 2024

with George Herbert

Join us
as we travel

through Lent with the poet
George Herbert, guided by
the Rev. Richard Cooke.



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

*Copies of the poems for each week will be available.
All sessions begin at 7:30pm except for session 6.*

George Herbert (1593-1633) wrote some of the most powerful poetry on spiritual themes in the English language. Sessions are suitable both for those who feel they have little knowledge of poetry and also for those whose passion it is!

All sessions take place at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6BG
The final one on Easter Day will be given as the sermon at Choral Evensong at 5pm.



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

**Stratford
Churches
Together**



A GUIDE TO THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Following Lola's return from maternity leave we now have three people working in the Parish Office across the week, with Lola and Liz in newly created roles. In order to help us all understand who does what (and therefore who to contact should you require assistance), please find below a basic outline to Lola and Liz's roles and responsibilities, plus a reminder of what Sarah continues to do. Please note this is for guidance only and these lists are not exhaustive job descriptions!

The parish staff and clergy work as a team so, where possible, cover for each other during times of absence and support each other, especially if a colleague is experiencing unusually high workload. As a result, the person who deals with an enquiry or issue may not always be the person named above, but may be another member of the team.

Lola Spetsioti, Visitor and Marketing Manager

Full time (Monday-Friday)

- Activities taking place in Holy Trinity Church except regular services
- Events and tours
- Verger for Weddings and Funerals in Holy Trinity
- Ash Burial arrangements
- Manages Visitor Welcome Assistants and volunteers who work with visitors and at Weddings and Funerals
- Finance administration support to the Treasurer
- Marketing and Communications (Bulletin, Social Media, Website etc)
- iKnowChurch (the parish online administration system)
- Main point of contact for other organisations we work with



Liz Marshall, Parish Safety and Compliance Officer

Part time (Thursdays and Fridays and alternate Wednesdays)

- All activities taking place in the Parish Centre
- Safeguarding administration
- Compliance (Health and Safety, Risk Assessments etc)
- Policies and procedures
- Manages Parish Office
- Maintenance of Holy Trinity church and Parish Centre
- Orders liturgical supplies



Sarah Cushing, Parish Administrator

Part Time (Monday pm, Tuesday am, Wednesday, Thursday pm, Friday am)

- Responds to general enquiries
- Bookings for Holy Trinity church and Parish Centre
- Arrangements for booking weddings and funerals (and Service for the Departed)
- Bookings for Memorial Plaques and Book of Remembrance
- Printing
- Orders office supplies





Lent Lunches

Parish Centre

**Fridays 23rd Feb – 22nd Mar
12– 2pm**



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

Thought for the Day

Invite a friend or neighbour

Donations to Stratford Foodbank

Lent Lunches 2024

Lent lunches provide an opportunity to share fellowship over a simple meal. Each home group takes a turn in providing a lunch of soup, bread and cheese on Fridays in Lent, March 1st- March 22nd. Open to all ages, the lunch will take place in the Parish Centre from 12-2pm and will include a 5 minute "Thought for the Day". Any money raised, through donations, will go this year to Stratford Foodbank. Sign up in church on the preceding Sunday and take an invitation to give to a friend or neighbour.

Thank you. Chris Cottrell 204273



Of all the many crises which have gripped our nation and our world in the past few months, one which has had the most unexpected public impact has been the saga of the Post Office computer system failure and its impact on so many local postmasters. It has illustrated the power of a TV series in helping to set the national agenda – but also the extent to which we are (and should be) bothered about the power of computers. There have long been jokes about how far “computer says no” is influencing our lives. But this saga, with its story of bankruptcies and even suicides, has really brought the issue home.

The story first broke several years ago. But I for one had not realised the extent to which it was going on: the number of unresolved law cases, and the assumption in the courts that if “computer says” something (in this case that postmasters are fiddling their expenses) computer must be right, even if commonsense suggests that so many hundreds of people are unlikely suddenly to have all gone on the fiddle at the same time.

