

TRINITY TIMES

JULY 2015

60p

The Magazine For The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon



Photo: Harry Lomax

Friends of Shakespeare's Church
Launch £150,000 Appeal
Read Ronnie Mulryne's Feature
Pages 44 & 45



Rachel Writes
Page 4



Cricket Heaven
Page 25



Christianity at Work
Page 11

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This Issue...

In our second and packed issue check out Rachel's vision article, on page 4, about those people who think big, but perhaps more importantly act big.

The second in our series, Christianity at Work, is an important feature, written by David Ellis, about 'The Suffering Church'. It's on page 11.

And if bats and runs are your thing Pat Pilton takes us to cricketing heaven on pages 25 and 26.

If a good quiz interests you, and you're wondering about the £150,000 appeal on our cover read Ronnie Mulryne's feature on page 44 and 45. Then check out Jonathan Drake's News Item on page 24.

Meet our new Parish Manager, Linda MacDermott, on page 15.

Worship listings are on pages 6 and 7.

Read Val Milburn's lovely article about The Jesus People on pages 29 and 30.

St Helen's Clifford Chambers, and All Saints' Luddington, now have dedicated pages. In this issue go to pages 31 and 42.

Geoffrey and Doreen Lees continue their history of this magazine on pages 32 and 33.

Our regular feature writers Anthony Woollard, Ed Mulryne, and Kevin Tomes are on pages 9, 10, 19 20 and 21.

We welcome the return of Hazel Tattersall's Wine Page, plus an interesting feature, Stratfords of the World Unite, by Ursula Russell. Plus a lot more.

Steve & Hilary

The Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



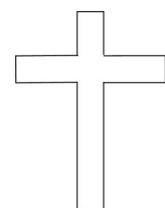
Revd Dr Steve Bate
Associate Vicar



Rachel Saum
Pioneer Lay Minister



Revd Nicki Chatterton
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Rachel Writes...



"Vision" We've heard this word a lot recently. Vision is about seeing things differently. Imagining how things could be rather than accepting the status quo. Believing situations can improve instead of adopting an attitude of cynicism. It's about thinking big! When reading a recent edition of the *Church Times* (one of the perks of being an ordinand is that I get it for free - an attempt to get us hooked before we become priests?!) my attention fell upon two features which I read in their entirety because they pointed to the potential that arises from vision.

The first was about the work of Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, a shy, humble, unassuming man who founded and heads up "Mary's Meals", a charity run from a shed in a small village in Argyll, Scotland, which feeds 1 million impoverished children a day, mostly in Malawi. The second about the work of William & Charlotte Booth who founded the Salvation Army in the East End of London 150 years ago and through their ministry helped people out of homelessness, addiction and prostitution into safe environments where their lives could be transformed by firm but loving care and the grace of God.

I was struck by both because they made sense of the origins and potential of vision. "Mary's Meals" was founded because while on a trip to Malawi Mr MacFarlane-Brown asked a 14 year old boy what his hopes were and the reply came, "I would like to have enough food to eat and I would like to be able to go to school one day." The shock of this simple request sparked a vision that things could be different: children living in the poorest communities could be fed and educated. The Salvation Army was founded because the Booths saw the poverty in their own community and had a vision that things had to be different: the poor and destitute needed to know God's salvation and could be loved out of self-destruction. Both examples demonstrate that seeing an issue is one thing, having a vision of something different is another, and working to make the vision anywhere near a reality is an entirely different matter altogether.

We are inspired by people who think big but maybe more importantly by those who act big. Those who seek to make the world a better place rather than just talking about it are the people we call 'heroes'. Those who are not satisfied until they can bring good news to the poor, set the downtrodden free and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour are the ones who make us sit up and think. As Christians we are called to be such people. Bishop Christopher explained this to those he was about to confirm in Holy Trinity Church in May and that call is still ours, even if we were confirmed decades ago!

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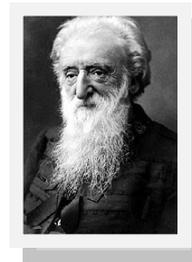
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Mr MacFarlane-Barrow puts it like this: "Stop thinking you are not worthy to do anything that could help others or change things for the better. Sometimes it seems we believe the worst crime we could possibly commit is to act like we have something important to say or that we have a talent." I recognise those feelings of inadequacy and fear in myself. Do you?

At their meeting in July the PCC are being asked to make a final decision on the wording of our parish vision statement. Once we have a vision statement, we will need to act in order to make our vision a reality. What is your part going to be in that action? Maybe while the vision statement is being finalised it's worth pondering and praying: God, what are you calling me to do? What talents do I have that you would like me to use in your service?

Enjoy the summer sunshine, think big and be prepared to act big in the not too distant future!

"God loves with a great love the man whose heart is bursting with a passion for the impossible."



