

TRINITY TIMES

JUNE 2015

60p

The Magazine For The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon



Photo: Harry Lomax



Patrick Writes

Page 4



Christianity at Work

Page 11



Walk of Witness

Page 15

Holy Trinity Church Stratford-upon-Avon

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

All Saints Church, Luddington

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This Issue...

Welcome to our first issue of *Trinity Times*.

Firstly, our thanks for all the generous help given to us over the last few months from Pat, Colin, Carolyn and Brian, to achieve an orderly change.

To mark the hand over we've made a few design changes—hopefully you'll like them?

As BBC Radio 2 presenters tend to say these days: “We have a packed programme for you.” Indeed we do, so let's get started.

The first of a new series called ‘Christianity at Work’ begins on page 11. The first feature is penned by Richard Hartley.

To celebrate *Trinity Times* Geoff and Doreen Lees are now hard at work on a history of the magazine. The first instalment can be read on page 33.

On page 15 a short piece about Good Friday's Walk of Witness, which was organised by Holy Trinity this year, under the leadership of the Revd Dr Steve Bate and Hilary Newman. All four clergy are contributing to this issue. Check out what they have to say on pages 4, 31, 35, and 41.

A new series about Holy Trinity's bells and bell-ringers, written by Deputy Tower Captain Jeanette Davey, begins on page 36.

Regular columnists, Anthony Woollard and Ed Mulryne, can be found on pages 9 and 21.

Kevin Tomes' new column is on page 19, which takes a look at the movie version of Captain America, and the Christianity therein.

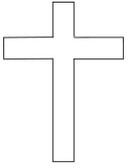
And that's just a few!

From the July issue there will be dedicated pages for the churches of Clifford Chambers and Luddington. A new series about Shakespeare's Clerics by the Revd Tony Boyd-Williams. A special feature about The Jesus People by Val Milburn. And not least a detailed piece about the St. Peter's Chapel Appeal by The Friends of Shakespeare's Church.

There will also be a new letters page. So get writing.

Steve & Hilary

The Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd Dr Steve Bate
Associate Vicar



Rachel Saum
Pioneer Lay Minister



Revd Nicki Chatterton
Curate

Editorial Team

Steve & Hilary Newman

Photos: Harry Lomax &
John Burgess

Advertising: Brian Vince

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Patrick Writes...



It's been said that if you want to find out what is most important in someone's life, there are just two places you need to look: their diary and their bank statements. Who, or what, we choose to spend our time and money on reveal a lot about our priorities in life. True, we often find ourselves with commitments for time and money that are not easily negotiable (work, mortgage etc) but even these may be the result of decisions we've taken in the past.

Jesus was clear about the link between our money and our motivation. He said, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12.34). When we feel strongly about something we don't hesitate to put time and money aside for it, for example for our family or friends. It's certainly difficult to argue that something (or someone) is important to us if we don't spend any time with them or are not prepared to help them out if they are in financial need.

In the coming weeks I am going to be asking the congregations in the parish to reflect on the amount each of us give to support the ministry of the church. We call this type of giving 'Stewardship' because it's about being good stewards of the resources God has given to us. Stewardship is a spiritual practice because when we give of our material resources to support the life and work of the church, then we are, in a real way, declaring the Good News of the abundant life we have in Jesus Christ. We are testifying with our money to a vision of the world that is not self-serving, but seeks the well being of others. That's why giving through Stewardship involves making a commitment to give a regular amount (either through a monthly standing order or via special coloured envelopes). This also has the advantage of allowing Gift-Aid to be claimed on what is given, which increases the amount we receive by 25%.

Stewardship is not about paying the bills or maintaining our church buildings. At Holy Trinity we are fortunate in that our visitors to Shakespeare's Grave and the Friends of Shakespeare's Church help to cover much of those sorts of costs. Rather, our regular, planned giving is what enables the ministry of the church to continue: it pays for our clergy, supports those who minister to the elderly and the young and anyone in need. It enables our worship to be enriched with beautiful music. We hope next year to be able to employ a Children and Families Worker to continue to the work of Rachel and Nicki in this area, but this can only happen if the current amount being given through Stewardship increases.

If you are not already part of our Stewardship scheme, can I ask you to give this serious consideration? Those who worship regularly at Holy Trinity and are not on the scheme should be receiving a letter soon from our Stewardship Officer, Chris Kennedy, with details of how to join. If you already give in this way, thank you for enabling the church to continue to grow and for making a statement about something that's important in your life.

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Worship in June

SUNDAY June 7th Holy Trinity *Trinity 1*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate
10.00am Family Communion – Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate
Parish Centre: Good News @ 10 – Talk Revd Patrick Taylor
6.00pm Churches Together at St.Gregory's (RC) – No Service in Holy Trinity

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship – Preacher Revd Jenny Rowland
All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion BCP – Preacher Revd Canon David Ellis

SUNDAY June 14th Holy Trinity *Trinity 2*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Joint Service with Methodists in HT) - Preacher Revd Helen Bell
6.00pm Choral Evensong – Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox
Parish Centre 7.00pm Open to God – Revd Dr Stephen Bate

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate
All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Canon John Graty

SUNDAY June 21st Holy Trinity *Trinity 3*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate
10.00am Parish Eucharist – Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton
6.00pm Evensong & Compline – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
Holy Trinity@Rosebird 9.30am – Revd Patrick Taylor

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Morning Worship – Preacher Revd Diane Patterson
All Saint' Luddington 9.15am Family Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Canon David Ellis

SUNDAY June 28th Holy Trinity *Trinity 4*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
10.00am Parish Eucharist – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
6.00pm Choral Evensong – Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate



Worship in June



After the excitement and celebrations of Eastertide and our Patronal Festival on Trinity Sunday at the end of May, we now enter the quieter period called "Ordinary Time" which lasts through the summer. But this is by no means a time when nothing happens as, after all, it's in the ordinary and every day that God is to be found and wants us to be living the life of the Gospel!

There are a few special services to watch out for this month, including:

4th June 7.30pm Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi). We celebrate the gift of Jesus present with us in bread and wine in this special Eucharist in the Chancel.

7th June 6pm Churches Together in Stratford service followed by the AGM, at St. Gregory's (RC) church. *No evening service at Holy Trinity on this day.*

14th June 10am Joint Service with the Methodist Church in Holy Trinity. We welcome our neighbours to join us for the Parish Eucharist. The preacher is the Methodist Minister, Rev. Helen Bell.

28th June 10am Nicki Chatterton's first celebration of the Eucharist following her ordination as Priest in the Cathedral the previous day (see pg. 41). We look forward to celebrating this important occasion with Nicki, and will continue the party at a bring and share lunch in the Parish Centre afterwards, to which everyone is invited!

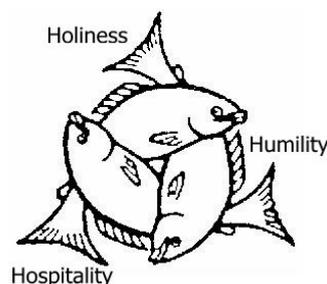
The following extra weekday celebrations of Holy Communion will take place to mark feast days at 9.15am in St. Peter's Chapel:

Monday 1st June Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Thursday 11th June St. Barnabas, Apostle

Monday 29th June St Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

Patrick



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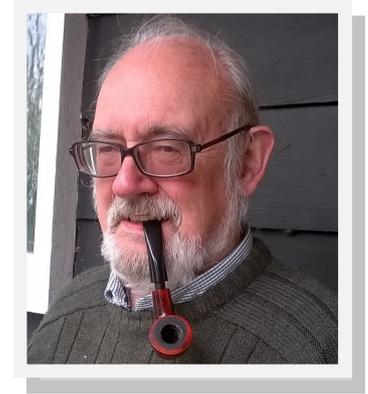
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Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World



There have been few developments in last month's news as dramatic as the unexpected result of the General Election.

In her intercessions on the previous Sunday, Miriam Dow rightly reminded us that there were many who were genuinely afraid of the outcome, whatever it might be. At that stage, what we faced was the prospect of an unstable Government, at a time when our nation and our world face growing challenges. Things turned out rather differently. There were clear winners (I put that in the plural because of Scotland) and clear losers. For some, that will be a cause for rejoicing; it was good that Patrick, in his sermon the following Sunday, reminded us of the dangers of the winners gloating over the losers, but the early signs were that everyone on all sides has behaved in a most dignified manner. For others, and perhaps for all of us, there will still be cause for fear, as we face huge issues about our relationship with the European Union, the integrity of the United Kingdom, and the future of our welfare system, to name but a few.

I was moved by many of the stories coming out of the other great news item of late April and early May, the Nepal earthquake. Where government failed, the people stepped in, and showed amazing resourcefulness and heroism. The grass roots are often more resilient, more responsive to the real challenges, than the national machinery. And in our own town the election hustings organised by Stratford Churches Together demonstrated that our citizens are by no means passive political fodder.

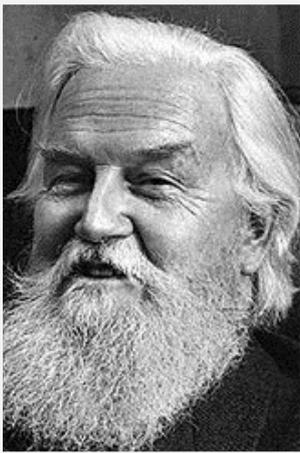
The 19th-century Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard famously said that faith is a matter of floating alone, on the open ocean, above 70,000 fathoms of water – and enjoying it. I disagree with Kierkegaard on a number of points, notably his absence of awareness of the power of Christian community. But it is at times like these that we become aware once again of the need for a venture of faith, both individual and communal.

On the night of the Election, the Novel Theology group held one of its best-ever meetings, considering *The Winter's Tale* under the guidance of Paul Edmondson: a dark and complex play which nevertheless ends in a kind of resurrection, and one to which we will in fact be returning this month by watching a DVD (please note change to advertised programme).

