

# Trinity Times

The magazine for the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon

February 2015

60p

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

St.Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

All Saints' Church, Luddington

# KINETON MANOR

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# Trinity Times

February 2015

60p

## Rachel Writes ... on a memorable journey to Israel

I must apologise to everyone who has asked me about my pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Every answer I have given has seemed incomplete. Words don't do justice to what was a privilege, but also a challenge. It was bitterly cold, frightening at times and painfully sad at others; naturally beautiful and prayerful in places, but in others it was difficult to recognise God's presence. It definitely offered more questions than answers.

The greatest sources of joy and inspiration were the people I encountered. The ones who remain etched in my memory are my faith-filled fellow-ordinands, our philosophical Arab Christian guide living as a refugee in his homeland and a joyful White Father who, in contrast to so many other clergy we met, warmly welcomed us



Picture © Ben Lovell

into his church. Perhaps, above all others, I will remember the Jesuit priest responsible for the Hebrew-speaking Roman Catholic community in the Holy Land who shared his remarkable story of conversion from Judaism to Christianity.

The people made sense in a way the ornate churches and archaeological remains didn't. In an unexpected way it became clear why God chose to take on human flesh. It was only in doing this that he could show us who he is and what he is like.

Reflecting on this makes me realise once again, how important our lives are

*Turn to next page*

in telling, or maybe more often failing to tell, others about Jesus. If we are willing to be shaped, moulded and transformed into more Christ-like human beings then people around us are more likely to ask questions about the good news we carry inside us. The Jesuit priest became a Christian because he met an elderly nun in whom he recognised great joy. He plucked up the courage to ask her where this came from. Her answer changed his life. In turn it was his witness which inspired me. It was his faith and his own embodiment of peace which challenged and encouraged me to grow as a disciple.

**T**he priest's story raises questions for us: Do strangers and friends notice something in us which they would like for themselves? Do people know that we are Jesus' disciples just because of the way we act and speak? These aren't just questions I need to ask of myself as a student in training for priesthood. They are questions which all Christians, lay or ordained, are called to ask. Are we the salt of the earth? *Or have we lost our saltiness?* Are we the bright light of the world? *Or have we allowed our light to grow dim?* Or maybe we need to acknowledge that we were never that bright in the first place? These are difficult questions but vitally important for us as individual Christians and as a church community.

Given they are such important questions, we are going to consider them as a parish during Lent. Our Lent course

will enable us to reflect on our personal and communal callings in line with our diocesan priorities for mission. Are we **worshipping God** with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength? Are we **making new disciples** through our witness and our proclamation? Are we **transforming our communities**, serving the poor and disadvantaged and offering hope for those in despair?

There will be five sessions to which everybody from all three churches is invited. The sessions will include input from the leadership team, time for discussion, and space for personal reflection and listening to God. As a leadership team we are excited to discover what God is calling us to as a parish. We would love for as many people as possible to take part in these sessions. Look out for more publicity in the coming weeks. (*For more details see Page 9*)

We hope that as we journey together through Lent we will all be able to consider how our discipleship brings joy to the world and inspiration to those whom we meet. As I prepare for my part in these sessions and continue to reflect on discipleship in the light of my time in the Holy Land, I shall be pondering anew the privilege of being one of Jesus' disciples and what it means to serve God in this place.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**FEBRUARY 18:** We receive the sign of the cross in ash as a reminder of our dependence on God's grace at the start of our Lenten journey.  
10am: Said Eucharist - Guild Chapel  
7.30pm: Sung Eucharist - Holy Trinity



## Baptism is a first for Rosebird

**B**ack in November, HolyTrinity@Rosebird celebrated its first baptism. Ann and Richard Coxon explain why they chose HT@R for James' baptism and share some of their highlights.

*Why did you choose to have James christened at HT@Rosebird?*

First and foremost because we wanted him to be welcomed into a child-centred church environment. Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me" and

*Turn to Page 18*



*Picture: FELICITY HOWLETT*

**Alpha Course that led to the altar for Robert and Junie**  
**See Page 19**

## Your chance to have a say



**T**HE congregation is to be encouraged to have a say on the timing of the Parish Eucharist following the six month experiment, which began last November, of starting the service at 10am. But the final decision will rest with the PCC.

The Revd Patrick Taylor told the meeting that it was important that the views of the congregation were heard and, through a sermon and notices in the pew leaflet, he would be urging people to talk with members of the PCC and to pass on those views. But, he said, it was "not about the most popular option, but the right option for our church."

Patrick reminded members that the experimental change of time had come about as a result of asking young families how they felt our services could be made more accessible and attractive to them. One of the clearest messages was that the timing of the Parish Eucharist was difficult, especially for those with young children, and that they would prefer an earlier start. Out of this came the new First Sunday service, *Good News @ 10*, not a separate service but a single Parish Eucharist congregation gathering in two places — in the church building for those who prefer the more traditional style, and in the Parish Centre for those who like a child friendly and informal style.

"It has enabled new members of the church in particular to experience both the formal and informal and for us to grow together as a church," Patrick said. The change has seen a growth in both *Good News@10* and Junior Church. On Sunday January 18 there were 27 children at Junior Church.

## News from the PCC

# St.Peter's

## P

Report by PAT PILTON

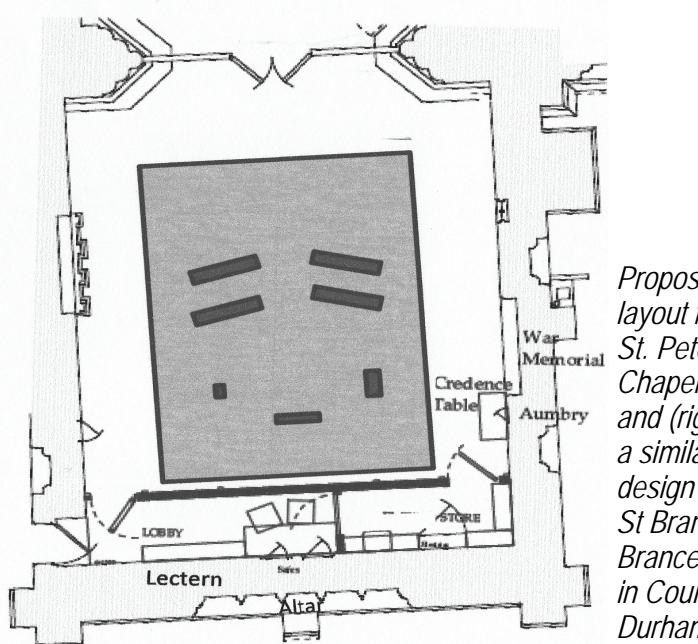
**I**lans for the new look St. Peter's Chapel -- which is to be refurbished as part of Holy Trinity's South Side project -- were unveiled at the January meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Planning permission for the South Side development was obtained on January 2 following the resubmission of the plan to the local authority and the support of the County Archaeologist. Work will begin in May and Phase One (toilets, storage and a new clergy vestry) is scheduled to take six months. Phase Two -- St. Peter's Chapel – is planned to begin in January next year.

Chairman of the Buildings Team, Mike Warrillow, said it was hoped the whole project would be complete in time for Shakespeare Sunday in 2016. A shortlist of six contractors have been asked to tender for the contract which will include an option to repair the South Transept gable. Mr Warrillow said it made sense for this essential repair work to be carried out at the same time, assuming funds were available.

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church have agreed to launch a new appeal to raise funds for both St Peter's and the essential repairs to the gable end. It is proposed that the chapel be used for small services like morning prayer, evening prayer and wedding blessings. It might also be used as a quiet area for

# plan gets go-ahead



*Proposed layout for St. Peter's Chapel and (right) a similar design at St Brandon Brancepeth in County Durham*



prayer – although the main private prayer area will remain the Becket Chapel as this is outside the “donation pay bar” and close to the votive candle area.

Seating will normally be for 12 people in three or four seat pews facing the altar. Light coloured furniture will be used and the chapel will have an uncluttered and simple feel. The reserved sacrament will be stored in the enamelled aumbry in the East Wall and a new central chandelier to match the one in the North Transept, will hang from the central roof rib. The design was approved by the PCC, along with the funding proposals.

**\* TREASURER** Anthony Woollard presented an upbeat financial report. “We are certainly in a healthier position than this time last year,” he said. The £90,000 target for stewardship had been surpassed by more than £5,000 and

there had also been increases in loose collections and general donations. Income from visitors was also up, though not on the shop side where 2013 was an exceptional year. The shop staff, he said, had done very well to turn in a similar result.