William Booth

1829-1912



***A warm invitation to the
Second Annual
General Meeting
of the
Stratford-upon-Avon
Foodbank
to be held on
Wednesday July 8, 2015 at
6.00pm at Holy Trinity Church
Parish Centre***

Worship in July

SUNDAY July 5th Holy Trinity *Trinity 5*

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 Holy Communion BCP – Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship – Preacher Revd Diane Patterson
All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion BCP – Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

SUNDAY July 12th Holy Trinity *Trinity 6*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Canon David Ellis
10.00am Parish Eucharist – Celebration of The Jesus People - Revd Patrick Taylor
6.00pm Choral Evensong – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
Parish Centre 10.00am Junior Church

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Diane Patterson
All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Jenny Rowland

SUNDAY July 19th Holy Trinity *Trinity 7*

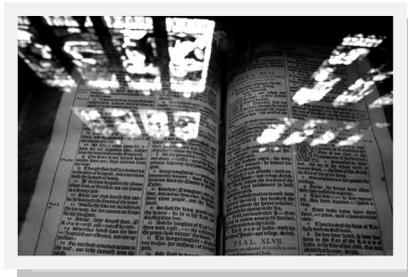
8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
10.00am Parish Eucharist – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
6.00pm Congregational Evensong – Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox
Holy Trinity@Rosebird 9.30am – Rachel Saum
Parish Centre 10.00am Junior Church

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Morning Worship – Preacher Revd Jenny Rowland
All Saint' Luddington 9.15am Family Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

SUNDAY July 26th Holy Trinity *Trinity 8*

8.00am Holy Communion – Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton
10.00am Parish Eucharist – Bell Ringers Sunday - Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton
6.00pm Congregational Evensong – Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Trad Holy Communion-Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor
All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion-Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate



Worship in July



GoodNews@10

Following her ordination to the Priesthood and first Eucharist which took place at the end of June, Nicki will be leading another 'first' when she presides at *GoodNews@10* on 5th July. This will begin in the usual way in the Parish Centre, but the congregation will stay in the hall for Holy Communion, rather than coming over to the church building. As well as being a special occasion for Nicki, it will enable us to consider if this format of *GoodNews@10* might be something we do more often.

12th July

10am Parish Eucharist. We will be celebrating the ministry of the *Jesus People* who have been sharing the Good News in schools in the parish for 9 years now. They are sadly drawing this to a close and so we will give thanks for all they have done.

6pm Festal Choral Evensong. This is the last service with the choir before their summer break. We will also be remembering Sea Sunday.

26th July is Bell Ringers' Sunday with special prayers for our dedicated band of ringers at the Parish Eucharist.

Services on feast days this month:

Friday 3rd July St. Thomas the Apostle. 9.15am Eucharist St. Peter's Chapel

Wednesday 22nd July Mary Magdalene. 10am Eucharist Guild Chapel

A note on "Intinction"



One of the joys of participating in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is sharing the sacred common meal. The use of a chalice is an important part of this. However, I'm aware that some people prefer to dip the host (the bread) into the wine rather than sip from the cup. This is called "intinction". Whilst this may be because of concerns over hygiene or the spread of germs, intinction is in fact *less* hygienic than drinking direct from the cup. Even when being careful, it often results in the rim of the cup being touched with your hand, or fingers coming into contact with the wine. *Please can I ask you to refrain from this practice.* If you have a genuine medical reason for not drinking from the cup on an occasion, please take the host only and remember that the whole of the sacrament of Holy Communion is contained in this one form. If you have a long term issue concerning receiving from a common chalice, please have a quiet word with me and we can discuss suitable alternative arrangements. Finally, a reminder that, for the sake of my back, I very much appreciate the kindness of those of you who lift up your hands to receive at our very low altar rail! Thank you.

Patrick

Do Try This At Home

Ann Morris



Vanilla Cheesecake

Base

1 Packet of Digestive Biscuits. 55gms Unsalted Butter

Middle

450gms Fresh Cream Cheese, 2 Eggs & 1 Egg Yolk. 170ml of Double Cream. 55gms Vanilla Sugar. 1 Split Vanilla Pod. Scrape the Vanilla out with a teaspoon. The Zest of 2 Lemons.

Top

1 150ml Sour Cream. 1 Dessert Spoon Vanilla Sugar.



To Cook

Preheat oven to 190°C. Put the biscuits in a Ziploc bag, seal it tight and do maximum damage with a rolling pin until turned to crumbs. Tip into a 20cm diameter loose bottomed cake tin and pour over the melted butter. Stir to amalgamate, then press the mixture down into the bottom of the tin with a wooden spoon. You don't want too thick a base. Bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, put the cream cheese, eggs and yolk, double cream, sugar, vanilla seeds and zest together in a large bowl and whisk until smooth. Pour into the tin and cook for 25 minutes. Cool in the oven with the door ajar.