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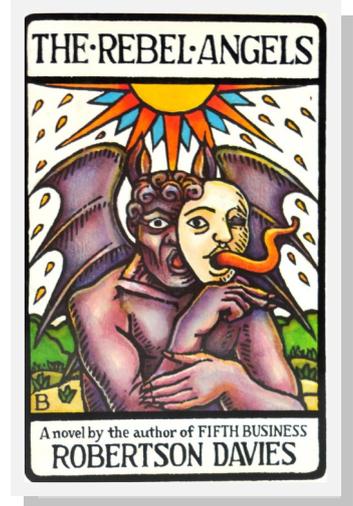
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I rather hope that, later in the year, the group might return to one of my favourite authors, the 20th-century Canadian novelist Robertson Davies. His novels, set firmly in the world which he knew, have a strong undercurrent of spirituality. Maybe not all of it is exactly orthodox. But, as in so much of Shakespeare, there is a deep sense of "God's rich tapestry", into which the little lives of individuals and communities are woven. The warp and the woof of that tapestry remain firm, however tortuous the progress of the individual threads.



It is a good image when we are faced with despair and defeatism, of which there are signs in our Church as well as some parts of our nation. I am not saying that we should opt for complacency instead; that can be just as bad. But defeatism is no way to respond to challenges which call, above all, for faith.

Robertson Davies (1913-1995)



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Christianity at Work

Richard Hartley—The Alpaca Collection



Little did I know that when I embarked on a 3 month sabbatical trip around South America, I would return with a totally different outlook on life. From Chartered Accountant to Sweater Salesman! The journey started in Venezuela and moved clockwise through most countries in that wonderful continent and ended up in Columbia. South America was very different then and I would urge anyone who has any intention of going to do it soon – otherwise they will not capture the fast disappearing traditional way of life. Modernity is taking over at an alarming rate.

For me, Rio and the Carnival were spectacular; the grandeur of Argentina; the glaciers of Chile; the sheer poverty of some of the communities in Bolivia; the fear of the Shining Path in Peru (a Marxist political organisation intent on throwing the Country into anarchy); the wonders of Machu Picchu; the out of this world experience of the Galapagos Islands. I was so lucky to experience it all. Then instantly this was all to change. There was a group of us travelling in a truck miles from anywhere and 3 hours from the nearest town. The track was unpaved and potholed, there were hedges and scrubs and we slowed down as there was a little boy wandering in the middle of our path. Suddenly armed bandits attacked us with rifles and grenades and we thought our time had come. There were 8 of them – 6 men and 2 young women – wearing camouflage outfits and looking pretty intent on achieving their aims. A gun was held to my head and lots of thoughts went through my brain – but I prayed and promised (I was not in much of a bargaining position) that were I to survive, I would try and help in some way the crafts people of Bolivia and Peru, I had seen their work and they were so talented but lived in such poverty and they and their families deserved far more than what was then on offer. They had few earthly riches but they could laugh and smile and be happy – something, it seemed to me, the West with all its riches had lost.

Suffice to say, the terrorists let us go – probably because there were too many of us and it would have caused an International incident. Later I learnt that they were captured and summarily executed without trial.

So with lots of birthing difficulties, The Alpaca Collection was born. You may see the shop on the corner of the Birmingham Road and Arden Street in Stratford. It is not only a shop though. It houses the offices and the warehouse of the company and it sells to 100 retail outlets in England and Europe as well as having concessions in various castles and visitor centres.

Continued on next page...

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But it has always followed its original intentions which are to support and encourage small communities in Peru and Bolivia. Two families in particular have, I hope, benefited from our ability of being able to sell their wonderful knitwear. One family lives in Cusco. Husband and wife team, Domingo and Nellie now employ around 30 knitters including those who are in prison in Cusco. I have visited this prison on a number of occasions and I have to say it is a pretty rough place but there is an area set aside for those that want to work and there is a group of about 30 prisoners whose cardigans pass through Stratford before ending up in retailers somewhere in Europe.

Domingo and Nellie have been able to build their own house and now they are able to finance their eldest daughter in her University course.

Another couple are Hernan and Juanita. A couple of years ago I was asked to cut the hair of their third son, Oscar. This was his first hair cut. I willingly obliged to cut this 2 year old's hair. It was so tough and so long that it was quite difficult. Anyway I did it, Oscar's parents beamed and I automatically became his Godfather – something at first I was reluctant to be but there was no choice. I am rather proud now to be the Godfather of South American boy!

Richard Hartley is a member of the congregation who owns and runs The Alpaca Collection .



Priscilla Henderson

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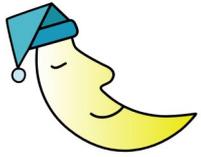
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A local couple celebrating their golden wedding anniversary have divulged their secrets for a long and happy marriage. When asked about tips for staying together for decades like they have, the couple said it was important to fall asleep while having an argument.

Gloucester Standard

From a BBC London traffic report: “The London cable car at Greenwich is currently suspended”.

Radio 4’s News Quiz

Photographer Simon Roberts was hired as an election artist to take digital images of campaigning politicians including David Cameron, Nick Clegg and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Other photographers have since been hired to shoot sitting MPs.

The Times

Classified Ad: Wedding dress for sale. Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.



“Politics it seems to me for all too long, has been concerned with right or left instead of right or wrong”

Richard Armour

“Do you ever get the feeling that the only reason we have elections is to find out if the polls were right.”

And Finally...

What did your teachers say about your progress at school? An example from the *Daily Telegraph*:

“My teacher observed: “The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.” - *Colin Sutherland, Switzerland.*



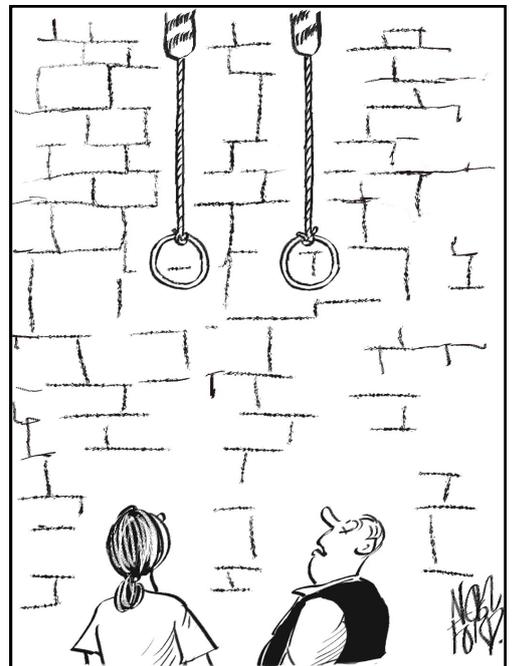
I saw this bloke shouting out: “Lambs for sale. Were £10 now £5.” I thought, that’s sheep at half the price.

Tim Vine

“My wife said: ‘Did you know butterflies only live for one day?’ I said: That’s a myth.’ She said: ‘No, it’s definitely a butterfly.’”

Tom Binns

Disgusted church warden: “I could eat alphabet soup and still preach a better sermon!”



“Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast.”



Walk of Witness

Steve Newman



Good Friday was a wet day but that didn't stop hundreds of people turning out for the annual Stratford Churches Together Walk of Witness, organised this year by Holy Trinity Church, under the leadership of the Revd Dr Steve Bate and Hilary Newman.

All the weeks of planning and preparation almost came to nothing a few days beforehand when it was discovered the hole in the middle of the traffic island at the top of Bridge Street was too small to take the cross. After more than a few telephone calls, and the gracious help of Charles Wilson, the new steel plate that had been fitted over the hole sometime last year, was removed to reveal the original hole! We were ready.

Early on the Friday morning Steve Bate and I positioned the Road Closed signs ready for use at each junction, and as Steve briefed the helpers I started putting together the public address system and the walkie-talkies, which were vital for the smooth running of the event.

It was then that the helpers started appearing, and the whole thing began to have a life of its own. It became different, and more meaningful. God was now in the detail.

And it was when John Southall-Webb arrived and volunteered to carry the cross—helped by his sons Charlie and Jack—that things took on a hugely emotional element, that reminded me of Nikos Kazantzakis's novel *Christ Recrucified*.

The service started with a prayer from the Revd Patrick Taylor, followed by a serial narrative between Jesus and a narrator (read by two members of the Baptist Church) that continued at every stop, backed up with some gusty, heartfelt singing, led by the Stour Concert Brass from Shipston, plus prayers from different local clergy.

Only when we all started to march away from Waterside—and it was still raining—did the Walk of Witness take on a life of its own, perhaps in the same way that Christ's own walk to Calvary must have done. It was unstoppable and, by the time we reached the library in Henley Street, it was a walk both of tears and joy.

When the walk came to an end just an hour after it started part of the town had almost come to a standstill, with lorry and car drivers almost unwilling to move. They had been touched deeply, as many in the crowd had been, by the power and simplicity of our Lord's agony; an agony that has saved us all.

The coming together in the Baptist Church, and the sharing of coffee and Hot Cross buns only deepened the feeling that had been generated by our coming together.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everybody who helped make sure this year's Walk of Witness happened, not least John, who, for an hour took on a real vision.

It even stopped raining!



A Farewell from Carolyn Smith

Holy Trinity's First Female Head Verger

“Be careful what you wish for” is a cliché, but sayings often become clichés because they have more than a grain of truth. In 2011, after more than 20 years in public relations and of commuting 3-4 hours daily, I certainly wished that a) I could earn my living by doing something different; b) I could be ‘head’ of something before I retired and c) I could walk to work – all of which seemed individually possible, but together in one package? Unlikely!

However Someone with a sense of humour must have been listening, because shortly afterwards the role of Head Verger at Holy Trinity became vacant when the previous incumbent, John Ormrod, left to become a curate in Wales. The job was certainly different (from most jobs, as it turned out), it had ‘Head’ in the title and, as an Old Town resident, I could walk to work in five minutes. The job description and person specification asked for skills I believed to be transferable from my career to date. The only downside was that the pay was half what I was currently earning – nevertheless, despite being sure I wouldn’t get it, I felt drawn to apply.