“We have spent more in the past year on staff costs, music and outreach, but more or less as budgeted for. Over-spend on printing is particularly large, even though explicable, and we may need to look further at how to control this budget line.” The audited accounts will be presented to the April APCM.

\* The Vicar thanked the organisers of last year’s hugely successful Shakespeare Birthday Lunch for a further donation to Holy Trinity of £730.88. This brings the total donated to the church, from a table collection and profit made from the event, to £6,730.88.



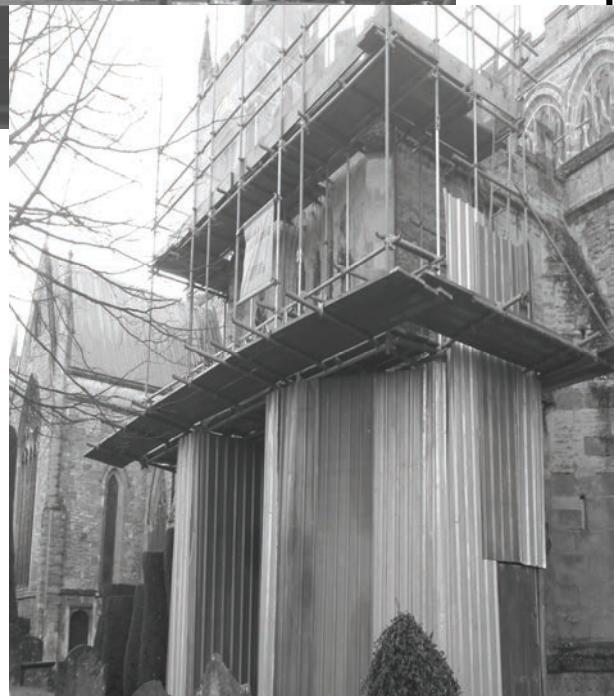
*Pictures  
KEVIN  
TOMES*

**Urgent repairs** are being carried out to the masonry above the North Porch of Holy Trinity Church after some of the stonework was found to be loose and unstable. The scaffolding could be in place for three months and the repair work is expected to cost around £30,000.

The problem was discovered by church architect Stephen Oliver during his regular review of the building as part of its quinquennial inspection. Within the Church of England every church building must be inspected by

an architect or chartered building surveyor approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) every five years.

“Stephen looked at the North Porch and found that the parapet stonework over the door was unstable,” said Mike Warrillow, chairman of the PCC Buildings Team. “The top of the cross above the porch was very loose and could be lifted off. Also one of the pinnacles on the corner was loose, which Stephen removed. We immediately went to the DAC to have emergency approval granted for repairs which they gave us within 48 hours.” Masons are now working on the site.



## **Repairs to North Porch may take three months**

“Some of the work is weather dependent,” said Mike. “We want to make sure we are not undertaking mortar work in the frost and, for such a critical area, we want to ensure we have an excellent match for any stone that requires replacement. The scaffolding could be up for about three months while we source the stone.” The scaffolding will ensure the North Porch can safely continue to be the main entrance to the church for both our worshippers and visitors.

# Lent Course

What are we  
Here for?

## Exploring the purpose of Holy Trinity, All Saints' and Saint Helen's

*What Are We Here For?* is our Parish Lent course for 2015. The aim of this course is for us to renew and refresh our vision of God's purposes for us as disciples of Jesus Christ in this Parish.

The Church Leadership Team (Patrick, Steve, Nicki and Rachel) will be helping us to explore how we can play our part in fulfilling God's purposes in our town and villages and beyond: as we worship God, as we make new disciples and as we transform our communities.

*What are we here for?* will take place on Thursdays in Lent from 26 February to 26 March, 7.45-9.30pm. Each session begins with refreshments. Weeks 1 and 5 will centre on prayer and reflection, with a Eucharist in Week 5. Weeks 2 to 4 will include input by the team, discussion and prayer.

**26 February** **Holy Trinity Church**

Discipleship: What Do We Mean?

**5 March** **Methodist Church**

Worshipping God

**12 March** **Methodist Church**

Making New Disciples

**19 March** **Methodist Church**

Transforming Communities

**26 March** **Holy Trinity Church**

Discipleship Renewed: Celebrating and Sending

We are very much looking forward to seeing what God is calling us to be and do, how we are going to follow that call and what our priorities are.

*Steve Bate and the Leadership Team*

# Worship

*in FEBRUARY*

Preacher

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>			
<b>Feb 1</b>		<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Tony Boyd-Williams
Candlemas		<b>10.00am</b>	Parish Eucharist	Revd Dr Stephen Bate
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Candlemas</b>	Revd Dr Stephen Bate
	<b>St. Helen's All Saints'</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Family Worship	Revd Diane Patterson
		<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion BCP	Revd Graham Wilcox
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>			
<b>Feb 8</b>		<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Patrick Taylor
2nd before Lent	<b>Parish Hall</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Parish Eucharist	<b>Revd James Warren</b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Choral Evensong	Revd Nicki Chatterton
		<b>7.00pm</b>	Open to God	Revd Dr Stephen Bate
	<b>St. Helen's All Saints'</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Canon John Graty
		<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Canon David Ellis
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>			
<b>Feb 15</b>		<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Patrick Taylor
Sunday before Lent		<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Trinity@Rosebird	Rachel Saum
		<b>10.00am</b>	Parish Eucharist	Revd Patrick Taylor
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Evensong/Compline	Mike Milburn
	<b>St Helen's All Saints'</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Morning Worship	Revd Graham Wilcox
		<b>9.15am</b>	Family Communion	Revd Dr Stephen Bate
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>			
<b>Feb 22</b>		<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Stephen Bate
Lent 1		<b>10.00am</b>	Parish Eucharist	Rachel Saum
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Choral Evensong	Revd Graham Wilcox
	<b>St Helen's All Saints'</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Patrick Taylor
		<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Revd Canon John Graty



**Good News@10** (first Sunday) and **Junior Church** (other weeks) commences in the Parish Centre at 9.30am with croissants and drinks with parents and finishes by joining the congregation in church for the Parish Eucharist.

# Street Pastor founder to go out on patrol with Stratford volunteers

The charismatic founder of the Street Pastors, The Revd Les Isaac, will next month join local volunteers on the night streets of Stratford-upon-Avon. Famous for their flip flops and lollipops, the Street Pastors have become a familiar sight in the town on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mr Isaac is to be guest speaker at an evening of celebration, worship and thanksgiving for the work of the Pastors on **Saturday February 7** and will afterwards be among those on patrol and offering help and support to anyone in need that night.

The Street Pastors' initiative was launched in London in 2003 and



there are now more than 280 teams across the country. Esther Roberts and husband Steve set up the Stratford team in 2011 after moving to the town from Reading, and handed over the reins to Maureen Green last July. In the past year the 20-strong team of volunteers has spent 1,463 hours handing out almost 7,000 lollipops, 50 pairs of flip flops and talking with or supporting some 5,300 people.

By patrolling on weekend nights  
*Turn to next page*

*The Revd Les Isaac on the streets of Lewisham with local Street Pastors.*

*Continued from previous page*

we get just a glimpse of Stratford after dark say the Pastors. Theatre-goers, youths, those out celebrating, rough sleepers, people worse for wear and those who just need someone to talk to. Patrols begin at 8.30pm on Friday and some Saturday nights, and end around 3am. The Pastors have built up a strong rapport with the police, door supervisors, taxi drivers and restaurateurs and are kept in touch and alerted to possible trouble through radio and CCTV contact.

"Street Pastors is about being part of the community, protecting people and demonstrating the love of Christ by bridge-building, offering a helping hand and a listening ear," said Maureen Green. "Despite recent night club closures, the need to keep people safe in our town in the evenings is still very much there although, happily, we don't usually have the same issues with drugs and violent crimes experienced in some other towns."

The Revd Les Isaac was born in Antigua and was a Rastafarian involved in London's gang scene before entering the ministry and working with the same "hard-to-reach communities" from which he came. His desire to see Christians working more effectively within their society led to the formation of the first Street Pastor group in Lambeth. Since then 12,000 people have undergone training as pastors.

Just twice in his 25 years of ministry, Les Isaac says, has he felt his life threatened. On both occasions trust was the key to defusing the situation, he believes. So today, if he sees someone smoking drugs, he doesn't condemn it, but rather works at building that person's respect. "When you invade someone's personal space, how you react in those first 30 seconds determines whether or not you are allowed to stay there," he says.