Remove the sides of the tin. Mix the sour cream and sugar together and spread over the top of the cheesecake with a rubber spatula. You can refrigerate it before serving or eat warm. Serve with summer or autumn berries.

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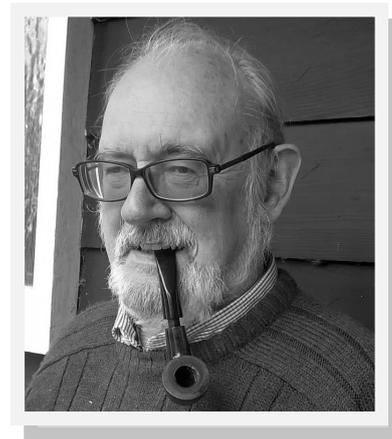
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Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World

“So do we throw in the towel?”



An old friend of mine was in the advertising business, and, like many such people, fancied himself as a bit of a wit. How do you define an expert? he used to ask. “Ex” – a has-been. “Spurt” – a drip.

In Stratford’s somewhat ageing population, and in our ageing congregation, many of us – probably more than we realise – have in our time been real experts at something or other. What does that make us now? Has-been drips? Getting older - knowing that you have to hand on the baton to a new generation – is a painful psychological and spiritual process. For some of us, retirement brings the opportunities to develop new types of expertise, or renew skill areas which we did not have time to develop fully when younger. The church is a place where that happens a lot, and I would argue that it is a key element in our callings both to grow in discipleship and to transform the wider community. One request which came from the PCC awayday in May was that we should do more to identify and develop gifts in the congregation which have perhaps been hidden, and of which the gifted people themselves might not always be aware. Church life is, and should be, one of the main areas in society where that can happen, and it is one of the gifts which we corporately can offer to those around us.

But the tension remains. A lot of us feel like has-beens, and know that in an ever nearer future we shall be no more. Death is now our neighbour. So do we throw in the towel, as many in the generation above us did when they reached their seventies or thereabouts? Do we just concede that everything is different now, and whatever we learned in our younger days is irrelevant to a new generation brought up in a different culture, so that we have nothing to contribute? Or do we grimly hang on to what we have known – perhaps resentful that no-one these days takes seriously the traditional link between age and wisdom, but knowing (of course) that our wisdom is right and that nothing should change? Or do we try to find a positive way forward which might somehow encompass the best of all – yes, all – of these stances?

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These questions are very relevant in a congregation like ours, where there are some real differences between generations and subcultures. But it is relevant in wider society too. And not just to individuals. The results of the Election have led people to ask whether certain political parties are now has-been drips past their sell-by date. Within those parties, we see just the same tension between world-weariness, nostalgia for a golden age, uncritical attempts at what is seen to be modernisation – or, perhaps, something more mature.

The Victorian theologian F D Maurice was one of the great Biblical and doctrinal experts in the Church of his time, and certainly no has-been drip, though viewed with suspicion by many of his contemporaries. He made a memorable comment on some of the leaders of the Anglo-Catholic revival, which was such a powerful and largely positive feature of the later Victorian age. “They seem”, he said, “to want to oppose the spirit of the age by the spirit of a former age, rather than by the Spirit of the ever-living Christ who challenges all societies in all ages”. The Spirit which we encountered earlier in our lives is still at work, maybe differently now, but still challenging the uncritical acceptance of old ways and the uncritical promotion of the new. And above all, still reminding us that it is Life, not Death, that has the last word.



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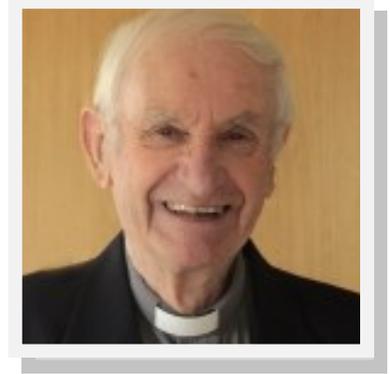
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Christianity at Work

'The Suffering Church'

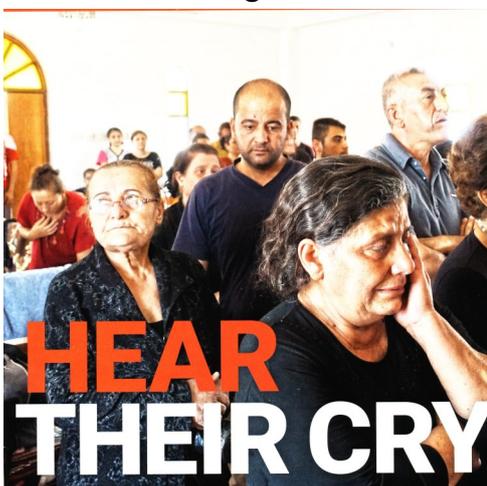
David Ellis



For ten years I was the vicar of a predominantly Pakistani-Muslim parish in West Yorkshire. My two young daughters' best friends were Muslim children who were often in and out of the vicarage. The meetings we held on Friday evenings, alternately at the mosque and in the vicarage to discuss our two faiths, were full of laughter and banter. The charity shop we ran just down the street was a haven of goodwill and friendship-making between the two communities. For 5 weeks I wandered from place to place in Pakistan, being given genuine hospitality by Muslim and Christian families alike. It was a time for embracing our differences in the love and hope the Holy Spirit gives.