And I got the job – the first woman to be appointed as a Verger at Shakespeare’s Church in 800 years. Luckily John was able to spend a month handing over and I did my training ‘on the job’. I have never had to absorb so much information in so short a time, but I found I really enjoyed it, with John’s support. When he left, however, aspects of the role, particularly setting up for and taking part in services, were terrifying! I remember waiting to process in with Revd David Banbury – literally shaking with nerves. “All reet?” enquired that Northern cleric. “Suppose so...” I faltered. “No worries! If in doubt, bow!” was the rejoinder, accompanied by a playful punch on the arm. It helped.

The role could more accurately have been described as Head Verger, Parish Administrator, Head of Communications and Anything Else Anyone Decides To Throw Your Way. It has been a fascinating, exciting, enlightening, exhausting, occasionally infuriating, frustrating roller-coaster ride of a job. I can’t imagine I will ever do anything like it again – and neither will anyone else, as it is now three jobs.

It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to assist the clergy, playing a background part in the important events of people’s lives, such as weddings, funerals and ash burials, as well as regular services. Some of these stand out for a variety of reasons: there was the wedding where a small guest deposited an astonishing amount of vomit in front of the North Porch – exactly where the bride, with her long train, and groom would be walking out in around five minutes (the boy’s father and I managed to clear it up in three). At another, Goth – inspired, the bride was attired in full Victorian mourning black including crêpe veil, with her husband-to-be dressed as a 19th century Mississippi gambler. There was the funeral of an international film star, with many equally famous attendees and the need to keep the paparazzi away (we were successful); and another funeral, the church just as packed, of a teenager who hadn’t had time to make his mark in the world before the car accident that claimed his life and those of the friends travelling with him.

Some services were personally rewarding, such as the wedding of a long-serving member of staff and another of a valued volunteer... and others, like the funeral following the unexpected death of a much-loved colleague, deeply distressing.



Revd Patrick Taylor & Carolyn Smith

Continued from previous page...

If I thought I had got away from a press and PR role, I was wrong. Almost immediately I was involved in BBC Songs of Praise, a massive undertaking that involved closing the church for four days and the construction of lighting rigs and a camera crane, dry ice in the sanctuary and an X Factor winner singing *Little Drummer Boy*; then later the filming of *Jedward's Big Adventure* (Google them!) both inside and outside the church; filming by Tony Robinson for Channel 4's *Time Team* and recordings by many other regional, national and international film, TV and radio companies. I have been interviewed numerous times on behalf of the church (many requests seemed to come in on Fridays, the clergy's day off).

Sitting on the chancel desk or covering in the shop, I was honoured to meet a huge cross-section of people from all over the world, and from all walks of life.

And that's just the church part of the job. On the admin side, I was line manager for up to 10 staff and ultimately responsible for – well, just about everything not handled by the Vicar, clergy and church wardens, to put it briefly.

It has been wonderful to work alongside the dedicated paid staff, in both church and office, and the many volunteers who give their time so generously to help keep the church open and looking beautiful all year round. I was also lucky to work for not one, but three Vicars, all supportive line managers – thank you, Martin, Steve and Patrick.

Speaking of luck, I've had more than my fair share. Just as the Head Verger post appeared unexpectedly, so did an interesting new opportunity with a heart charity – almost immediately after my decision to take redundancy rather than one of the new roles created following the staff review. It's going well so far; at the time of writing, I'm about to visit our stand at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth...a tough job, etc.

The saddest thing about leaving a place of work is often losing touch with valued colleagues. Again, I'm lucky: as a continuing member of the congregation since 1998 (when our daughter Clara joined the choir), it's great to know that I will still be seeing my many friends at Holy Trinity. I'm also looking forward to continuing to contribute to Trinity Times, now with Steve and Hilary, and to being part of the future development of Holy Trinity under Patrick's able leadership.

I wish the new Parish Manager, Head Verger and Marketing and Development Officer every success and happiness in their new roles.

Thanks to everyone for their generous presents, cards and good wishes. See you in church!

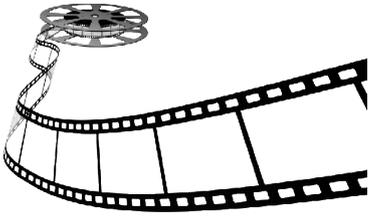
Carolyn Smith



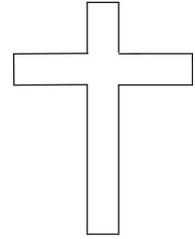
EXPLORING SCRIPTURE

Dr Kenneth Bailey has spent most of his life among Bedouin tribal folk in the Middle East and is an expert in Aramaic, the language used by Jesus. He has written a number of books which take a fresh look at the Gospels through Middle Eastern eyes and provide new insights into the cultural meaning of the parables. He shows how most of the parables in St Luke's gospel were in the form of poetry which could easily be committed to memory and passed on to mainly illiterate people and how each poem has a particular way of emphasising the chief point it aims to express.

'Exploring Scripture' on Friday mornings in June (plus the first Friday in July) will use Dr Bailey's approach to some of the parables. The sessions, led by David Ellis, are in the Parish Hall from 11 am – 12.30 pm. All are very welcome. Each session is separate, so come to one or come to all. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June and 3rd July.



Faith in Film



In this the 150 anniversary year of the ending of the American Civil War, and the assassination of Lincoln, it is appropriate to show Steven Spielberg's extraordinary film *Lincoln* for June's Faith in Film.

Made in 2012, and starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Lincoln, this immensely moving film takes you over from the first half dozen frames of Janusz Kaminski's beautiful cinematography, recreating the smokey, net curtained White House of 1865.

The film concentrate's on Lincoln's strivings to convince a war-ravaged America's bitterly divided government to abolish slavery.

To quote Christopher Hitchens review of Michael Burlingame's *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*:

"It has become fashionable to say that Lincoln was not, or was not 'really' a believer in black-white equality. A thread that runs consistently through Burlingame's narrative is that of self-education on this question to the eventual point where Lincoln came as close to an egalitarian position that made almost no difference. Even the infamous discussion about the post-war expatriation of black Americans to 'colonies' in Africa or on the American isthmus was conducted...with very strict regard on Lincoln's side for the dignity and stature of those who fate he was discussing."

And it is this dignity and stature that comes across most strongly in this incredible film.

Steve Newman

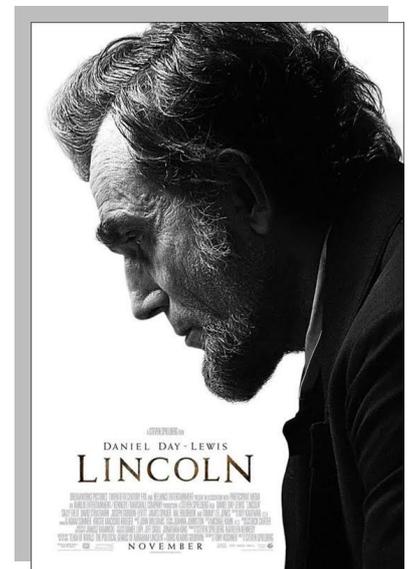


Faith in Film
Sunday June 21st
7.30 pm
Parish Centre Lounge

Novel Theology

The group usually meets on the first Thursday of the month to discuss theological themes and significance within novels. This month, on the 10th, they will be watching a DVD of *The Winter's Tale*.

Contact: Anthony Woollard 01789 204923



Kevin Tomes' Page

CAPTAIN AMERICA & CHRISTIANITY

Avengers Assemble



Just as Steve's 'Captain America' Rogers is about to leap out of a plane to tackle the Asgardian Loki in Marvel Film's '*Avengers Assemble*', his teammate Natasha 'Black Widow' Romanov, warns him: "These guys come from legends! They're basically gods!"

Cap quickly replies: "There's only one God, Ma'am, and I'm pretty sure he doesn't dress like that!"

It's easy to record that line as a quick, throwaway joke in an otherwise big, dumb action film, but I think that it's pretty important. That line is the first time Cap confirms his faith to the audience (beyond the implication of it, what with him being a 2nd generation Irish immigrant who grew up in Brooklyn, New York in the 1920's), and I like to think that it also demonstrates the strength of his faith – in order to explain that, however, I'll have to provide a bit of a protracted anecdote.

I'm a fan of the TV show *Arrow*, another superhero show. I love that show, especially the 1st series, however - I don't love it for the reasons the show wants me to. *Arrow* Season 1 is monumentally stupid, incredibly shallow and completely, gloriously, unaware of these two things. It earnestly believes that it is providing a dark, gritty, action/crime drama, utterly failing to recognise the completely idiotic decisions its main characters make. It is wonderful. But when I first watched it I was, actually, quite concerned by the glaring plot holes I saw, and the bizarre character actions portrayed in it. I went online to a couple of fan websites to voice my concerns, and to see if anyone else saw them. One website, however, took exception to my observations.

Within hours I'd been called a 'troll' a 'hater', I was told that if I didn't like it then I shouldn't watch it and before I knew it, my account was closed and I was blocked from the site. It was a pretty bizarre experience, but not one that was repeated. Other sites were much more accommodating, and many of whom agreed with my observations, it was through them that I learned how to appreciate the show in the way I do now, I understand the show has gotten better in the more recent series, something that I actually am sad about. I wanted it to get dumber.



Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

So what happened on that one site? Well, I believe it's because that site wasn't run by fans so much as it was full of fanatics. (and yes, I know the word 'fan' derives from 'fanatic' but bear with me). I, as a fan, love a thing, faults and all (in this case, *because* of its faults) a fanatic loves their own idealised version of a thing – so much so, in some cases, that they make their love of a thing the basis of their whole life or identity – so the criticism of the thing becomes a criticism of them – hence the negative reaction I got. While what I was saying to them was: "Hay, look at this dumb thing the show does" what effectively they heard was "Hay, look at this dumb thing you are dedicated to."