In the early days of the computer revolution, there was more suspicion about bizarre results of this kind. The favourite phrase was “Garbage in: garbage out”, in other words programmes were set up incorrectly the results would be nonsense. But, in our increasingly complex society, we are more and more dependent on such programmes and systems, and therefore tend more and more to feel that we just have to trust them. Now, we have seen the result.

And this affects so many areas of life. One of the best known priests in the Church of England, Richard Coles (who knows a thing or two about crime stories), has noted that even the Church is not immune. As everything, including church life, gets more and more complex, there is a greater need to systematise things like financial management and safeguarding (and save money by slimming down the staff). And the price is paid by those individuals whose unique characteristics and needs somehow get lost in the system.

I repeat, we cannot do without computers and systems these days. Going back to a simpler world where everything was managed in a purely local face-to-face way is not an option. We learnt during Covid to “love the local” much more, to be more committed to it, to live our lives more in that local and personal dimension. Yet we are all parts of larger communities, of a nation, of a world, and that fact demands proper organisation and systematisation.

But God forbid that we allow these systems to take over from the personal dimension which - whatever it costs – simply must have the primacy in a community of love. And the local church, which at its best is such a community, ought to be a place where people can be trained to bring that personal dimension to bear on all aspects of life. “A laboratory for the Kingdom of God” some have called it, the place where we learn to “bear the beams of love”. So let us pray that that personal dimension will be ever more deeply developed in our life together, and that managers, programmers and so on in every organisation can learn to apply it in the complexity of their work for the good of all. And let us have the courage to say that commonsense, fallible though it may be, is sometimes more reliable than abstract systems.



TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

On the 20th March the Rev. Thomas Powell is coming to tell us how he came from America to Oxford University and then on to us in Stratford. We look forward to having Thomas join us at the meeting and hearing about his journey.

Our Charity Tea Party is being held on Wednesday 17th April this year in aid of "The Bible Gift Fund" This is a fund which Phil Harper has started to enable us as a church to provide bibles for children baptised at Holy Trinity and those leaving Holy Trinity Primary School in year 6. Please come and support this event, we ask for a £5 donation and tea includes as much cake and tea as you can consume.



Looking ahead to May 15th we have arranged to visit the Shakespeare gardens at Nash's House. This used to be a garden that we could visit, take a picnic lunch or tea at any time but since the gardens were redesigned it is not so easy just to pop in at any time. As locals we can go into the gardens free of charge but we need to prove that we are residents i.e. show a utility bill to prove that we are local Stratford people. Following the visit round the garden we have arranged to have a cream tea at the RST in the upstairs restaurant at 3 p.m. There is a lift to take us to the top floor which I hope will round the day off nicely. The cost of the tea is £8.00 per person.

If you would like to join us please can you pay Diane Edwards at the March meeting for the tea as she will be very busy on the Charity Tea Party day in April. Cheques should be made payable to Stratford- upon-Avon PCC. I look forward to seeing you all again on the 20th 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.
Chair.

PANCAKE PARTY: SHROVE TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY

BY ANDREW BOYES -VARLEY

A pancake-flipping fun time and the last chance before Lent for all to enjoy pancakes and waffles, in a convivial get together in the Parish Centre, was hosted by our Social Team at this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party!



There was much on offer for families and individuals to enjoy ,who may otherwise have spent Shrove Tuesday on their own. A chance to meet and make new friends, and deepen relationships with those we already know in a relaxed setting. The two-hour event was well attended by sixty people of all ages ranging from 11 months to over 90 years old.



A wide variety of specialty crepes and waffles, both sweet and savoury were prepared to bespoke order, on site by Marta and her team, from 'Lily's Waffles and Crepes' (a local café in Rother Street). A truly mouth-watering selection, freshly prepared and delivered directly to the tables in the pop-up café that the Parish Centre morphed into for the pancake party.