When you live at some distance from that front line it is easy for prejudices to harden, to see other faiths as obscuring our common humanity and to allow resentments to foster. And when we hear of the appalling atrocities committed by the Islamic State against thousands of innocent people, Christians chiefly targeted, we may want to push such things from our view as being beyond our ability to help or to understand. Not our business. But we need to remember that this suffering is happening because 'the enemies of the cross' identify Christianity with the west and its blatant idolatry of materialism and its disregard for the dire poverty the imbalance creates elsewhere in the world.

These are our brothers and sisters in Christ who plead for our help, and from the heart of the nightmare of their suffering, to our shame, come reports which speak



of the faithfulness, forgiveness and undying hope with which Christians respond. Brother Andrew who founded 'Open Doors' (one of several organisations helping the suffering Church) says, "...as followers of Christ, we must take a bold step: we must shed the 'enemy image' we have of those who persecute us. Because the moment we have an enemy image of anyone, God's love can no longer work through us to reach them. We must pray for and even love those who hate us."

Illustration: Courtesy Barnabas Aid International

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At last the secular media is waking up to the enormity of the persecution of Christians in the world. From Northern Iraq to Nigeria, from China to India, the cries of Christian suffering pierce the heavens. Jesus warned his followers that the suffering of those who promoted his subversive kingdom of love would not be less than his own. Many of us as individual Christians and as local churches have long been aware of this appalling tragedy but do little more than wish we could help. In recent times Archbishop Justin Welby has spoken out in the House of Lords and has visited the beleaguered leaders of the long-established Orthodox churches in the Middle East to show solidarity. Our own Bishop Christopher has also made a plea to the government.

Barnabas Aid International, another supporter of the suffering Church with abundant resource materials, has moved its centre of operations to Coventry. More and more local churches are forming groups where prayer can be focused on the sharing of up-to-date and precise information, It is my hope that with the already agreed approval of our vicar and with the support of the PCC our parish will soon form a group through which the compassion which surely we all feel can be channelled into action where it is sorely needed. In the autumn Barbara and I will gladly offer our home as a place where a monthly meeting might be held for all who like us feel the compulsion to do something.

Priscilla Henderson

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On sale on Amazon and spotted by a listener to Radio 4's *News Quiz*: "Historic World War 2 aircraft flight in a De Havilland Tiger Moth. The flight includes landing and take-off."

Due to bad weather, the Isle of Man Ferry service has been suspended. A replacement bus service is in operation.
BBC News website

Witney Rugby Club bonfire night advert spotted on the Oxfordshire and Cotswolds website: "Best dressed guy competition. All the entrants receive a prize and the winner gets put on top of the bonfire."



Description from the *Freeview TV viewing guide*: "Borgen — a new series in Danish. Guidance: contains language that some might find offensive".

"If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire

"No-one can make you feel inferior without your consent"

Eleanor Roosevelt, This is My Story

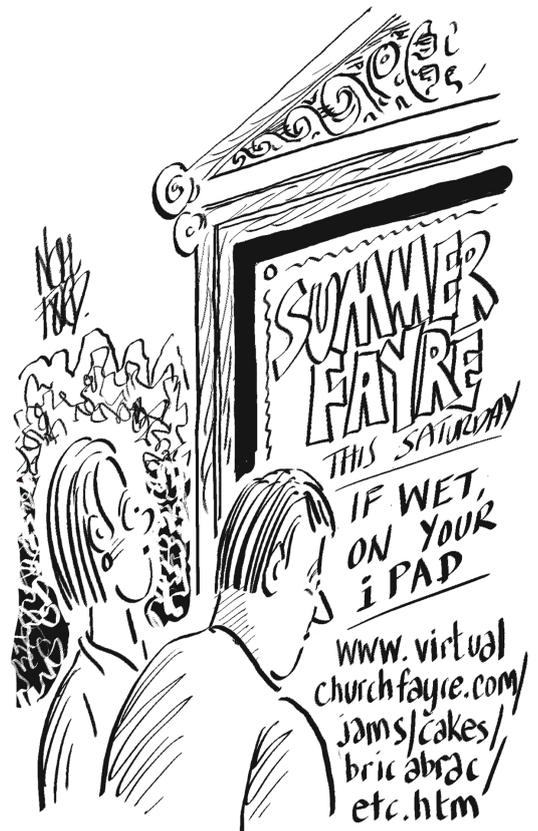
ONE-LINERS

I keep writing letters to myself. Dear me." *Mark Simmons*

"My friend got a personal trainer a year before his wedding. I thought: 'Wow, how long's the aisle going to be?'" *Paul McCaffrey*