Married with two children, Jake and Lara, Les Isaac was awarded an OBE in the 2012 Birthday Honours list. He has written four books, the most recent *Faith on the Streets* recounts his early childhood and teenage years and also, through powerful stories and testimo-

nies, tells of the positive impact of the Street Pastors. "We have seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime where teams have been working," he said.

He has been a minister in Lambeth for more than 30 years and is

currently CEO of the Christian charity Ascension Trust, which he formed in 1993.

The evening with Les Isaac begins at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church and will be followed by refreshments at the Methodist Church. Admission is free and everyone is invited. Visit: [www.stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/](http://www.stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/) for more information.

**PAT PILTON**



On Patrol... Four of Stratford's street pastors are pictured in Rother Street. They are (from left to right): Katie Martin, Jane Ireland, Fiona Barker and (front) Esther Roberts, the street co-ordinator. Photo: Mark Williamson

### Street pastors go on patrol

HIS first patrols of street pastors in Stratford have started after an official launch at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford New Town. The pastors, accompanied by police officers and other Lambeth council staff, walked around the town centre, offering advice to people who were sleeping rough, facing a personal crisis or who had had too much to drink.

The pastors reported no major problems but did talk with people who had been drinking. One assistant police officer by name of Esther Roberts, who has been working with the scheme since its inception, said: "The opportunity to calm down potentially volatile situations involving a group of drunk drinkers is something that has been greatly dispersed when police arrived. No further incidents were

reported. Esther Roberts, street pastors' co-ordinator for Stratford said: "I think the main thing is that when the police are there, everyone is working together effectively. The working street pastors comprise volunteers from five local churches. For more information visit [stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/](http://stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/).

stably together to keep the town safe, and we were glad to also be part of that."

She added: "The idea is that when the resources are there, everyone is working together effectively. The working street pastors comprise volunteers from five local churches. For more information visit [stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/](http://stratforduponavon.street-pastors.org.uk/).

## The View from the Streets of Stratford



"They look after the lonely female as well as the aggressive male. They give nice little lollipops to keep people calm and hand out flip flops to women in distress and just calm situations down."

*Stratford bar manager*

**"It's about being Jesus's hands and feet and lips, just going out and looking after people."** *Street Pastor Jan*

"I like the Street Pastors, they give me lollipops and flip flops and make me feel safe. I like to see their friendly faces."

*Young night clubber*

**"They do a fantastic job dealing with all the kinds of people that I know are a nightmare."** *Taxi driver Lorraine*

"I love being a street pastor. There is nowhere quite like Stratford-upon-Avon at 2am on a Saturday morning, serving Jesus but looking after people and caring for people."

*Street Pastor Ian*

**"It's an amazing witness. It's lovely to be with young people and to know that they are enjoying themselves safely. Of course, they ask you why you are doing it and you can just say because we love you. Jesus said we should look after one another. Jesus looked after people on the streets and that's what we should do as well."** *Street Pastor Jill*

*See these and more interviews on YouTube*

## Christmas Collections raise close to £6,000

**O**ur church charity Christmas collections raised close to £6,000 — well up on the previous year. As a result, each of the three charities the parish decided to support — Street Pastors, Echoes at Stratford Hospice and the Voices for the Voiceless Choir — have been sent a cheque for £1,984.52.

"It was a wonderful response from our congregation," said the Revd Patrick Taylor. In 2013 similar collections raised £4,770.



Almost £1,000 of the money this Christmas came as a result of the *Trinity Times* Christmas Card Amnesty Scheme. A record 100 people chose to send their Christmas greetings to church friends through the magazine, donating the money that they saved. The three charities were recommended by the PCC's *Holy Trinity in the Community Team*.

## THE LITURGICAL COLOURS

*These are the liturgical colours suggested by the Church of England. They are not mandatory and local or traditional use may be followed by churches.*

**WHITE** is the colour for the festal periods from Christmas Day to the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) and from Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost. Also for Trinity Sunday, for Festivals of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary, for All Saints' Day and for the Festivals of those saints not venerated as martyrs; for the Feast of Dedication of a church, at Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and in thanksgiving for Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. It is used for marriages and is suitable for baptism, confirmation and ordination. Where a church has two sets of white, one may be kept for great Festivals, indicated as "gold or white".

**RED** is used during Holy Week (except at Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday), on the Feast of Pentecost and may be used between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent (except where other provision is made) and is used for the Feasts of those saints venerated as martyrs. It is appropriate for any services which focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is therefore suitable for baptism, confirmation and ordination. Coloured hangings are traditionally removed for Good Friday and Easter Eve, but red is the colour for the liturgy on Good Friday.

**PURPLE** (which may vary from "Roman purple" to violet, with blue as an alternative) is the colour for Advent and from Ash Wednesday until the day before Palm Sunday. It is recommended for funerals and for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, although either black or white may be preferred. A Lent array of unbleached linen is sometimes used as an alternative to purple, but only from Ash Wednesday until the day before Palm Sunday.

**GREEN** is used from the day after the Presentation until Shrove Tuesday, and from the day after Pentecost until the eve of All Saints' Day, except when other provision is made. It may also be used, rather than red, between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent.

# New Covers

**A**

At our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist we use a special book to proclaim the Gospel. It contains the text of all the Gospel readings through the three year lectionary cycle.

I believe passionately in the importance of the Eucharist being a service of both the sacrament and the Word, and the book of the Gospels represents the presence of God with us as the Word made flesh. This is why it is carried in procession at the start of the service and placed on the altar, as the primary symbol of the Liturgy of the Word.

Last year I commissioned Hazel Brazier to make a set of four covers in each of the colours of the seasons of the liturgical year to emphasise the significance of the Gospels. The result is stunning as Hazel has incorporated the three fish symbol of Holy Trinity Church in colours that complement the rest of the vestments and hangings we use.

The covers were blessed on Advent Sunday. I would like to record my thanks to Hazel for her hard work and skill which have enriched our worship and encourage us to take God's Word seriously!

*P. H. D.*

# for the Book of the Gospels



WHITE: Festal periods



Pictures: COLIN McDOWALL



RED: Holy Spirit



PURPLE: Advent



GREEN: Ordinary time

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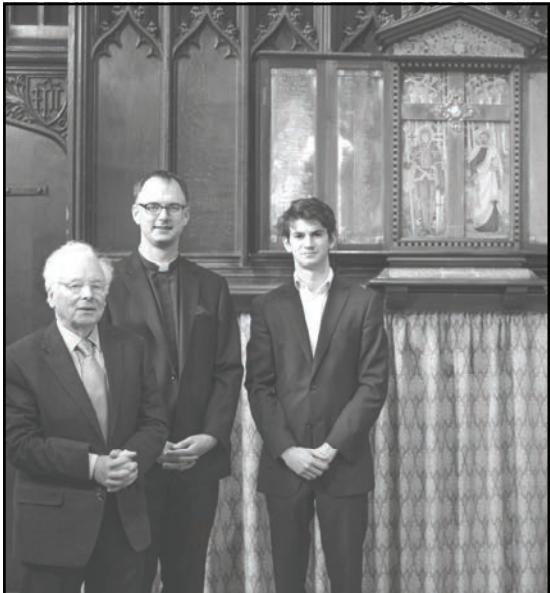
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# FT boost for Becket fabric entrepreneur



Entrepreneurship. Tibor

## A quest to revive a faded success

The grandson of textile designer Tibor Reich has taken on the challenge of restoring the brand, writes John Murray Brown

**S**am Reich's desk is piled with sample books of woven woolen furnishing fabric that once graced the seats of Concorde, cabins of the Cunard line and the headquarters of some of Britain's biggest companies.

Tibor Reich was one of the leading names in postwar British textiles; now his grandson is re-launching it as a luxury brand, employing former designers and skilled furniture makers.

"These sorts of textiles just aren't in the market any more," he says, holding up a scarlet and white fabric in squares and dots flecked with lurex, one of Tibor's best-known designs. It will be one of about 10 woven fabrics based on original designs that the business plans to have in production from May.

"We will use this as a nucleus for the brand but we do want to employ new



**T**he rebirth of the iconic Tibor textile brand has been given a major boost with a full-page feature in the *Financial Times* on Sam Reich, entrepreneur grandson of the company's founder Tibor Reich.

In November Sam Reich witnessed the unveiling and dedication by the Vicar of his fledgling company's first order – the new golden curtain that now adorns Holy Trinity's historic Becket Chapel. The fabric was commissioned by *The Friends of Shakespeare's Church* and comes from the Tibor archive of 20<sup>th</sup> century design now stored in Stratford and in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Sam is now working with the Friends and the PCC to use the same Canterbury fabric to replace curtains in the main entrance doors to Holy Trinity.