So how does this apply to Captain America and his Christianity? I'll admit this is a very personalised interpretation and not everyone will see it the way I do but here it is: I struggle with my faith, however, it's still with me. I still have it regardless of the many criticism of it that I am well aware of. However, I believe that by exploring the weaker points, embracing that criticism - and learning from it—you can develop further. You can't truly love a thing unless you love its weaknesses as well. A fanatic, who ignores or shuts down criticism does neither the thing they love, nor themselves any good. You can't grow if all you have is the idealised version of a thing that literally only exists in your own head. I appreciate and acknowledge and almost envy the casual way Cap addresses his faith. He doesn't proclaim his faith, he *lives* it. He doesn't need to tell people that he is a Christian because his actions demonstrate it. He is so at ease with his Christianity that, as demonstrated by that line at the start of this article, he is barely fazed by teaming up with a guy who can summon storms, flip a truck with one hand and fly. *

** Thor can't actually fly - he throws his hammer really hard and hangs on. Yes, really.*



Kevin is your Parish Assistant and can be found either in the Parish Office, or the church.

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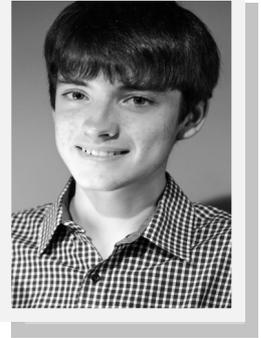
Tel: 01789-267035 (24 hours)

34 Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6EE

Ed Mulryne's Page



A Beautiful, Wonderful Thing...



My weekend begins on Friday evening. As soon as I'm home from school I toss my tie out of the window, jump into my pink kimono and put my feet up in time for 'The One Show'. Alright, none of that is true. That was my attempt to come across as an average citizen. You're welcome.

Alas, I could never be so bold. However, it is the truth that I always look forward to a certain thing on Friday evenings. A wonderful, beautiful thing that marks, for me, the beginning of the weekend.

Compline. Yes – Compline. Compline's brilliant. After choir practice (which is also brilliant, but not brilliant in the way Compline is) a small group of us singers gather in the chancel to sing, led by the smooth, golden tones of the very capable Tim Raistrick, a man who needs no introduction. Joined by a small congregation, usually consisting of around four or five people, we sing the traditional plainchant exactly in the way the monks would have done all those years ago. I have to say – those monks really knew a thing or two about throwing a party.

What I love about Compline is its simplicity. Gone is the glitz and glamour of Sunday morning Eucharist or Choral Evensong. Everything is stripped down, even the singers, who wear plain old cassocks. Standing in the dimly lit chancel singing such beautiful words, in unison, in front of a few people feels special and rather moving. Intimacy and simplicity; no nonsense.

I mentioned Mr Raistrick earlier. It's now time for me to grovel. Tim is one of the reasons why Compline remains a special part of our church. I cannot – and yes, this phrase does tickle me so I'm putting it in anyway – sing his praises highly enough. Strong and authoritative, his interpretations of the ancient text – 'for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light' a particular highlight for me – never cease to send a chill down the spine. My spine, that is. I cannot claim to speak on behalf of the spines of others, but if they experience anything other than a chill when Herr Raistrick delivers such wondrous sounds to us, they must be a fool. Or deaf.

Now, I don't want this to sound like a review or shameless advertising...but that's exactly what this has turned into. I'm not ashamed. The more people I can spread the word to, the better. I know it may seem terribly wasteful to drag yourself away from the house to go and listen to 15 minutes of traditional plainchant when you should be at home watching 'The Clare Balding Show' or 'Slow Train through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones'. But believe me, if you can make it to the church for 8:40pm on a Friday night, it will be well worth the sacrifice.

A Somerset Retreat



Anne Blair



Reflections on my Silent Lent Retreat at Lee Abbey

People might say “silent Anne “ is an oxymoron but it was such a wonderful experience, and not difficult at all.

The house stands in 280 acres of glorious countryside. The staff are supportive and caring, and 500 words are inadequate to tell you how special the retreat was.

There were 50 people of various ages and experiences. No TV or radio, but the accommodation and meals were far from Spartan! My room looked down to the sea across fields of lambs “safely grazing”, and I spent many hours in peaceful contemplation with that view; seen also from the sitting room, library, and grounds.

After a convivial dinner getting to know each other, we had our first session with Becky, the retreat leader, and met the clergy and support team, who were always available for counselling and prayer, Becky gave us the format for the days and suggested ways to utilize our time to best advantage. Nothing was compulsory but everyone attended everything to maximize the experience.

Silence enveloped us. We went to Compline then slept.

The next day set the pattern . Early tea, Communion in the chapel, breakfast, morning session with Becky, who offered suggestions and thoughts for the day. Free time to walk by the sea, wander the gardens and woods, carpeted with spring flowers. Reading in the extensive library, our room or by the log fire in the sitting room. Lunch, more free time. A second session with Becky. Each day a different worship service and contemplative time together. Dinner, Compline, bed.

This gave our days a peaceful serenity, into which was built as much flexibility as each person needed. The silence was never oppressive but companionable, people smiled as they passed or sat together. We were safe and cared for physically and spiritually. Free to explore how each would find our own path of prayer and meditation.

In the beautiful room where we held services and group meetings hung a reproduction of Raphael’s Madonna and Child, which I always sat opposite, and found great tranquillity there.

We did practical meditation, using swirling patterns on a beautiful Celtic cross, a “finger labyrinth” and written prayer exercises. The days gently passed us by.

After our last session with Becky we were able to break the silence, but no one wanted to, and we held it until our final service and anointing. Then a joyous dinner, and a spot of stargazing on a wonderful clear night, with a professional astronomer.

The hallmarks of the week were peace and joy in equal measure, before leaving we booked next year.

It was the week before Holy week, a perfect time to return to our churches. It had been a deeply spiritual experience. Every day I find an aspect of the retreat drawing me further down the road of understanding the Life giving Spirit of the Risen Christ we receive in the Eucharist, and I am grateful.

Rona & John Baugh

**A
DIAMOND
ANNIVERSARY
28TH MAY 2015**



“Joy and woe are woven fine; a clothing for the soul divine.”

Faith, hope, mutual love and dependency are the key ingredients for a successful marriage, according to John and Rona Baugh.

As regular churchgoers all their lives, they decided to attend Evensong at Holy Trinity when they moved to Stratford 42 years ago (Canon Barnes was the Vicar at the time). As devotees of the Book of Common Prayer, Evensong is their preferred service, especially as they are both members of the Prayer Book Society. They also enjoy the musical tradition of Evensong, particularly as they have been involved in music all their lives. Since qualifying at the age of 19, Rona has had a career performing (including on television) and teaching the piano, thus following in the footsteps of several generations of her family. Both Rona and John are delighted that their only grandchild, Rebekah, is also following this tradition. John too, a retired sales executive, has had a lifelong interest in music, and the couple formed a Gilbert & Sullivan Society in Birmingham, and did likewise on moving to Stratford.

John became an intercessor at the request of Revd Dennis Spiller, a role he was happy to accept, and one that continued for many years and into Revd Holliday’s ministry. Rona has enjoyed playing for services at Melville House and still at Briar Croft.

Sadly, the couple’s marriage got off to a rocky start after Rona’s father died immediately before the wedding was due to take place. Consumed by grief, the wedding was postponed, but her father did actually see her in her wedding dress the day before he died. John and Rona married several weeks later at Quinton Parish Church, Birmingham, setting up home in the same area, before moving to Stratford in 1973.

Rona and John have two children, a son and daughter, and are thankful that God has blessed them with a long and happy marriage. Their faith has been a great comfort to them, and they have appreciated the prayers of the Holy Trinity congregation over their recent difficult months due to illness.

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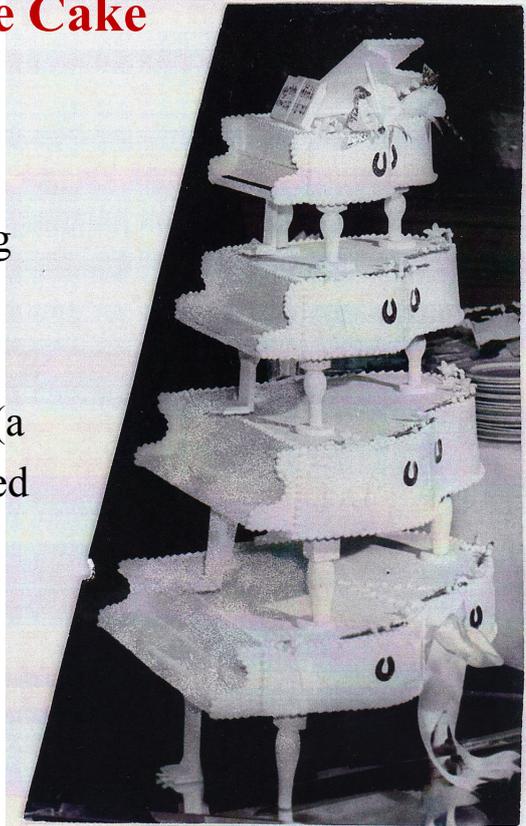
A Diamond Anniversary...cont'd The Cake

"If music be the food of love..."

For their wedding reception, a Birmingham Catering College lecturer created this amazing four tier 'grand piano', the top tier having the correct number of keys, and a miniature score of 'Love Divine'. A retired Stratford lecturer (a pupil of the original cake maker) has re-created similar cakes for Rona and John's Silver and Golden Weddings, and will re-create the top tier for their Diamond Wedding.

Hilary Newman

Very many congratulations...



Hospitality Teas

Hospitality Teas will be served in Holy Trinity church from May 30th.

Saturdays from 2.30-4.30pm, and Sundays from 2.00-4.00pm.

If you would like to volunteer your help as baker or server please contact

Ursula Russell on 01789 204923



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A Brief Report of the APCM Meeting Sunday April 19th 2015

Valentine Smith



Patrick opened proceedings, and, with no matters arising from the last meeting went to the selection of Church Wardens. A vote was taken.

Patrick then gave thanks to John Cohen, the outgoing Church Warden, inviting him to say a few words.

John thanked everyone and reminisced about the pleasures and responsibilities of the role and then listed the ways in which working with a new vicar is similar to driving a new car. John will be missed in his Churchwarden role.