My favourite composer is Handel who later teamed up with Hinge and Bracket to form the Doors. *Tim Vine*

And Finally... A road sign says, "Stop for a pint, a pie and a kind word." A driver stops, orders the pint and pie and says, "What about the kind word?" The waitress replies, "Don't eat the pie!" *Clifford News*



Linda MacDermott

our new Parish Manager

In Conversation with Steve Newman



Interviewing can often be a daunting task. Thankfully that was not the case for this interviewer who, having decided to meet in the relaxed atmosphere of the Dirty Duck, was delighted when Linda MacDermott, our new Parish Manager, arrived spot on time, and with a huge smile.

The strange thing is, after a few minutes, Linda was interviewing me. I was enjoying it too, with her ability to put people at their ease working its magic.

This soon turned into general conversation with both of us expressing our opinions on a number of subjects, not least theatre, and the work of the RSC, especially when there's more than Shakespeare on the bill. The recent production of Miller's *Death of a Salesman* was a good example, and a show she and her husband, Paul, loved.

Paul took early retirement recently, after 34 years in the Library Service, which has enabled him to spend even more time in the garden of their Leamington Spa home, but as Linda said, "...although Paul loves gardening, slice him down the middle and you'll still find a library bar code."

Slice Linda down the middle and you will find a woman dedicated to service, both to the public and to God, something that in her eyes cannot be separated. To help her build on her dedication to service she is taking it a step further by studying theology and ministry at Ripon College, Oxford. As Linda explained: "It's a three year course, which I'm absolutely loving. We all meet in the evening for worship at All Saints Church Cuddeston, about five miles south of Oxford. We then have dinner before the studying begins. All very civilised."

Linda currently works as a staff trainer with Warwickshire County Council, and before that spent time working for the CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) where she was considered to be "The find out girl."

The lovely St.Chad's, in Bishops Tatchbrook, is Linda's present place of worship, but I'm sure we shall see her at Holy Trinity in the near future as a worshiper as well as the Parish Manager. It will be a joy to welcome her as a new member of the three church family.

Linda starts on the 1st of July and will be introducing herself at Holy Trinity on the 19th of July, St.Helen's Clifford Chambers on the 26th of July, and All Saints' Luddington on the 2nd August

Stratfords of The World Unite

April 20th—26th 2016

Ursula Russell



When we celebrate Shakespeare's Birthday in April 2016, exactly 400 years after his death, we will be joined by some 150 people who have something else in common, apart from their admiration for the Bard; they all live in a town called Stratford.

In 1985, Stratfordians from Connecticut USA and Ontario Canada set up a 'sister cities' programme of social and cultural events, soon to be joined by ourselves and then Stratfords from Prince Edward Island, Victoria Australia, and North Island New Zealand in a biennial reunion of the Stratfords of the World.

Ten years ago, having heard tales of enduring friendships across continents and of a legendary performance of Twelfth Night in Connecticut by Trinity Players predecessor drama group, we offered to host visitors when the Sister Cities came to Stratford. Our guests were a delightful couple from Canada and for the next reunion in 2007, we left the flooded Midlands behind to stay with them in Stratford Ontario. Tim Raistrick introduced us as the group from Stratford-sub-Avon! Days were spent eating mountainous breakfasts of just baked muffins, in their beautiful guest house, before setting out on trips (including Niagara Falls), picnics, visits to an enviable theatre set in parkland by their river Avon, a church service and the highlight of every reunion- the final Concert. Trinity Players contribution, from Tim, Anthony and me, was sketches from The Shakespeare Revue. Would our voices carry in the enormous echoing sports hall? Would they get the joke fast enough in 'How is Hamlet?'

The answer on both counts was a resounding, 'Yes!'

We did not attend the New Zealand or Prince Edward Island gatherings but an enjoyable spin-off was that, while touring New Zealand, we arranged to stay a night in Stratford at the home of the local Sister Cities secretary, taking a letter of greeting to their Mayor from our then Town Mayor, Bill Lowe.



Free sweetie if you can identify the 5 Stratfords illustrated.

Steve

Continued on next page...

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Last summer we bundled dresses, doublets, trunk hose and hats into our luggage as we set off, after a day in New York, for Stratford Connecticut; the cast of Much Ado About Nothing reduced to six in my adaptation of the Beatrice and Benedick story. Both the performance and the costumes were very well received, not least because, with scroll and quill pen in hand, Tim was a dead ringer for 'selfies' with the Bard.