Tibor Reich set up his company in Clifford Mill in 1946 and his designs were used for high profile projects like the refurbishment of the interior of the

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the seats on Concorde and the passenger cabins of the Cunard shipping line. But the company closed in the 1970s when it found itself unable to compete with competition from cheaper imported products.

Although he has yet to produce a single fabric, Sam Reich, 23, told the FT he is already dreaming of becoming a fully-fledged luxury company. The challenge, he says, is "understanding the value of the archive" – inspiring new designs, rather than simply re-issuing those that had made his grandfather famous. One of his biggest challenges has been to find suppliers that can recreate the feel of a Tibor product, part of which, he says, results from looms running at a slower speed than usual.

"I've spent a year and a half going to every single manufacturer, all the

*Turn to next page*

# Tibor Fabric

Continued from previous page

interior designers, and getting everything researched," Sam said in the interview.

"We've come a long way and now have a business that has secured investment (£10,000 through the government's Startup Direct loans scheme), there's an exhibition planned, a book (on Tibor Reich's life) and a commercial range." He has also secured a showrooms in West London, lent by a friend, that will open later this year.

The British textile industry is "like an Old Boys' club. There is no directory. The websites you can't find. But there are still some fantastic forward-thinking companies." Sam said. "Mill owners, I know, are just happy to see someone of my age getting involved."

He added: "I don't pretend I am an expert. I come as an enthusiast and someone who is passionate about my grandfather's work. It's amazing how many people have been willing to help me with this project."

Sam's enthusiasm – so clearly demonstrated in the entertaining talk he gave to a packed Parish Centre after the dedication of the Becket fabric — is not the only reason for the interest. As a teenager he started a company, Just Loading, which converted CDs to MP3 format and turned over £25,000 a year.

\* Our thanks to Ronnie Mulryne for spotting this article in the *Financial Times*.



The Coxon family with the Revd Dr Paul Edmondson who led the service

**Rosebird:** *Continued from Page 5*

with the relaxed nature of HT@R and the advantages of a flexible seating area all the children were free to come to the front, sit, kneel or sit on a parent's lap and be very much at the heart of the Sacrament of Baptism. We wanted the opportunity to witness to family and friends who are not from a church background about our faith and explain why we were having James baptised. We were able to speak about why we believe the tradition of christening is important but that a personal faith in God is paramount in a person's life. It also meant we could do fun things like use a paddling pool for the baptism and then make boats to float in the water afterwards. The children loved it!

**What were the highlights of the day?**

Our older son Tom being able to anoint his brother with oil and make the sign of the cross on his forehead.

All the children coming forward to pour water into the pool. They all took the responsibility seriously and it was lovely to have them so involved.

Children of all ages sitting quietly around the pool and being transfixed by the baptism. It felt almost like a biblical scene but then at the same time a vision of the future church. It was really very special.

**Three words that describe the service?**  
Joyous, Intimate and Authentic. **RS**

**A**fter two decades working in the financial industry overseas, I somehow felt that it was God's plan for me to return to the UK. In December 2010, after I had finished leading an Alpha course in Shanghai, I started to look for a job in higher education back in Britain. I kept praying and by early February 2011 I was offered work as Director of Studies in a college in Birmingham. I needed to report to work on April 4, but by March, I still had no idea where I would live, although my shipment was already on the way. I could only keep praying and, finally, God led me to Stratford-upon-Avon, which had been out of my consideration.

I arrived at Stratford at the end of March and began a "church search exercise". I landed on the third church which I attended for a year. Robert and I met briefly at that church. It was later when I led an Alpha course with Robert as a helper that we got to know each other better. Nonetheless, after a year of attending that church I decided that it was not for me. With the help of Andrea Blood and Evelyn Ho (of the Methodist Church) I managed to meet up with the Revd Martin Gorick to discuss my concerns and the possibility of joining Holy Trinity. Since 2012 Robert and I have worshipped here.

To our surprise the Revd Dr Steve Bate — who Robert had met about 10 years' earlier — became Associate Vicar at Holy Trinity. When we decided to spend the rest of our lives



## **Alpha course that led to marriage for Junie and Robert**

together, it was only natural that we asked Steve to marry us. With the help of the literature of the late Derek Prince, we got to understand that marriage is a covenant between God and us. Marriage is, in fact, a three-strand relationship established between God and us.

We were so grateful that Steve used this as the theme of his sermon at our wedding service. He even made us a bookmark which is a triple-braided cord. As written in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, one of the readings at our wedding:

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much; they get a better return for their labour. If one person falls, the other can reach out and

*Turn to next page*

# Wedding

*Continued from previous page*

help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. And on a cold night two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other.

"But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. *Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*"

We are thankful to those who came to our wedding service and also to all who sent their kind wishes and blessings. May God be with us all the time!

*Junie Tong*

\* Dr Junie Tong is chair and one of the Holy Trinity representatives on the organising committee of Stratford churches' welcome programme for overseas students studying at Stratford College.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### WEDDINGS

**Dec 12** Robert Clark and Junie Tong



### BAPTISMS

**Jan 11** Katerina and Isabella Koch



### FUNERALS

**Dec 12** Irene Gill 65

**Dec 16** Maureen Hill 97



**Jan 5** Michael John Barron (Mike) 74

**Jan 6** Joan Margaret Hill 86

**Jan 7** James Douglas Seeley Gallagher 56

**Jan 8** Barbara Fitton 92

**Jan 16** Derek Hammond 82

**Jan 21** Peter Morris 56

**Could you pop in for tea and a chat?** **Turn to Page 39**



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# Little Angels at the Rosebird



Almost 100 children and parents packed Rosebird Community Centre for the [Holy Trinity@Rosebird](#) Christmas service. After breakfast of croissants and mince pies, the children splendidly re-enacted the nativity story, led by grown-up "angel" Val Payne and Pioneer Lay Minister Rachel Saum.

*Pictures: Colin McDowall*





## The Light of the World

Candles and oranges took centre stage in the Parish Centre on December 7 when everyone attending the **GoodNews@10** service was invited to make a Christingle. Later they joined the congregation in Holy Trinity to light their candles in celebration of Christ, the Light of the World.