The Parish charities' accounts for the last year created a low income, and not much expenditure, so not much to report from Anthony Woollard. The accounts were proposed, seconded and passed.

With voting complete, the Churchwardens for 2015 are: Jane Hornby, Lynne McCarthy, Tim Raistrick and Mike Warrillow.

The PCC section of the APCM was then discussed, with the minutes of the last meeting accepted and signed, with no matters arising.

Electoral Roll officer Tim Raistrick reported that numbers on the roll were down from 412 to 409. Of those, 120 are non-Parish residents, with 34% of the whole men, which is down from last year.

The PCC met 6 times in the year, with an 86% attendance. Thanks were offered to Kath and Anthony for putting the report together.

Then onto the Church accounts, with a report from Anthony Woollard explaining that income has risen slightly, but that the villages have had more problems raising funds.

Mike Warrillow reported on the financial aspects of the South Side development, details of which can be read in the PCC report on pages 29 and 30 of this issue of Trinity Times.

Patrick gave thanks to those who had organised the meeting, the clergy team, the wider ministry team, and the retired clergy, with a special thanks to Tony Boyd Williams who is retiring.

Chris Kennedy referred to his report on Stewardship. Patrick also mentioned the importance of stewardship.

Mike reported that the general fabric and ornaments of the church are in good order; however the quinquennial report lists 250 items that need attention, with many needing attention in the next 12 months. There was a good report on Health and Safety and the Deanery Synod. Patrick thanked Pat Pilton and Colin McDowall, both stepping down after 10 years editing Trinity Times, and introduced Steve and Hilary Newman as the new editors.

Patrick continued by thanking the sidesmen for their hard work over the year. He also thanked Chris Cotterell, who is stepping down from organising the tea and coffee. He also thanked the office and church staff, represented at the meeting by Head Verger Carolyn Smith. He also gave thanks to Kath Parrington for her work as Secretary to the PCC.

Ronnie Mulryne, Chairman of the Friends, described his forthcoming presentation on the St. Peter's Chapel appeal of which there will be a full report in the July issue of Trinity Times.



Trinity Players Production of Frank Beetham's Andromeda

A Review by Ronnie Mulryne
The Guild Chapel 16th May 2015

One admirable aspect of The Trinity Players under the direction of Ursula Russell is the company's readiness to meet challenges and take risks. Saturday's two performances of *Andromeda* might be seen as a revival, merely, of the highly successful showing of the same play more than two years ago in Holy Trinity. But the Guild Chapel offers an entirely different space from the Church, with contrasting audience-actor relationships, a quite unusual 'stage' and acoustic properties that can only be described as difficult – even by comparison with the Church. It is a tribute to the experience and adaptability of Ursula and her company that these difficulties were met and to a very large extent overcome. The space between the Chapel's two banks of pews became a traverse stage, movement was adapted to these circumstances, and intensive vocal training ensured that almost all the often packed and allusive dialogue came across clearly.



The abiding image of the production was that of Andromeda (Bryony Purse), chained almost throughout in front of a pillar supporting the Chapel's chancel arch. The play's story is simple enough: Andromeda is chained by order of King Cepheus her father, as a sacrifice to appease a Monster threatening a whole community. This production makes vivid the girl's terrible plight – the chains are real enough, are pulled tight, and clank ominously when moved – but the actress's skill in conveying her extreme situation by voice and facial expression are the features that decisively bring the experience alive. This is fine acting. Moreover, when she is released through the intervention of the hero Perseus (James Cushing), the two discover a stage chemistry that makes their sudden love real.

Soundscape was important to this show. A notable feature was the music composed and played by Sam Bridges on the chapel's newly-installed organ. This conveyed wonderfully well the eerie sense of inevitability that characterises the non-human threat to King Cepheus' land. Members of the cast sang some of the text, most notably Sarah Cushing, with fine contributions also by James Cushing and Bryony Purse. The sound of the sea, ubiquitous in the text, and mysteriously connected with the unseen monster, was heard throughout.

There were excellent performances by leading characters including Tim Raistrick, unrecognisable as the grand and be-whiskered King, by Steve Newman in his extended, thankless but vital role as Messenger, and by Margot McCleary as the appropriate *dea ex machina* for this show: Athene, enigmatic goddess of wisdom. James Cushing's almost casual assumption of his role as legendary hero, while also performing as a recognisable young adventurer, reinforced the sense of perplexity an audience feels – who or what governs this play's events? what is the meaning of Medusa's head in a bag? There were



beautifully focused performances from other members of the cast: Hilary Newman (Nurse), Helen Warrillow (Andromeda's Friend) and Orion Johnson (another Friend), who conjures a convincing personality out of a few clues in the text.

Tim Raistrick Orion Johnson Hilary Newman Helen Warrillow & James Cushing
Photos: John Burgess



Soundbites

Soundbites is a series of FREE lunchtime recitals, lasting 30 minutes and held weekly on Wednesdays at 1pm in Holy Trinity Church. Organised by The Friends of the Music, the series features a varied programme of music. Sandwiches and drinks available to buy from 12.30pm. Money raised will help The Friends of the Music support the music of Holy Trinity Church.



JUNE'S DIARY

Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th June 1.00pm—Soundbites—Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 4th June 7.00pm—Summer Choral Concert—Holy Trinity Church. Tickets available from the church shop.

Sunday 7th June 8.00pm—A Fundraising Concert for The Friends of Shakespeare's Church—Holy Trinity Church. Stratford Chamber Choir and a visiting choir from Germany. Tickets at the door.

Saturday 13th June 7.30pm—Trinity Players Present *Saturday Night in The Lounge*—Parish centre. Free entry

Sunday 21st June 7.30pm—Faith in Film Presents *Lincoln* a film by Steven Spielberg—Parish Centre. Free entry

Saturday 27th June 5.00pm— Nicki Chatterton's ordination at Coventry Cathedral. See page 41 to book coach tickets.

Church Mice



A Report of the PCC Meeting

12th May 2015

Ruth Langdon



Work to extend the 'South Side' will begin in July after the PCC took what has been described as "probably the biggest decision in its history".

After more than 6 years of design and planning, considerable consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Council, English Heritage, and Council for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, twenty PCC members (7 apologies) overwhelmingly agreed to proceed with the project - despite hearing there would be a significant financial shortfall.

Church Warden Mike Warrillow had asked the group to think 'carefully and prayerfully' about the Standing Committee's proposal to recommend a single contract in two consecutive phases. The Reverend Patrick Taylor also added, "as Trustees of the Church, we need to make this decision responsibly and weigh up all the facts."

There were no votes against the proposal and only one abstention.

Phase 1: South Side Extension

Phase 2: South Transept Gable and St Peter's Chapel

Mike explained that the PCC originally agreed to finance the extension and only proceed with the second phase when the Friends of Shakespeare's Church had raised the money. However, a single contract would save on management costs and provide a more favourable price.

Treasurer Anthony Woollard supported the plan. "The contractor has agreed that if by a certain date the Friends have not raised the money, we can instruct the architect to close down the rest of the contract, and we will not be under any legal obligation to pay the remainder - though no doubt there will be some small financial penalties.

"It still remains the case that this is undoubtedly the biggest responsibility this PCC has ever taken in financial terms. But this is responsible risk that has been very carefully thought through - not least the ongoing daily checks I make on the church accounts. It has taken years of work to get comfortably to this point."

Congregational pledges

The PCC also heard options for financing the shortfall, including seeking further grants and loans. The total sum of the work including Phase 2 amounts to £635,000. But church accounts are forecast to have around £575,000.....£60,000 adrift of what is needed to complete the project.

Anthony said "we're looking at every opportunity to secure our future as best we can. We're seriously thinking about going to the congregation for loans. In fact around £30,000 has been offered interest free already if needed. But it would be helpful to have more. And we could feasibly repay this kind of loan by the autumn next year."

The PCC supported the idea in principal, of approaching the congregation for interest free 'loans'.

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Children and Families Worker

A proposal to appoint a Children and Families worker (focused on children aged 0 to 11 - preschool and primary school age - and their families) was warmly received. Holy Trinity is currently enjoying a growing ministry in this area, largely due to Rachel Saum's work to establish and develop the Holy Trinity@Rosebird service and by the newly formed Junior Church and GoodNews@10 services run by Nicki Chatterton.

Patrick said "Rachel is due to leave next year when she is ordained and Nicki must be given some freedom to develop her ministry in other areas as she progresses through her curacy. We are therefore in danger of finding that in just over 12 months there will be no one to provide leadership and coordination of this vital area of parish ministry."

Pledge an extra £1 per week to make a real difference

There was some discussion about funding for the Children and Families Worker post. It's estimated that income from planned giving (Stewardship) would need to increase by at least £10,000 to cover the cost.

Patrick added "Stewardship is about supporting ministry. People should consider seriously giving and I would urge people to give so they notice it. We will be asking the congregation to review their giving this summer with consideration to this new post, and encourage those not on the scheme to sign up. An extra £1 per week for each existing member of the scheme would cover it. And that's not including those not already signed up."

Organisational review

Patrick updated the PCC on the organisational review and restructure of staffing at Holy Trinity. He said there had been 8 applications for the Parish Manager position and the post had been offered to one of the candidates. Patrick hopes to make a formal announcement on an appointment, subject to references, by the end of June. Recruitment for Head Verger and Marketing and Visitor Development Officer was ongoing.

Who's who & New PCC Members

Tim Raistrick will be taking over from John Cohen as the new churchwarden for Holy Trinity, following his election at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

A warm welcome was offered to the following new members of the PCC: Paul Talbot, who will also join the Holy Trinity in the Community team. Esther Rambaud, will also join the Children and Families team, and Martin Corfield, who will also join the Liturgy and Worship team, and Paul Stanton, who represents Luddington.

The Choir of Holy Trinity



The choir's new CD *A Year at Shakespeare's Church –English Choral Music* now available to pre-order from the Church's website or the Church Shop.

Spring Harvest 2016—Game Changers



Steve Bate



Val and I are arranging another trip to Spring Harvest at Butlins, Minehead in 2016.

Would you like to join us?