The town is home to the 'American Shakespeare Festival Theater' where famous actors, including local resident, Kathryn Hepburn, once performed. Closed in 1989, the historic wooden building by the river is now the subject of fierce small town politics between passionate would be restorers and those who think money is better spent elsewhere. Of course we were all supporters of reviving the theatre but enjoyed a performance of 'As you like it' outside in the grounds on a warm summer evening. There were visits, delicious sea food, and an inspirational multi-faith service with participation from Protestant minister, Roman Catholic priest, local Imam and a Rabbi who found the experience of working together so uplifting that they are now in regular dialogue.

For us, the joy of the week was in spending time with local people including our host and his friends, settling into the life of the town and communicating much more profoundly than is possible on an ordinary holiday.

Would you be interested in offering accommodation or transport next year? Our overseas guests will take part in the Shakespeare Birthday Parade and the Evening Service at Holy Trinity among other events and trips but I know how much a friendly host means to those who have travelled so far to be in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2016. If you want to know more before you make a decision, please have a word with Tim Raistrick or with me.



Hospitality Teas

Hospitality Teas are Now Being served in Holy Trinity Church

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

If you would like to volunteer your help please contact Ursula Russell

on 01789 204923



JULY'S DIARY

Thursday July 2nd—8pm Novel Theology. This month the group will be reading and discussing *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson. For more information contact Anthony Woollard 01789 204923

Saturday 4th July-River Serenade. Organised by The Friends of the Music, the event is an evening of easy-listening music at the east end of Holy Trinity. Free entry, with drinks and strawberries to purchase

Friday 17th July—Click & Chatter From 2.15pm in Holy Trinity Parish Centre. For more information telephone Andrea Blood on 01789 266825, or Gillian Nunn on 01789 415830.

Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th July-Choir Residency to Lincoln Cathedral. If you would like to go on the Saturday only speak to Roger Taylor, Jane Hornby or Jane Armitage.

Wednesday Lunchtimes 1pm– Soundbites in Holy Trinity. Organised by The Friends of the Music. Varied selection of music. Sandwiches and drinks available from 12.30.

Please note there is **no Faith in Film in July**. It will return in August, showing Richard Attenborough's *Chaplin*.



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Kevin Tomes' Page

Nightcrawler



Did you know that there was once a comic book story in which Nightcrawler of the X-Men was to be nominated as the next Pope? It was actually a ploy by a group of super-racists to turn all of Christendom against the X-Men and other super-powered humans (or Mutants as they're known).

Comics can be very dumb sometimes.

I've had a number of people ask me, following my last article, if there are other prominent superheroes who identify as Christian. In short: Yes. Quite a few in fact, and although I could write about one particular blue-and-red garbed individual who has had essays, dissertations and books written about him and his Christian overtones. The first one that sprang to mind, who I thought was worth sharing, was Kurt 'Nightcrawler' Wagner - and not just because of that one particularly silly story-arc.

Kurt Wagner is known as a ladies' man and a bit of a goof. Both character traits have got him into trouble in the past, including a tricky love-triangle involving our very own Captain Britain. However, he is equally known as a trusted confidant and advisor who will pay back a million fold any trust invested in him. He is a valiant, fearless fighter who has saved the world from invasions both alien and demonic. Kurt is as an open, practicing [Roman]Catholic whose rosary beads are always about him, and who often turns to the Bible for guidance, advice and comfort. All of this is how he's known to his friends.

To those who don't know him, it's more likely that his more obvious external traits will form a powerful first impression. Kurt is covered in dark blue fur, has digitigrade legs, prominent fangs, malformed, claw-like hands and a long, snaking, spade-ended tail. His Mutant superpower also enables him to appear out of nowhere in thick clouds of foul-smelling brimstone.



Quite simply: he appears to be, for all intents and purposes, a devil.

Continued on next page...

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As I'm sure you can imagine this has led to much hardship for the poor man, not least him and his mother being driven from their German hometown by a torch and pitchfork mob. As a result Nightcrawler often battles with his faith. Why, when he is a good man who attends church (and even studied for a full priesthood at one time*) as well as one who puts his own life on the line not just to protect himself, but the world in its entirety, why then, is he cursed with such an appearance? Why must he suffer for something he has no control over?

This problem, boiled down, can simply be described as, "Why do bad things happen to good people" or as C.S. Lewis termed it, 'The Problem of Pain', which, is a problem that just about everyone encounters at some point in their lives. There are many suggested answers to it and none of them are easy. It's the kind of thing you just have to try and figure out on your own – with no guarantee that you'll ever do it.