Pictures: COLIN McDOWALL

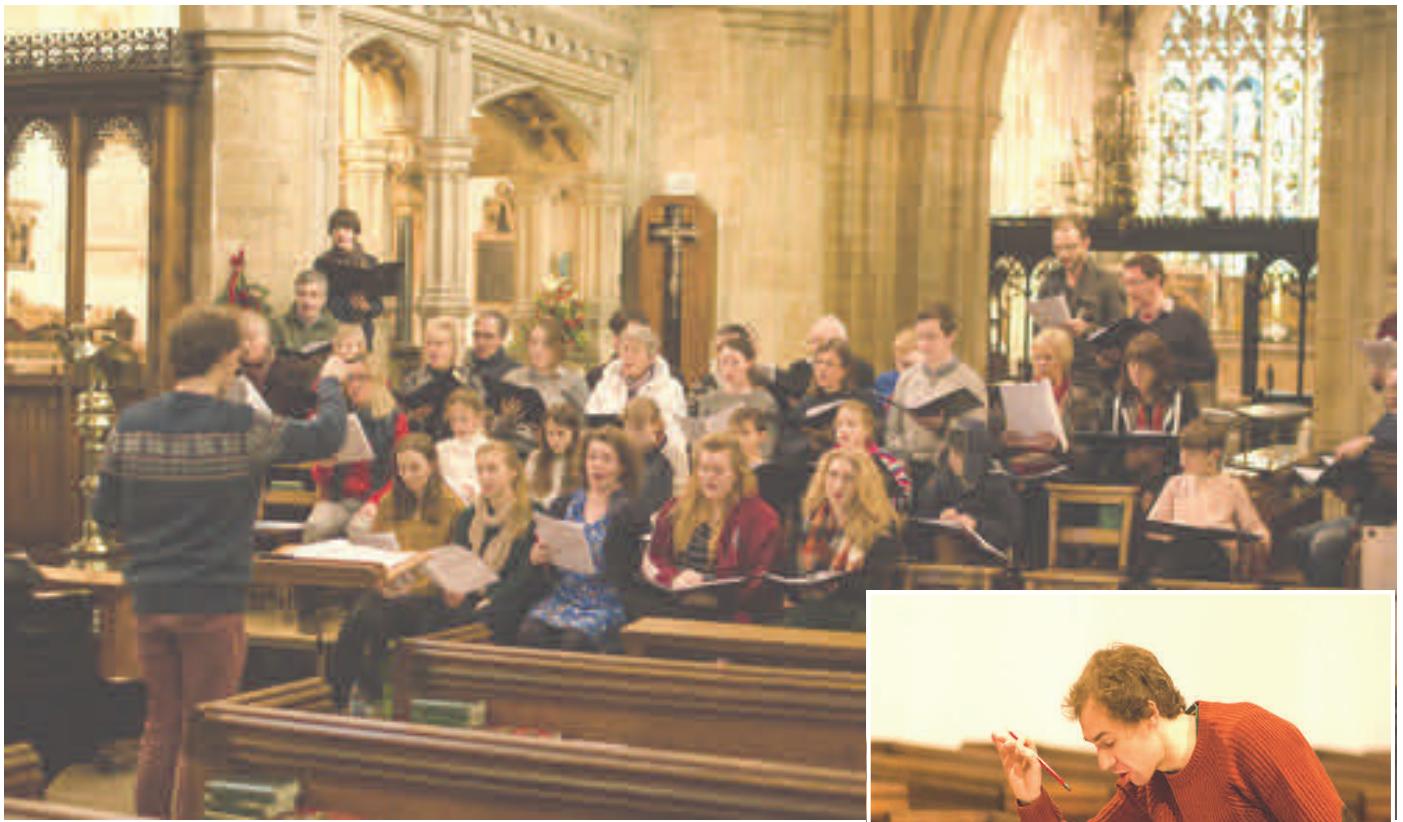
# The Choir at Compton Verney



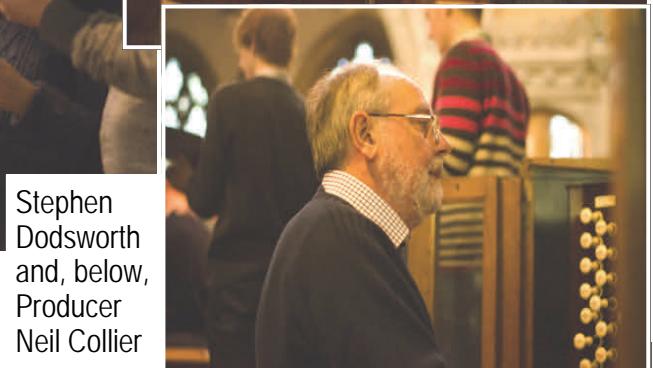
Picture: HARRY LOMAX

"I don't think I've heard our choir in finer voice," was just one of the comments picked up after the Christmas Carol Service at Holy Trinity. A few days earlier that enjoyment was shared by visitors to Compton Verney when they were treated to carols and seasonal anthems as part of the art gallery and museum's 10th anniversary celebrations. Now the choir have recorded a CD. Turn to Page 24 to find out more.

# Choir make it a



Stephen  
Dodsworth  
and, below,  
Producer  
Neil Collier



Pictures: WILLIAM MULRYNE



# note to remember

**T**he remnants of the turkey had finally been finished off and the New Year revelries only just completed, but it was a surprisingly bright and cheery group that assembled in the choir vestry just before ten o'clock on January 2 to record our CD. We were delighted to be joined by some old friends and former choristers — Lucinda and Victoria Murphy, Sasha Compton and Clive Letchford — Theo and Aurora's father Jonnie, Benedict's sister Eleanor and a couple of his friends from college.

As always Christmas had been a very busy period for the choir, even more so this time round with an additional carol service in the Guild Chapel (although you will never hear the choir complain about the chance to sing in that beautiful building, especially now with its wonderful new organ). So it was somewhat of a surprise how, after squeezing ourselves on to the staging assembled in the crossing under the tower, the choir immediately settled into its familiar warm and balanced tone without warm up.

But setting up in the crossing had been an experiment, and our sound engineer and producer, Neil Collier from Priory, decided we would be better placed in the main body of the church. So, all hands to the deck as we disassembled, moved and reassembled the stage in front of and between the choir stalls, under the direction of two experienced "stagehands" in Tim Raistrick and Stephen Dodsworth.

By ROBERT and CHRISTOPHER KINGDOM

Finally settled (albeit with three of our basses precariously balanced standing on chairs at the back of the staging) we began recording. Those of us who had previous experience (*Songs of Praise*, for example) knew what was in store, but the process is one of continuous repetition and refinement, with each piece recorded several times. Not only do the microphones pick up every mistake in the singing, but also any slight rustle of paper, movement of feet, or creak of the stage. (see next page)

Lunchtime came and went and on we ploughed, increasingly wrapped in coats and scarves as the temperature dropped (the heating being too noisy to leave on). If that was tough for the singers then it must have been so much harder for Stephen to keep his fingers warm, but you would never have known it from his faultless organ playing.

And yet the time flew by, spurred on by encouraging comments from Neil Collier, hearing back snippets of recorded material, the enthusiastic cooing of the pigeons at the end of every piece, and plenty of sweets and biscuits. But above all that, it was the magnificent exuberance of our director Benedict, fuelled by an intoxicating mix of Diet Coke and Haribo, that really kept us going and drew out what (we hope) was a really professional, sensitive and musical sound.

The evening brought the opportunity for some social time and we are all very  
*Turn to next page*

grateful to Kate and Martin and Mark and Lisa for laying on a supper of jacket potatoes (with a huge choice of toppings) followed by a delicious selection of puddings, and to Melissa for the wine.

Next morning we were back for another full day, finishing at around 3:00pm. The staging was packed away quickly and we all set off home, tired but happy. All except the indefatigable Benedict and Stephen, who stayed behind to record some organ music to round off the CD.

**I**t was certainly a challenging process, but it was a rewarding one. The major difference we experienced between recording and singing as part of a service was that we had to sing each piece perfectly without any mistakes. In a service you don't get the chance to go back afterwards and rectify any mishaps which may have occurred. In recording, you can do as many takes as you want until you get the perfect version of a piece. This is both a blessing and added challenge, as it can be painstaking work. But I'm sure the rest of the choir will agree when I say that it was worth it. It was hard work, but certainly not gruelling work.

One of the things that we had to be careful of was background noise. These came in various forms. At some points our worst enemy was a group of cooing pigeons who interrupted the quiet bits. At another point it was a lawnmower. There were other noises like loud turns of pages and pencils being dropped, too, which meant we had to do things again. But perhaps the most surprising interruption came when a take had to be abandoned quite early on because a thudding noise could be heard. The source of the noise turned out to be

*So, when can you hear the results of our labour?* We're hoping the finished CD will arrive just after Easter, and you will have the opportunity to order your copy soon. It promises to be something very special. On behalf of the choir, we'd just like to say thank you to our guest singers; our soloists (Tim, Eleanor Victoria, Claire, Juliette, Theo and Christopher); to Neil Collier and Priory and, as always to Stephen for his fantastic playing. Most of all to Benedict for his leadership, energy and enthusiasm.



Youth Correspondent  
**Edward Mulryne** on the challenges of recording ... and, not least, cooing pigeons, dropped pencils and a jumping Benedict!

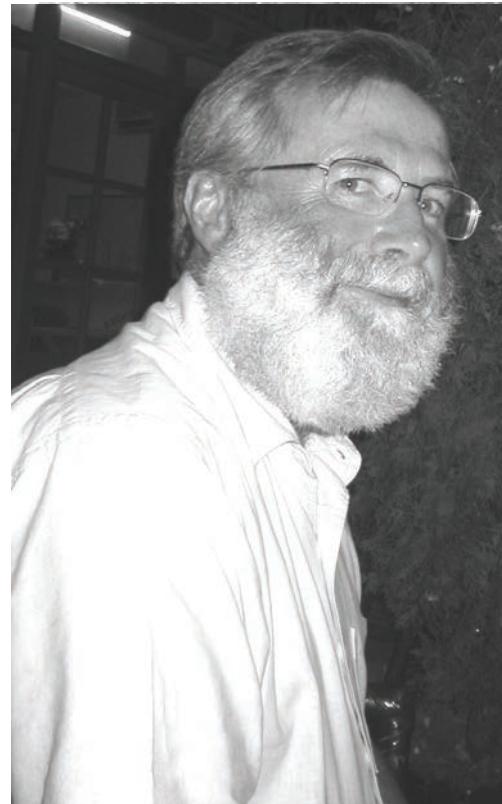
none other than our very own Benedict, whose conducting had become so animated that he was actually jumping up and down on the floor.