This Christian gathering has a programme of events with plenty to do for all ages. Essential information about accommodation and costs can be found in a leaflet available at the back of church.

Further details of the activities, the theme and full details of the types of accommodation and dining packages can be found on the Spring Harvest website:

<http://www.springharvest.org/>

Alternatively, ask one of us for a brochure.

There is a choice of week and venue. We will be booking places at Minehead One, which takes place just after Easter, from Monday 28 March to Saturday 2 April.

The theme for 2016 is 'Game Changers.' The organisers say "God is the ultimate Game Changer. We want to create space to encounter him. Through that encounter we become a team of game changers in our society, transforming communities in the name of Jesus. God is at work, constantly doing new things by the power of his Spirit. The exciting question is: do we want to join him? In every circle of our influence, his presence makes us game changers. Together, we can change the world."

Val will phone to make a group booking on 24 June so she will need to have people's choices of accommodation and deposit by Sunday 21 June.

Booking opens at 8.00 am. Last year Val couldn't get through until 8.30 am by which time the few two berth chalets had gone. We advise that you find a group of four or six people who are happy to share accommodation. Each unit has one double bedded room and twin bedrooms. There are some eight berth units available.

If you're interested in joining us and would like to know more, do talk to one of us, phone 299195 or email valbate@aol.com.

Trinity Tots

For The Under 5s



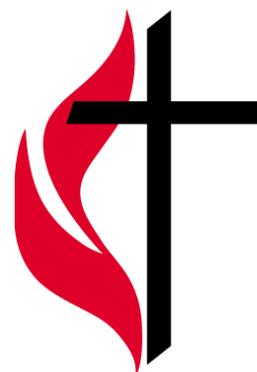
Trinity Tots meets every Thursday at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre Hall during term time. We need more volunteers so we can continue to supply this service to young families. If you can help please contact Steve or Val Bate. 01789 299195



Preparing Young People For a Journey

Part 1

David White



It was the Winter of 1959, in Stratford.

My Mother said to me "Our church is running a confirmation course. You attend on Sundays, you're in the choir, and you're a bell-ringer (St Andrews, Shottery, only had one bell). I've put your name down on the list with the Vicar!"

That was it – I was getting confirmed, like it or not – Mother had spoken. I remember eventually being confirmed by Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley at Holy Trinity Church, but little, if anything about the 'training course'. At the time, if I'm honest, I don't think I was ready to be confirmed!

Imagine my surprise, when a couple of months ago, Revd Patrick pulled me to one side and said that my name had come up at a clergy meeting. *Sharp intake of breath – had I done something wrong perhaps?*

Not this time it seemed, because his next comment stopped me in my tracks!

"We think you're the right person to help prepare a small group of youngsters for confirmation this year. The Confirmation Service takes place on Sunday 17th May in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, conducted by the Rt Revd. Dr. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry."

Preparing young people for a personal journey through life, with Jesus by their side, is not something to be taken lightly! But I am determined that these youngsters will stand before the Bishop with a better understanding of confirmation than I had in 1959!

Rachel Saum, as always, has been an inspiration! I'd spent hours preparing a PowerPoint presentation as the basis for the course, and in one afternoon over coffee, she and I knocked the course into shape.

With a few more tweaks, I presented the final package to Revd Patrick and his clergy team at the Vicarage. We decided which member of the clergy team would support me on each of the six weekly sessions. I had the 'green light' and could start confirmation training!

On Tuesday 28th March, with Revd Steve Bate helping me, we welcomed our five young people to the course, at the Parish Centre, with drinks and mini-chocolate rolls. We introduced ourselves to each other and then I ran through the course content, outlining what we'd be doing on each of the six sessions.

During the course candidates will gain an insight into the meaning of confirmation; their personal responsibilities and commitments, discuss the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and explain and examine the Bible: its origins and how to relate it to life today.

Then we will explain why Holy Communion is such a fundamental part of Christianity. Finally how to live as a good Christian, understanding the importance of regular prayer and worship. Next time you can read how they got on - you may be surprised.

A History of Trinity Times

by Geoffrey and Doreen Lees



Part One—The Early Years & The Origins

To place the 'early years' in context it will have been noticed that the Easter (April/May) edition of *Trinity Times* marked the retirement of Colin McDowall and Pat Pilton from their leading roles on the editorial team after many years of devoted and skilful service for which I am sure we are all immensely grateful. With the current assumption of Hilary and Steve Newman of this role, the opportunity arises to mark this milestone by recalling the origins of Holy Trinity's parish magazine and to awaken some memories.

With such a wide range of ages within our present clergy and congregation it is inevitable that there will be those amongst us whose reaction will be "Oh yes, I remember him or her, or this and that occasion," together with younger members who might say, "That was before I was born," or "That person was a friend of my parents or grandparents." Then of course there will be a third category who have more recently come to join our church community, to whom much of what is here written will be completely new.

June 2015 notes the completion of one third of a century of *Trinity Times*, a period which has spanned the incumbency of four vicars and five editorships, each respectively with their essential clergy and lay teams to assist them. At this stage it will suffice to record these as follows.

Revd Dennis Spiller (to whom we owe the vision of launching Holy Trinity's first parish magazine in January 1982), was Rector from July 1981 to his untimely death in March 1992, while still in post. The Revd Peter Holliiday served from 1993 to August 2000, and the Revd Martin Gorick, from July 2001 to March 2012. He was followed by the Revd Patrick Taylor, our current vicar, from January 2014.



Revd Dennis Spiller

The first editor was Margaret (Maggie) Fuller, from January 1982 to June 1986, followed by Renate Mosz, July 1986 to December 1988. Then RBA Johns, February 1989 to August 1992, Cathie Penn, September 1992 to August 2006. Colin McDowall, Felicity Howlett and Jan Craven, from September 2006. Jan Craven retired in March 2007 to be succeeded by Sherron Guise, with Pat Pilton joining this wider editorial team in the April. This team together with other devoted members has continued to the present transition.

To reiterate, the beginning of the magazine came in January 1982. To quote from Dennis Spiller's opening message:

"It is always exciting to start something new and many people have greeted the proposed magazine with enthusiasm. The aim and purpose is simple. Holy Trinity Church has a considerable number of members. In addition there are a number of people in the town and area who are interested in what happens in and around Holy Trinity...a parish magazine is primarily a means of communication between us all..."

...To Be Continued

The Holy Trinity Choral Scholarships

Funded by The Friends of The Music of Holy Trinity

Solomon Hayes



Last October, I was awarded one of Holy Trinity's first Choral Scholarships. To have been a Choral Scholar has been a fantastic experience, and I would encourage anyone at school who is interested in singing to apply. I know for certain that the scholarship has enabled me to improve as a singer.

Each Choral Scholar is given £500, and I used this to help fund singing lessons over the year. As well as improving my vocal technique and sound, my singing teacher has provided me with many performance-related opportunities, such as being able to perform in many beautiful venues, and with instrumental accompaniment: opportunities I would not have been able to have without the grant from the scholarship.

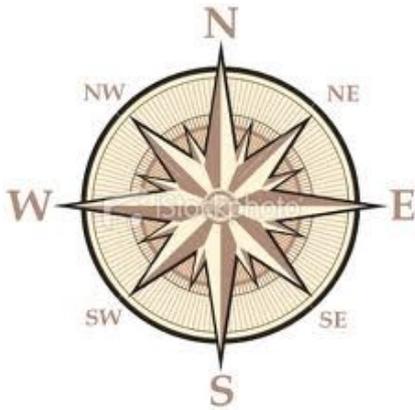
However, for me, the scholarship has been far more than money. There are many other important responsibilities that have contributed hugely to my musical development, and I will outline only a few of them now. Being part of the Choir at Holy Trinity has taught me how best to sing as part of a group, especially regarding blend. Sight-singing is another important skill, and singing in a choir such as at Holy Trinity has provided me with the perfect platform on which to work on this; there is not much time to learn all the music that Holy Trinity Choir sings over the course of a year. For anyone wanting to pursue a career as a singer, good sight-singing is absolutely fundamental. In addition, Choral Scholars are often asked to take on solo roles in services, which is an invaluable experience.

Outside rehearsals and services, the Scholars are given the opportunity to teach music theory to and lead sessions for the trebles of the Choir. Personally, I have found this a superb experience, and I am constantly amazed how I, as the 'teacher', am able to learn just as much as the trebles when I am teaching them! There are also opportunities to perform as part of Holy Trinity's *Soundbites* series. These recitals have offered me the chance to perform what I am currently working on with my singing teacher – and the kind and positive responses I have received from the supportive audiences always make the hard work and hours of practice I do worthwhile! All the Scholars were also given the opportunity to write programme notes for the forthcoming Choir CD's booklet. As a current student at King Edward VI School studying A-level music, writing concise notes about such beautiful music was challenging, but really rewarding.

After leaving school this summer, I am moving to Portsmouth in September to take up a countertenor Choral Scholarship. I know that being a Choral Scholar at Holy Trinity benefitted me immensely, and really set wheels in motion for me to work towards a professional career in music. For singers who want to pursue singing either at college or university, being a Choral Scholar is incredibly rewarding. Even if you enjoy singing simply as a recreational activity, the benefits with which you are provided will make your singing so much more fun and gratifying!

Details of the scholarship can be found on Holy Trinity's website, www.stratford-upon-avon.org, or by emailing the Director of Music, Benedict Wilson, on music@stratford-upon-avon.org.

Early Easter Sunday



Rachel Saum



A Compass of Faith

Early in the morning on Easter Sunday 15 people from the churches in Stratford gathered at the top of Bridge Street to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We were witnessed by one or two passers-by, a couple of taxi drivers and a street sweeper but compared to the usual hordes of visitors those out and about were few. Such occasions cause me to ask the question: why, when the good news we have to share as Christians is so world changing, do so few people respond to the promise of new life? I never have a simple answer but I am almost always compelled to pray.

When I am prompted to pray for Stratford I sometimes imagine myself standing in the middle of the roundabout in the centre of town and pray for what comes to mind in north, south, east and westerly directions. We did this for real on Easter Day, although not from the centre of the roundabout I hasten to add! We stood in the early morning sunshine in silence and turned as a body in the directions of the four points of the compass and prayed that the people of our town would come to know and be changed by the resurrection of Jesus.