Possibly the best way we have to help us deal with this kind of challenge is to have a guide, an example, someone whose own encounters with the problem are one we can sympathise with and learn from. The answers they reach may not be the ones we need, but we can still learn from their stories, whether those stories come from Nightcrawler of the X-Men, San Mao the Orphan, the misadventures of Charlie Brown, or even the Book of Job –they all help us in their own way, with overcoming adversity.

The tag-line for the original X-Men comics was "Protecting a world that hates and fears them." A message that resonates strongly with Christ and that Kurt takes to heart and has stuck to all his life. Pretty deep stuff for a fuzzy blue elf.

*Nightcrawler may have actually been a priest once – but that story was part of another plot by a group of supervillains that included hypnosis, false memories and a mass (no pun intended) murder attempt involving exploding communion wafers. Comics can be very, very dumb sometimes.

Kevin is your Parish Assistant and can be found either in the office or the church

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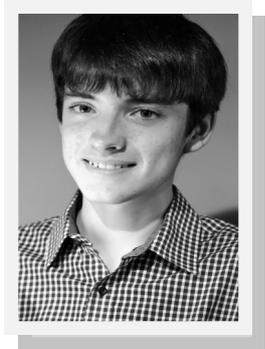
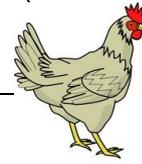
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Ed Mulryne's Page



Chickens? Elton John? Er...?



What follows is a glimpse into my head. This means there are many rhetorical questions and little makes sense. Consider this your only health warning.

Now that exams are over, I'm faced with the task of finding things to do. It's strange for a lot of young people, I'm sure, to come out of such a hectic, intense period of revision and exams to find a big, empty space. A space which needs to be filled. What to do?

I suppose the obvious thing to do is take up a new hobby. But what? I could start breeding chickens, which would mean I'm outdoors and not – ahem – cooped up. But the problem is space, you see, and the feathers would make a mess, something my parents would probably be greatly angered by. Though bringing feathers into the house would probably be their objection if I brought Elton John home too. I'm now wondering how one tames an elephant. Is there a course? I might look into it. I imagine the Open University do a course in it. Otherwise I can go and see if they do it at the college.

So chicken breeding is out. What else? I could become an entrepreneur. That's possible, I suppose. But what new business propositions would I have to offer? I could sell lemonade. No, not lemonade. I don't want to go into a business that would involve so many lemons...they frighten me. I could start a religious exercise club and name it 'Pontius Pilates'. No, that would be corny. I could open a bank, maybe. There might be money in that...so to speak. It would have to have a clever 'hook', as they say; a special gimmick that would encourage people to visit my bank. Hmm. I know! I'll make a bank for the overweight! I could call it 'Fatty Deposits'! No, no. On second thoughts, being a banker would mean I'd be hated by just about everyone. No.

I could take up philosophy. Yes, I can see that. It's basically just the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline, isn't it? Well, that's what Google says at any rate. How hard can it be? I'll try it now! Um...we are all...animals. There we go. We are all animals. This philosophy lark is easy. But what is 'easy'? I wonder...

Long story short, I have just spent three hours staring at a wall pondering on the concept of 'easy', with little success. This hasn't gone very well.

Oh well. No matter what I decide, the main thing is to keep myself occupied this summer. I'm sure I'll think of something. I could just daydream but I think that's a bit...



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Are your (or somebody else's) trees or hedges
getting on top of you?—

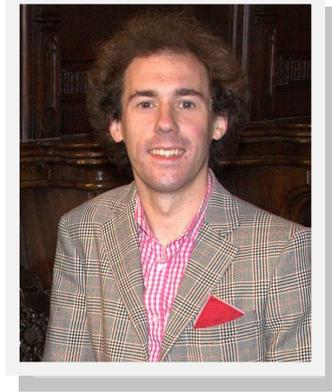
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Primary Schools' Choral Festival at Holy Trinity Church

Benedict Wilson



On Wednesday 10th June, Holy Trinity Church in Stratford came alive to the sound of 250 children's voices in the church's inaugural Primary Schools' Choral Festival.

Year 3 and 4 pupils from four local schools (St Gregory's, Shottery St Andrews, Bishopton and Bridgetown) took part in an afternoon workshop and gave a rousing evening performance to enthusiastic families, friends and teachers.

The combined forces performed two joint pieces, which had been taught in workshops by Holy Trinity Church Choir staff over the last term. The individual schools then had the chance to show off their own school choir works to each other. The Church Choir also delivered a moving rendition of Rutter's 'For the Beauty of the Earth', capably conducted by their organ scholar James Fellows.

The concert closed with a piece befitting the glorious June evening: 'Summer' by Lin Marsh, with all four schools and church choir in harmony. Parents and grandparents were captivated by the sound, with some remarking that their children had not visited 'Shakespeare's Church' before, let alone had the opportunity to sing with such a large number of voices.