Personally, the whole experience made me proud to be part of this choir. Recording our own CD has brought out the best in all of us, and the sound we made across those two days was phenomenal. We all learned a lot. Not just about making a CD, but also about working together to create a unified, professional sound. Benedict made a very good point early on about being musical and adding nuances to our singing that would really make us stand out. That is what I think we have achieved.

The CD will boast a magnificent array of choral classics such as *God so loved the world*, *Solus ad victimam*, *O taste and see* and many, many more. i

# Revd Graham Spicer

WINDOW ON **MY** WORLD



## Dressed to impress

**O**ne of the important decisions that exercised the minds of my generation of students training for the ministry of the church was what you were going to wear once you were ordained. Before ordination it didn't really matter, as wearing a clergy collar was definitely not done until you were officially a minister, though the college staff did their best to make sure the students sent out each Sunday to lead worship in local churches were not redirected to the nearest Salvation Army hostel.

Once ordained, most, though not all, settled for a dog collar and a gown when taking services or on special occasions, though there were a few exotic fashionista favouring white albs with kaleidoscope stoles or the retro-Reformation sombre black cassock with Geneva gown and preaching bands.

*So when did Free Church ministers start dressing up ?* Looking at the rogues' gallery of my predecessors at the back of the United Reformed Church, there are no clerical collars to be seen until after the Great War, though it is difficult to make out just what some of them are wearing as most favour white shirt and white tie, which was a standard male fashion, and one or two beards also obscure the issue. Almost certainly there would have been no attempt to copy the Church of England clergy, as there was a determined difference between church and chapel — especially here in Stratford! But the First World War changed that -- as it did so

*Turn to next page*

## WINDOW ON MY WORLD

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*Continued from previous page*

many things. Free Church ministers who had served as chaplains in the armed forces had worn clerical collars as part of their uniform, and the United Navy, Army and Air Force Board, who had appointed them, gave them a self-awareness and identity outside of their own local churches; and maybe even a sense of worth: deacons and local churches were good at putting ministers in what they thought was their place. As Dr Robert Dale, minister of the Carrs Lane Congregational Church in Birmingham, ruefully remarked, “Ministers may preach, but the deacons RULE!”

So clerical collars begin to appear in between the wars as the ministers start to assert their identity in the church structure and the community; my father recollect- ed as a boy seeing the minister from the “Congo” resplendent in collar, morning suit and bowler hat. It seems the modern dog collar is not a Church of England inven- tion, but was the idea of Presbyterian minister Revd Donald Mcleod in 1894. For at least three hundred years then, nonconformist ministers were indistinguishable from ordinary people.

Which is, I think, as it should be. But it also warns me that I have another decision to make in the next two years: what shall I be when I no longer am the minister of a church? Because that identifies who I am; called to be the minister by the people of a church, and not appointed by any other entity. My denomination tiresomely says that I am an office holder, possibly relieving itself of any legal responsibility that would come from my being an employee. But then, I have always felt this, that I am defined by my call not by my attire; by the congregation, not by the denomination. You can no more spot ministers in a crowd than you can Christians, because we are all in this together. The second century Epistle to Diognetus puts it like this:

“Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men. Unlike some other people, they champion no purely human doctrine. With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign. And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives...”

To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body.

So — we are all ministers, dog collar or not.

**“It seems the  
dog collar is  
not a Church  
of England  
invention but  
the idea of a  
Presbyterian  
minister in  
1894”**

\* The Revd Graham Spicer is minister of the United Reformed Church in Rother Street.

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February 25: Solomon Hayes, countertenor

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'If music be the food of love, play on'

# Friends of Kagando

The support charity for Kagando Hospital and KARUDEC, Kagando Rural Development Centre, a centre of excellence in Western Uganda

Dear Rev. Taylor,

On behalf of Friends of Kagando charity, we would like to thank the members of your church congregation, as well as the church leadership, very much indeed for raising such a generous amount of money for the chapel at Kagando Hospital.

It has come at such an opportune time for them as they were just praying and meeting together to look for the means needed to buy some more Bibles and song books.

**WHAT** a wonderful outcome to Holy Trinity's *Bibles for Uganda* retiring collection on Bible Sunday in October. The original target was to raise £590 to purchase Bibles, hymn books and orders of service booklets for St. Luke's Church and orphanage attached to Kagando Hospital. In fact, £2,264.64 (including gift aid) was raised in what the hospital's administrator described as "an amazing answer to prayer." Now the Revd Patrick Taylor has received this heartfelt thank you letter from Dr Rob and Mrs Jen Morris, trustees of the UK based charity Friends of Kagando.

The letter continues: "Canon Benson, the project director, phoned this morning during a meeting he was having with the chapel team to discuss how they would plan to use the money. He wanted to convey his sincere thanks to Andrew and to you all for your donation. With our best wishes and every blessing."

The Revd Canon Andrew Dow was visiting the Kagando project during January to lead Bible teaching sessions with older teenagers and the wider church community. We look forward to hearing all about this on his return. Visit: [www.friendsofkagando.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkagando.org.uk)

By SARAH HOSKING

I have spent my retirement founding and running a Trust (the Hosking Houses Trust) and, for those who like detail, charity number 1076713. Back in 1999 I had got the approval of the Charity Commissioners to our terms of operation and all I needed was a registration number so that I could start fund-raising and activate the whole enterprise. For this, they insisted I had to have £1,000 in the bank to prove our viability.

This was my stumbling block. I could perhaps rake up £100, but £1,000! It might as well have been one million. I researched and requested and pleaded with everyone I knew, but this wretched sum was not forthcoming.

One Sunday evening I went to even-song in Holy Trinity and, after the service and to the strains of the organ, I wandered up to the high altar and recklessly stood on Shakespeare's hallowed grave and addressed the altar: "COPE" I told the frontal, candlesticks and cross, "or the whole thing is OFF". And I went home worrying.

The next morning, received in the post, was a letter from the Charity Commissioners granting me my charity number (1076713 as quoted above) and apparently forgetting all about the £1,000. The £5 that I had limply deposited in our new charity account bought our first batch of stamps and I started fund raising. Today, sixteen years later, I have raised nearly £300,000 and we have hosted fifty women writers in our tiny cottage in Clifford Chambers.



## The day I put my Trust in a “miracle”

For God (for whom all things are possible) had clearly stopped time that Sunday night, rolled it back to Friday afternoon in the Charity Commission offices, bemused some tired official into signing a letter to me granting me my number (1076713 as quoted twice above) and posted it for my receipt on Monday morning.

*Was this a miracle?* If that is an event that defies explanation, then it is indeed a miracle and I have never sought an explanation. I prefer to leave it mysterious and to relish the modest success that was its result.

\* The Hosking Houses Trust offers periods of financially supported domestic peace to women writers over the age of forty and who are engaged on innovative and original work on any subject:

**[wwwhoskinghouses.co.uk](http://wwwhoskinghouses.co.uk)**

*Pictured: Sarah Hosking with Joan Bakewell and the Trust's Chair, Paul Edmondson, in April.*

## The Tangle Fiend

Oh no! The fiend has fouled my washing line –  
the fiend that tangles rope and string.  
My line I left so beautifully coiled  
is overnight a knotted thing -  
an inter-wriggled, mad absurdity,  
enough to bend Houdini's mind.  
On such a sunny day as this to need  
the tumble dryer, what a bind!

That galling pest of Granny's life - the fiend,  
uncanny, finds her when she knits.  
With instinct sharper than a hunting hound's  
it creeps unseen to where she sits  
and tempts the wool and teases it to stray  
inside her blouse and down her sleeves  
and round her nose and knees and arms and toes.  
Oh golly, what a web it weaves!

Beware its danger to electric things!  
It susses where your cables lie -  
behind the telly is a favourite spot.  
I'm flummoxed as to how and why  
it's able to undo those plugs and loop  
the aerial round my DVD  
recorder's lead and tie my scarts in knots.  
That tousled maze just staggers me!

If you neglect your garden you may ask  
what causes ivy strands to crawl  
their ins-and-outs transforming hedges to  
an inextricable sprawl?  
And why must honeysuckle weave itself  
through clematis and your prize rose?  
Or naughty men and wives entwine their lives  
with interloping so-and-so's?

The fiend will wiggle into everything.  
No wonder 'elf-n-safety lacks respect  
when what we thought was common sense  
is twisted to be incorrect.  
If I could catch that tangle imp, oh boy!  
No mercy! I would iron it out.  
I'd stretch it straight and clamp it end from end  
with one almighty 'Gotcha!' shout.