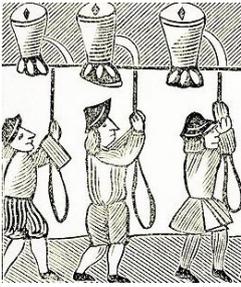
As a church we pray each day for a different road of the parish but what about taking 10 minutes to imagine yourself in some part of town, wherever first comes to mind - it could be an aisle of a supermarket, a bench by the river, a bus stop, a point where you always appear to be stuck in a traffic jam - and pray in four directions for our town. Pray that the Spirit of God will be at work in our town in new ways bringing hope, joy and peace to all who visit, live and work in Stratford and let's look out for the signs of answered prayer.



Lifebuilders

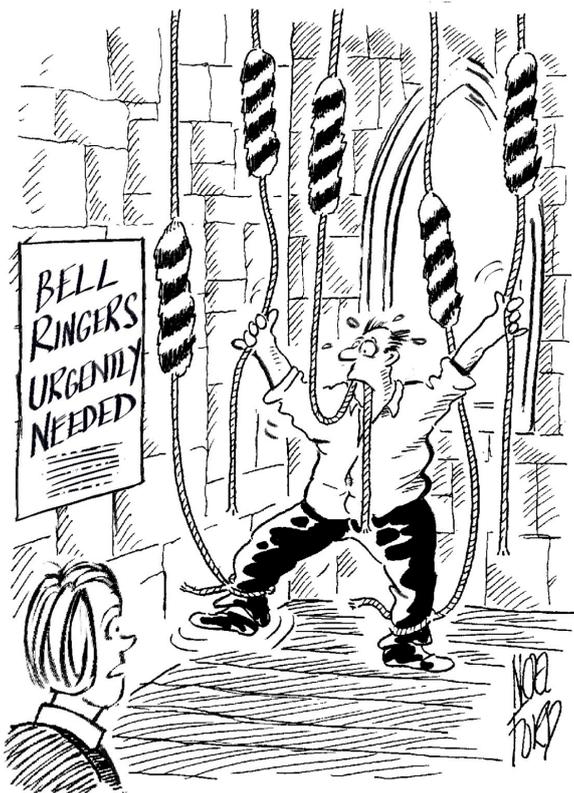
Lifebuilders is for young people of 7-10 years. We meet in the Parish Centre on some Tuesdays during term time. Arrival from 4.15pm. Games, discussion and prayers from 4.45—5.30pm.

For more details contact Rachel Saum 07815793625



The Bells, The Bells

Jeanette Davey
Deputy Tower Captain



"Ready when you are, George..."

Our bells at Holy Trinity are recognised as one of the finest rings of ten in England. I'd like to tell you more about them and us over the next few issues of Trinity Times, to give you an insight into why we are blessed with such a delightful ring of ten, and to explain more about the art and science of ringing.

I also have an ulterior motive – we need to recruit more ringers! Patrick is holding a Ringer's Service on 26th July and we will be seeking new recruits then, too, but that doesn't stop you expressing an interest now – contact details are below.

I can convey enough variety of information about ringing to tickle the taste buds of most people on some aspect of it, from who we are to what we ring, how we learn, artefacts in the tower, the history of ringing in our tower and worldwide, celebratory and commemorative ringing, as well as aspects involving mechanical engineering, physics and maths.

For the latter three, I'll be enlisting the help of those wiser than me to draft future articles, as thankfully we don't need to know about all aspects to be able to join in!

Ringing attracts a wide range of ages. The youngest local ringer started at the age of six. The oldest in the area passed away recently at the age of 96, having been a ringer for 85 years. Generally, ringers start from as young as nine years and, as with most things, tend to grasp the concept very quickly compared with more mature starters. But we also have ringers learning for the first time in retirement age. You need to be physically fit enough both to ring and to cope with the 48 spiral steps into our ringing chamber, but you don't need great strength, just good technique. It's perfectly possible for ladies to ring our tenor, at nearly a tonne in weight. Not only does it keep you physically and mentally fit, but it's also a very sociable hobby – you become part of a team which will always find time to ring to your ability. Mums and Dads can turn up with their children and all learn this hobby together, on equal terms.

And it's free! We don't charge for our tuition time. All we ask in return is a commitment to service ringing whenever possible, particularly on Sunday mornings including for major civic occasions, such as the Shakespeare Birthday weekend and Remembrance Sunday.

Interested? I'll give you a couple of other tasters if you are. We don't ring tunes, we ring methods; we ring by numbers, not notes, because a bell cannot turn on its axis quickly enough to be able to repeat notes, as you would in a tune. We learn those methods by heart; we don't ring off score sheets, and there are stacks of tricks and tips when doing that, plus fellow ringers happy to help one another. Over 16,000 methods exist and many new ones are composed each year, but the standard repertoire of many towers comprises just a handful of methods.

Our regular ringing is on Sunday mornings before the service and on Tuesday's practice nights. We're also trying to get a team to ring for one Sunday evening service per month. Our commitments over and above that in May included weddings, VE Day ringing and one of our favourites, especially as we ring on the loudest musical instrument in the world: ringing for Ascension Day at 6.30am for the 7am service.

If you'd like to have a go, don't hesitate to contact me:

jeanette.davey1@btinternet.com, phone 01789 299145 and leave a message, or speak to Charles Wilson our Tower Captain, or any of the ringers. It would be good to see you.

Do try this at home

Ann Morris

Summer is a Comin' in

Sunshine, eating outdoors, a lovely glass of wine. What more can we ask?

This month we are eating salad, tiny new potatoes and a quiche.

Just to remind you—Pastry!

8oz plain flour, pinch of salt. 4oz unsalted butter, 1oz lard & 3 tablespoons of water.

This will make 2 bases, so freeze the rest, or make a lemon meringue pie!

The quiche mixture base is always the same.

200mls double cream. 200mls cremé fraiche, seasoning, and a good grating of nutmeg, and 3 large eggs.

Whisk all together.

We all have a favourite filling. Mine is 8 spears of asparagus, 4oz frozen peas, 2 tablespoons of parmesan, a generous teaspoon of chopped mint. Chop the asparagus, saving the tips for the top. Put all the

Ingredients—except the asparagus tips—into the cream and egg mixture.

pastry blind at 180° c for 15 mins. Then pull the rack forward and pour in the mixture. Bake then put the asparagus spears on the top.

Bake for another 10 mins. Eat warm or chilled. Lovely!



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The Poetry Page

‘That Was Us’

A Poem by

Dallin Chapman

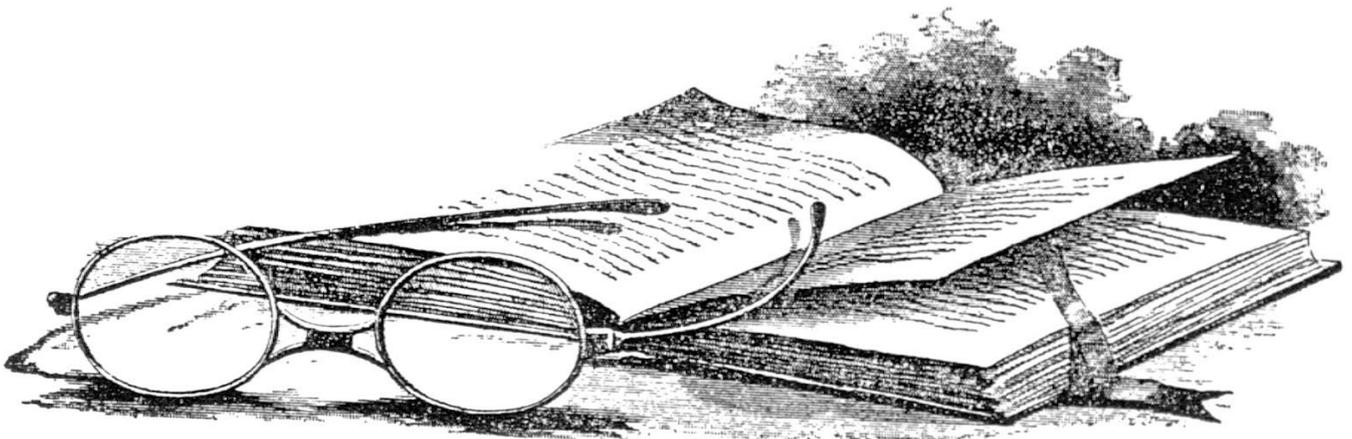


Twenty, that was you. You wore
A red jumper, rode a scooter,
Caught a cricket ball with style.
Talked about Derbyshire days
In the hills. Years and miles, crunch
Of bracken, your mother's smile.
You collected fruit for her,
Stirred the jam, watched
Her tired face when evening came.

Sixteen, that was me. Schoolgirl
All awry, argued endlessly at home
Yet often cried, painted nails scarlet
At weekends but teased my younger
Sisters, all their friends. Laughter
And wildness. You seemed to know.
Economics and philosophy, my short
History. I turned to leave. You watched
The road Lengthen and shadows move.

Forties, that was us. Focused.
Jugglers in the circus of our lives.
Kids and consternation, laughter
And the darker side. Smart-suited
You spun the highway, kept us
Safe whilst I clattered through
The foliage. Woven hours,
Stampede of years. We watched
The glass carve our faces, etch our
cares.

Seventies, that's you. You wear
An ancient jacket, ride a clapped-out
Bike oblivious. The river where we walk
Shows you its burnished leaves. Crunch
And comfort, boy again reaping a multi-
Coloured harvest. You kiss your grand-
children,
Smile at strangers, never pass litter
On the path. I watch as you gaze to-
wards
Each setting sun and dare not ask.



Shakespeare Service

Relevant to Me?

Mike Warrillow



The annual Shakespeare Service has attracted mixed reaction in the past with many of the “usual congregation” choosing to attend the Parish Eucharist held in the evening. In a year between two big Shakespeare anniversaries it could be expected that people would follow the same pattern. But this year, those who chose to do so missed a treat.