There were creative activities for young and old. A 'young chef' pancake flipping contest, which was won by James with 31 flips in 30 seconds and the 'older chef' contest by Paul with 36 flips – both impressive results!. A quiz of twenty Shrove Tuesday themed questions tackled by the table groups was a fun and informative way for all to engage with each other and the tradition of Pancake Day.





TRINITY PLAYERS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27 March at 7.30pm in the Chancel: WITNESSES.

As part of worship for Holy Week, we tell the Easter Story in words and music.

You are invited to stay on afterwards to talk to Patrick and the Players about what you have just heard over a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Thursday 18 April at 10.30 in the Church: COFFEE, CAKE AND SHAKESPEARE

Our annual celebration of the Bard's birthday. Readings and songs from Shakespeare's works followed by coffee and birthday cake. Admission free.

This year our entertainment is on the Thursday before the Birthday weekend, not Friday.

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PCC MEETING

Andrew Boyes-Varley was co-opted to the PCC as Pro Warden, to serve until the elections in May and Sam Bridges has resigned due to work and personal commitments.

The Breakout Room for primary aged children during the Parish Eucharist commenced on 4 February and on published dates.

A safeguarding meeting was held in the villages on 9th January

The role description of the new Associate Minister for Outreach and Nurture was considered, having been drawn up by Standing Committee An accompanying Parish Profile was also looked at as well as the timetable for the appointment.

This will now be referred to the Archdeacon.

Some work needs to be done on the house in St John's Close to bring it up to standard.

The Visitor Experience Team gave recent visitor numbers and income. Chancel income and general church donations have increased with a fee to visit the Chancel. Exhibitions are planned over the next three years. Some newly designated software should reduce the use of signage with visitor information available via mobile phones.

Some new Visitor Experience Assistants are needed to restore numbers before the church reopens once the scaffolding is removed.

A volunteer incentive will be held after the 10am Eucharist on 18th February.
The PCC was shown the proposed handout.

The proposed budget figures were made available.

Date of next meeting 19 March 2024.



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FUNERALS IN FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st 14:30 Mary Paterson

Friday 9th 11:30 Josephine Pryor

Tuesday 13th 14:00 Michael William Thomas Savage

Friday 11:30 Vera Hawkins

Friday 23rd 14:00 Jo Lytton

BAPTISMS

11th February – Bonnie Humphries



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 3 April. 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 will 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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COFFEE STOP

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

The lovely ladies above asked me to remind everyone about our coffee stop and as this involves cake I set out straight away to put the call out.

It is one of the activities since joining the Holy Trinity community that my father and I (Claire the quiet shy Design Editor) have really enjoyed , and yes that is partly because we share a very sweet tooth gene.

However it is also a different way to enjoy and experience our wonderful Church.

I laughingly joke with my neighbour Gwen that it is the only time we ever seem to see each other.

Take it from a cake connoisseur the journey through the delights of Ginger, Coffee, Fruit and for the adventurous Vegetable Cakes !! It is well worth it a little slice of heaven on earth.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Tel. 01789 266 316
Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org*

PARISH CONTACTS

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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

Holy Trinity Office Staff

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Church Wardens Paul Lageu 07434 328 484 Tim Raistrick 01789 509 885

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St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers Pat Woolvin 07989 318 965

Other Contacts

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Bell Ringers Charles Wilson 01789 295 467
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Trinity Fellowship 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
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
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

HE IS RISEN

As we approach Easter would like to fill our beautiful Church with Easter Lilies to celebrate our Lord's rising from the dead.

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one or simply to celebrate Easter, our wonderful Flower Team would be extremely grateful. Donations can be made by cheque and posted to the Parish Centre marked Easter Lilies, with your dedication (if required)

**Or by direct bank payment to
Stratford-upon-Avon PCC
Sort Code 40-43-19
Account 20649430**