Words and  
illustration  
by  
**David  
C. Ellis**

## Exploring Scripture

...the Cross and the Resurrection in Isaiah. Canon David Ellis will lead a new series of Exploring Scripture in the Parish Hall Lounge, 11.30 am-12.30pm on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. We will be exploring how Isaiah's deeply moving poems about the "Suffering Servant" are remarkably fulfilled in the passion and crucifixion of Christ and how his prophecies regarding Israel's Spirit-filled joy on returning from exile find their mark in Easter and Pentecost. It is clear from the gospel accounts that Isaiah's words had a profound influence on the shaping of Jesus' ministry. With informal questions and discussion, this course makes a fitting preparation for a fuller understanding of the cross and resurrection. All welcome. Please bring your own Bible. *Canon Ellis*

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STEVE NEWMAN on the latest blockbuster he is bringing to Faith in Film

# Why I decided to ask Mr Bond to drop in!

**W**ith the new James Bond film, *Spectre*, now in production, Faith in Film's first choice for 2015, showing in February, will be *Skyfall*, the most popular outing from this most successful of the film franchises.

Made and released in 2012, *Skyfall* — starring Daniel Craig as James Bond — became the highest grossing film of all time, and probably the best Bond movie ever, with *Casino Royale* and the much earlier *From Russia with Love*, starring Sean Connery, close seconds.

Directed by Sam Mendes — who began his career at the RSC in 1990 — this turbo charged film never runs out of steam, with Craig's performance perfectly balanced between secret service hero and a vulnerable man battling alone against evil.

*Why, you might ask, do I feel *Skyfall* to be a good choice for Faith in Film?*

It has always been my intention to show commercially successful films that, nevertheless, are parables of spirituality, of goodness triumphing over evil. *Skyfall* is just that sort of film,



as is *The Godfather*, a film we showed last summer.

I think it's fair to consider Bond (an original mix of T.E. Lawrence, Lord Lovette and Fleming himself) to be a much more realistic figure in these ruthless post Cold War days than Deighton's Harry Palmer, for instance. But perhaps, more importantly, Bond is also a man who in every adventure has to suffer violence and possible death before undergoing a resurrection that will culminate in a new, Christian-like strength.

James Bond is a tough unrelenting kind of man, but then so was Jesus Christ.

*See *Skyfall* at the Parish Centre on Sunday February 15 at 7.30pm*



**Trinity Tots:** This fun and relaxed group for parents/carers and their children meets each Thursday during term time from 1.30pm to 3.00pm in the Parish Centre. Details from Steve and Val Bate on 299195.

# Diary..... for FEBRUARY

## Sunday February 1

**Parish Centre**

4.30pm: The Friends of the Music AGM and presentation of music and choir awards. Followed by tea and musical entertainment before a special service of **Candlemas** in church at 6.00pm.

## Wednesdays February 4, 11, 18, 25

**Holy Trinity Church**

1.00pm: **SOUNDBITES!** FREE 30-minute musical treat to suit all tastes. Refreshments served from 12.30pm.

## Fridays February 6, 13, 20, 27

**Parish Centre Lounge**

11.30am: Exploring Scripture with Canon David Ellis: *The Cross and the Resurrection in Isaiah*. A warm welcome to attend all or any of the sessions of this popular study series. (*See also Page 15*)

## Saturday February 7

**Holy Trinity Church**

7.00pm: An evening of Celebration, Worship and Thanksgiving with the **Revd Les Isaac**, founder of the **Street Pastors**. Followed by refreshments and AGM in the Methodist Church. (*See also Page 11*)

## Sunday February 15

**Parish Centre**

7.30pm: Faith in Film — **Skyfall**. Bond drops into Holy Trinity (*See Previous page*)

## Tuesday February 17

10am: Pre-Lent **Quiet Day**: a day of prayer and reflection led by the Revd Margaret Sweet beginning with Eucharist in church, then 5 Broad St

## Wednesday February 18

**Parish Centre**

2.00pm: Churchwomen's Group (*See also Page 38*)

## Friday February 20

**Parish Centre**

2.00pm: Click and Chatter — chat as you work on your favourite craft

## Saturday February 28

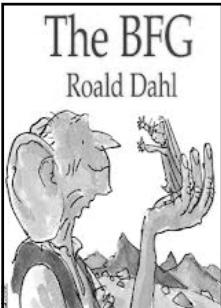
**Parish Centre**

11 am & 3pm: The BFG — Trinity Players' take on a children's favourite.

Listings correct at the time of going to press. For the very latest information be sure to check out the **What's On** pages on the new-look Holy Trinity Church website:

**[www.stratford-upon-avon.org/events/calendar](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/events/calendar)**

# WATCH OUT! THERE ARE GIANTS ABOUT ...and they eat children!



**TRINITY PLAYERS** have heard that four frightful fiends will be looking for a meal in Stratford-upon-Avon very soon, but don't worry; we are friends with **The BFG** and we know for a fact that he has a cunning plan to stop them, once and for all!

Adapted by David Wood from the story by Roald Dahl, **The BFG** will capture the imagination of children and their families as well as the young at heart of any age. Join us in the Parish Centre where we will transport you from Stratford to Giant Country and even to Buckingham Palace.

There are two performances: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There is no evening performance.



*Pete Cubitt as the Big Friendly Giant*

- **February 28 at 11am** – Coffee, Cake, Frobscottle and Snozzcumbers available from 10.30 am.
- **& 3pm** — tea, Cake, Frobscottle and Snozzcumbers available from 2.30 pm.

Tickets are £5. Children of primary school age and younger, with an adult, are welcome to come for free.

**URSULA RUSSELL**



## A date for your diary...

At the invitation of The Friends of the Music, the popular **Alcester Male Voice Choir** will be performing in concert at Holy Trinity on **Saturday May 17**. Admission free! Definitely one not to be missed.

# Churchwomen's Group



**N** January 21, our group was transported on a cargo boat to the north of South Africa by Brian Richardson. What a journey! He and his wife had taken a "taster" cruise to Poland which was much enjoyed — en suite cabin, lovely food and a very attentive staff.

The real journey, taking about five weeks, was very different.

On the outward voyage the ship transported huge machinery and chocolate. The return journey took in an area of water known for the presence of pirates, and the cargo was bananas in large containers.

Poor Mrs Richardson was ill but received good treatment in hospital while Brian, who suffered seasickness on the outward journey, wasn't much looking forward to the homeward leg. Thanks to "special pills" provided by the hospital, he enjoyed a sickness free return.

We did all enjoy the afternoon. If you haven't experienced the Churchwomen's Group, why not join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. You are sure of a warm welcome.

*ANN MORRIS, Group Leader*

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**R**esearch by Age UK has revealed that around a million older people in this country have not spoken to anyone for a whole month, while two in five describe the television as their main form of companionship. It is clear that there is a drastic need to reduce the levels of loneliness that are felt by a huge number of older people.

One simple and effective way to help is to provide a regular visitor, and

Age UK Warwickshire have set up a befriending service in our town with the support of Stratford Town Trust. The service works by matching a volunteer Befriender with an older person who needs

nothing more than a regular chat and to see a friendly face. With support always available from Age UK Warwickshire, the pair arrange get-togethers, discovering common ground and shared interests. For some, it might be a game of cards or working together on the crossword. For others, it could be finding the confidence to take a short trip out. For many, it is just the chance to have a cup of tea and a good chinwag.

Experience shows that this service is often treasured by the clients. One existing client told Age UK Warwickshire: "I was very lonely and felt isolated before I had a Befriender. Pat has given me confidence and I look forward to her visit. I had nothing before Pat came, now I have something to look forward to every week." But the benefits don't stop there, with the Befrienders also gaining an enormous sense of satisfaction and developing genuinely warm relationships with their clients. "I feel I get much more back than I give", says one volunteer. "To be greeted at the door with a smile tells me straight away my presence is so much appreciated."

Age UK Warwickshire would welcome enquiries from anyone who thinks they could spare a couple of hours a week to make a difference to the life of an older person in Stratford. There are no special skills or experiences required, just a positive and friendly attitude. Equally, if you think you (or somebody you know) might benefit from receiving the service, please do get in touch. The project co-ordinator, **Helen James**, is waiting to hear from you. Helen's phone number is 07788 317919 or email [helen.james@ageukwarks.org.uk](mailto:helen.james@ageukwarks.org.uk).