2015 is a year with a number of anniversaries of wars, Waterloo, Gallipoli, and not least the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt - many people know the words from Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, celebrating battle and a glorious English victory. In a time of ongoing conflict, this year’s service was dedicated to the need for peace and this need, together with Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, ran as a theme throughout the service.

The RSC’s Brodie Ross performed the *Duke of Burgundy’s plea for peace* taken from Act V, Scene 2 while there were musical contributions from the RSC, and new compositions from Solomon Hayes and Benedict Wilson, each reflecting the need for peace.

For me the highlight was the Shakespeare Sermon given by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Bristol, who reflected not only on the play but placed it in context of the time it was written and biblical passages from Luke. If you missed the sermon, I strongly recommend you take the opportunity to catch up with it on the church website (www.stratford-upon-avon.org/sermons). You will also find some sermons from Patrick there! The sound quality is not the best but I promise you will not be disappointed.

Mike Warrillow is a Church
Warden who also
heads Holy
Trinity’s Buildings
Team



A dove representing the Holy Spirit, also a symbol of peace. From the St. George window in the south-west corner of the church. *Photo: John Cheal.*



"Will This Make You A
Vicar?"

Nicki Chatterton



Since Patrick announced my forthcoming ordination as priest at Coventry Cathedral I have had people say to me, "But I thought you were already ordained!" and "I thought that only the Roman Catholic Church has priests" or "Will this make you a vicar?"

Well, I know many of you will understand the process of ordination, but for some, priestly ordination in the Anglican tradition can be confusing. In the Church of England ordination is the rite by which it is recognised and confirmed that an individual has been called by God to ministry. It acknowledges that the individual has gone through a period of discernment, where their calling has been recognised, they have undergone training related to this call, and it authorises the individual to take on the office of ministry. There are three orders of clergy when an individual is ordained: deacon, priest and bishop.

Those called to the priesthood are ordained twice: first to the "Transitional Diaconate" and then to the Priesthood. It is called *transitional* because most people are a deacon for a year before being priested during which time they can conduct non Eucharistic services, baptise, take funerals, and be involved in pastoral care including visiting the sick and housebound. Some choose to remain deacons and are never priested.

During this time as deacon they receive further training and experience as clergy members and are given particular roles of service to fulfil ministerially and liturgically to show themselves worthy to be priested. For me that has included being involved with the new formatted Junior Church; GoodNews@10; home communions and various other services and activities. Once a Transitional Deacon is made a Priest they are able to bless the bread and wine, to preside at Holy Communion and provide blessings and absolutions as well as perform other rites such as weddings. As a priest I will always be a deacon and be called upon in that role in the same way a Bishop can do all of a deacon and priest's ministry but can also confirm and ordain.

After my ordination as priest I will remain a Curate for another two years. I suppose you could say I will complete my "apprenticeship" with Patrick since a curate is a deacon or priest who is assistant to a parish priest either permanently or as a trainee. Vicars such as Patrick are priests in charge of a parish and have pastoral responsibility to everyone in the parish whether church members or not. I have that to look forward to in the future!

So yes, last year I was ordained as a Deacon, but this year I will be ordained as a Priest into the Church of England on 27th June at 5pm at Coventry Cathedral. I will then preside at my first Holy Communion at the 10am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 28th June. I would like to invite you to join me and other members of Holy Trinity Church to come and celebrate both of these occasions.

† you would like to go to Nick's Ordination at Coventry Cathedral, on Saturday 27th June, Holy Trinity is organising a coach departing at 3.15pm from the Parish Centre.. If interested please add your names to the list at the back of church, or contact Cathie Penn on 01789 268596.



Parish Contacts

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

office@stratford-upon-avon.org 01789 266316

Clergy

Vicar: The Revd Patrick Taylor 01789 508155

Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Stephen Bate 01789 299195

Pioneer Lay Minister: Rachel Saum: 07815793625

Curate: The Revd Nicki Chatterton 07769871237

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Margaret Sweet: 01789 297395

The Revd Neville Beamer: 01789 263435

The Revd Jenny Rowland: 01789 415548

The Revd Canon Andrew Dow: 01789 417852

The Revd Canon John Graty: 01789 298856

The Revd Diane Patterson: 01789 266453

The Revd Graham Wilcox: 01789 551759

The Revd Canon David Ellis: 01789 269409

Director of Music—Benedict Wilson: 01789 266316

Head Verger—01789 266316

Verger—Nigel Penn: 01789 266316

Gift Shop—Rob Craven, Kevin Tomes: 01789 268484

Verger -Pauline Day: 01789 266316

Parish Secretary—Rosie Blumire: 01789 266316

Bookkeeper: Wendy Steinheimer 01789 266316

Parish Assistant—Kevin Tomes : 01789 266316

Church Wardens

Jane Hornby: 01789 263966 Lynne McCarthy: 01926 642054

Tim Raistrick: 01789 509885 Mike Warrillow: 01789 298928

Village Wardens—All Saints Luddington. Warden positions vacant. (Paul Stanton:PCC Rep)

St Helens Clifford Chambers—Ann Simons: 01789 261558 & Pauline Newbury: 01789 415603

Baptism Team—Rachel Saum: 07815793625 **Bell Ringers**—Charles Wilson 01789 295467

Bereavement Visitors—Gina Lodge: 01789 204850

Stratford Convalescent Home—Anne Grey: 01789 415022

Safeguarding Administrator—Mike Warrillow: 01789 298928

Churchwomen's Group—Ann Morris: 01789 266226

Electoral Roll Officer—Tim Raistrick: 01789 509885

Friends of the Music—Jane Hornby: 01789 263966 **Faith in Film**—Steve Newman: 01789 296771

Holy Trinity in the Community—Mike Milburn: 01789 262264

Junior Church—Sherron Guise: 01789 551086

Lay Chaplain Administrator & Parish Prayer Diary—Andrea Blood: 01789 266825

Parish Information Officer—Ruth Langdon:

PCC Secretary—Kath Parrington: 01789 268492 **PCC Treasurer**—Anthony Woollard: 01789 204923

Schools Assembly Ministry—Val Milburn: 01789 262264

Small Group Ministry—The Revd Dr Stephen Bate: 01789 299195

Stewardship Officer/Secretary—Chris Kennedy: 01789 299785

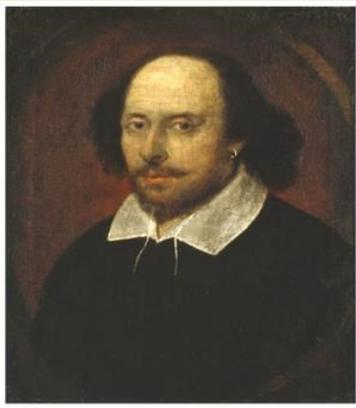
Stratford Churches Together—Sarah Gretton: 01789 205820

St Joseph's Homestead Trust—Chris Cornford: 01789 295066

Sunday Coffee—Christine Cottrell: 01789 204273

Trinity Players—Ursula Russell: 01789 204923 **Trinity Tots**—Val & Steve Bate: 01789 299195

Welcome Team—Hilary Newman: 01789296771 & Helen Warrillow: 01789 298928



A Midsummer Night's Dream Lodge

Google A Midsummer Night's Dream Lodge or visit www.stately-albion.co.uk/Lakewood

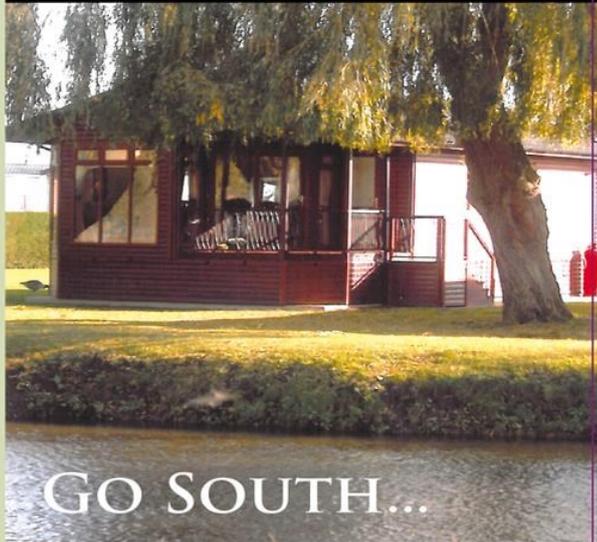
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Trinity Times

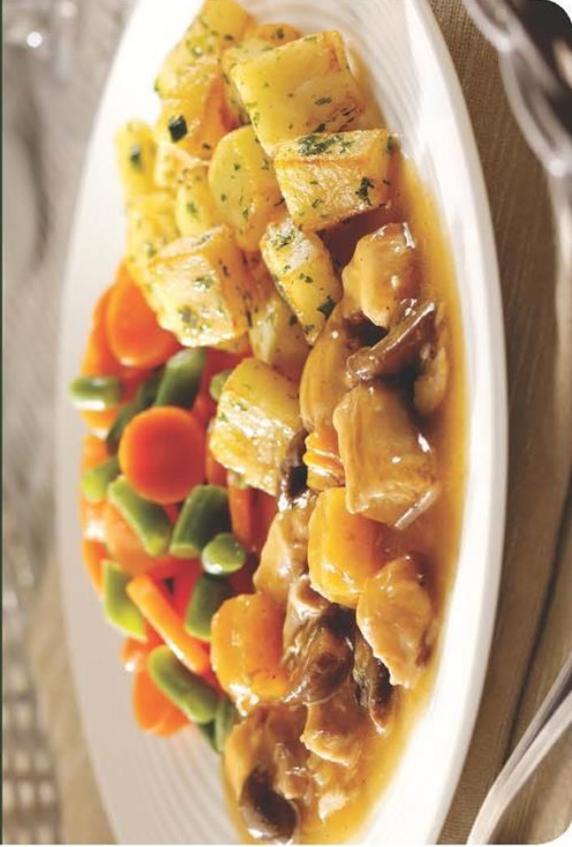
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