## Could **YOU** pop in for tea and a chat?

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# *From the EDITORIAL Team*

**P**arish magazines are usually fairly bland publications, not known for being controversial, but you never know, 2015 might see some changes when shortly there will be new kids on the editorial block (although we prefer to think that the magazine reflects its readers/contributors rather than its compilers).

Recent events in Paris have focussed world attention on the simple fact that the pen is mightier than the sword and that humour/satire is extremely powerful and influential. Readers will know that much of the humour in *Trinity Times* is about aspects of Christianity so we don't anticipate visits from Al Qaeda. As always your contributions are welcomed, but please let us have your copy well before

**Wednesday February 18.**

*Nous sommes Charlie!* Happy New Year,

Carolyn	550964	ubermutt@hotmail.com
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Pat	294423	pat.pilton@btinternet.com
Doreen Lees	268667	Magazine distribution/subscriptions
Brian Vince	299510	brian@vince51.fsnet.co.uk (Advertising)

.....

## *Quiz Answers ...*

As promised we are repeating the answers to Colin McDowall's Christmas Quiz which appeared in our December/January issue. The answers were inadvertently missed out of some copies:

1. Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed.
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem how sweet we see thee lie.
3. O Little One Sweet ,O little one mild.
4. O sisters too, how may we do.
5. Little Jesus sweetly sleep, do not stir.
6. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
7. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle store.
8. In Dulci jubilo let us our homage shew.
9. As with gladness men of old, did the shining star behold.
10. Good tidings I bring to you and your king. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Well done if you got them all!*

## The Holy Trinity Team



**Revd  
Patrick  
Taylor**

Vicar



**Revd  
Dr Steve  
Bate**

Associate  
Vicar



**Rachel  
Saum**

Pioneer  
Lay Minister



**Revd  
Nicki  
Chatterton**

Curate

## ASSISTANT MINISTERS (Honorary)

Revd Neville Beamer  
Revd Canon Andrew Dow  
Revd Canon David Ellis  
Revd Canon John Graty  
Revd Diane Patterson  
Revd Margaret Sweet  
Revd Graham Wilcox  
Revd Tony Boyd-Williams

# PARISH CONTACTS

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

## CLERGY:

Vicar  
Associate Vicar  
Pioneer Lay Minister  
Curate  
Assistant Ministers (Hon.)

The Revd Patrick Taylor	508155
The Revd Dr Stephen Bate	299195
Rachel Saum	07815793625
The Revd Nicki Chatterton	07769871237
The Revd Margaret Sweet	297395
The Revd Neville Beamer	263435
The Revd Tony Boyd-Williams	290488
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow	417852
The Revd Canon John Graty	298856
The Revd Diane Patterson	266453
The Revd Graham Wilcox	551759
The Revd Canon David Ellis	269409

## CHURCH:

Director of Music  
Head Verger  
Verger  
Verger  
Gift Shop

PARISH OFFICE:  
Parish Secretary  
Bookkeeper  
Parish Assistant

## CHURCH WARDENS:

Pro-Warden, All Saints'  
Pro-Warden, All Saints'  
Pro-Warden, St. Helen's  
Pro-Warden St. Helen's  
Baptism Team  
Bell Ringers  
Bereavement visitors  
Stratford Convalescent Home  
Safeguarding Administrator  
Churchwomen's Group  
Electoral Roll Officer  
Friends of the Music  
Friends of Shakespeare's Church  
Holy Trinity in the Community  
Junior Church  
Lay Chaplain Administrator  
Parish Information Officer  
Parish Prayer Diary  
PCC Secretary  
PCC Treasurer  
School Assembly Ministry  
Small Groups Ministry  
Stewardship Officer/Secretary  
Stratford Churches Together  
  
St Joseph's Homestead Trust  
Sunday Coffee  
Trinity Players  
Trinity Tots  
Welcome Team

Benedict Wilson	266316
Carolyn Smith	266316
Nigel Penn	266316
Pauline Day	266316
Rob Craven, Kevin Tomes	268484

Rosie Blumire	266316
Wendy Steinheimer	266316
Kevin Tomes	266316

Jane Hornby	263966
Lynne McCarthy	01926 642054
Mike Warrillow	298928
John Cohen	01926842751
Jane Beeley	269618
Roger Dopson	266610
Ann Simons	261558
Pauline Newbury	415603
Rachel Saum	07815793625
Charles Wilson	295467
Gina Lodge	204850
Anne Grey	415022
Mike Warrillow	298928
Ann Morris	266226
Tim Raistrick	509885
Jane Hornby	263966
Jonathan Drake	290128
Mike Milburn	262264
Sherron Guise	551086
Andrea Blood	266825
Patrick Pilton	294423
Andrea Blood	266825
Kath Parrington	268492
Anthony Woppard	204923
Val Milburn	262264
The Revd Dr Stephen Bate	299195
Chris Kennedy	299785
Sarah Gretton	205820
and Jane Armitage	297652
Chris Cornford	295066
Christine Cottrell	204273
Ursula Russell	204923
Val and Steve Bate	299195
Hilary Newman	296771
and Helen Warrillow	298928



## *A Midsummer Night's Dream Lodge*

Google A Midsummer Night's Dream Lodge or visit  
[www.statey-albion.co.uk/Lakewood](http://www.statey-albion.co.uk/Lakewood)

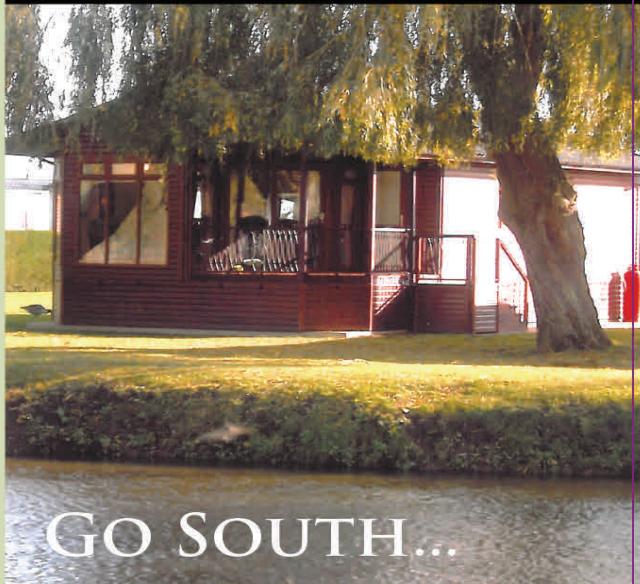
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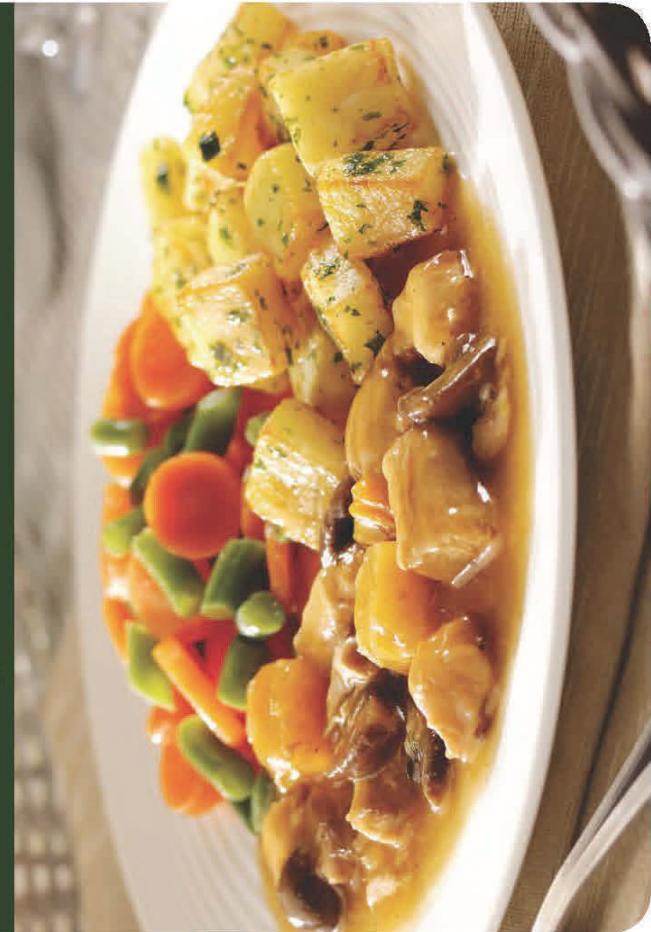
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