The children were a pleasure to work with and performed brilliantly on the day, with the invaluable support and help of the schools' staff. We hope that this festival has brought some of the many benefits of singing into the wider Stratford community.

It is expected that the Festival will become an annual event, extending next year as perhaps more local schools take part.

Holy Trinity Church Choir is currently recruiting for choristers to take part in services, recordings, and both local and international tours and concerts. I would be happy to meet any prospective choristers - interested parents/carers of children aged 7 and above should please email music@stratford-upon-avon.org or telephone 01789 266316.



Photo: William Mulryne



NEWS ...



Friends Launch An Appeal To Raise £150,000

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church launched a new appeal to raise £150,000 at their Annual General Meeting in Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday 20 May. The meeting heard that the recently-completed architect's report on the structure of the church building has identified the need for significant repairs to the stonework on the south transept of the church.

Patrick Taylor, Vicar of Stratford-upon-Avon, said, "The heritage of Holy Trinity Church makes it a wonderful place for worshippers and visitors alike, but also presents challenges as we seek to provide improved facilities for the local community and preserve the building for future generations. The parish has committed substantial financial resources to the south side extension and repairs to the stonework of the north porch, so we are particularly grateful to the Friends for their support."

See page 44

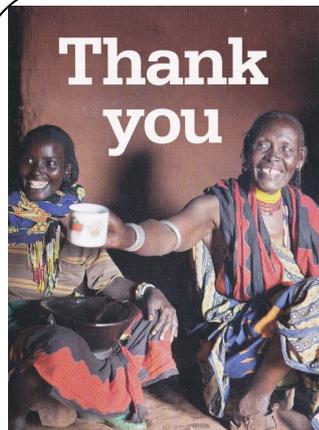
Jonathan Drake Friends of Shakespeare's Church

Come and share a summer picnic at Anne Hathaway's Cottage!

St Andrew's, Shottery, and The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, are hosting an evening for us all to enjoy the gardens and grounds of the Cottage on Saturday 15 August. Admission is free, but we'll be inviting you to sign up nearer the time so we have an idea of numbers. Please invite your friends, neighbours, and colleagues to join us.

Bring your own food and drink, and a picnic blanket or chairs. Some music will be provided by the St Andrew's Gospel Choir. The gates open at 6.30pm and we expect the event to end around 9.00pm. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Look out for further notices on the pew sheet and for announcements in church.

Paul Edmondson



It was hard work, but we did it!

This year we raised **£2404.74** for Christian Aid.

Thanks
Sarah

FREE The Friends of the Music present 

River Serenade

An evening of easy-listening and familiar music stayed on the banks of the Avon by Holy Trinity Church.

SATURDAY JULY 4 7.30pm
(If wet, the concert will be held in Holy Trinity Church)




Congregation member, and lighting and sound wizard with Trinity Players, Tony Guy, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Scouting. There will be an interview with Tony in the August edition of *Trinity Times*.



Pat, with pal Gordon, Sydney 2011

Cricket Heaven

Pat Pilton



“Will there be cricket in heaven”, one enthusiastic follower of the game asked of another. “Of course, otherwise it wouldn’t be heaven!”

You could apply the same logic to so many other wonderful aspects of life that we are privileged to enjoy on this earth. But, to me, whether it be mingling with the Barmy Army in the 90,000 seat cauldron that is the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) during an Ashes encounter or, more sedately, seated in a deckchair in the peaceful environs that is Swans Nest Lane, home of Stratford-upon-Avon CC, cricket is pure joy. I recall sitting watching Stratford one Saturday to the sounds of leather on willow; a band playing on the bandstand; a running commentary from the river of a regatta was in full progress and, in the distance, the reassuring sounds of Holy Trinity Church bells. Could anything be more English. Or more heavenly!



J.B. Priestley

Of course church and cricket have close associations. Until 1870 almost all the Oxford and Cambridge cricket blues became clergymen. Today cricketers across the land play for the inter-diocesan Church Times Cup and, last year, the Vatican sent a team to Canterbury to take on the Church of England in an epic encounter that saw the Anglican side win by six wickets. *Habemus eventuum* (good outcome) you might say. As J.B Priestley once observed: “It is hard to tell where the MCC ends and the Church of England begins”.

However, it could hardly be counted as a triumph for clerical cricket when, in July 1861, after placing reverends at numbers four, five, six and seven in their batting order against the MCC, Hampshire were all out for 67 runs.

At its purest, of course, cricket espouses Christian values. Always “walk if you’ve snicked the ball --- don’t wait for the umpire.” Come clean when that catch you’ve taken hasn’t quite carried. “Not playing the game”. “It’s just not cricket” are expressions of fair play rooted in this most gentlemanly of games. But, maybe, not so evident during this year’s battle for the Ashes.

Between the wars 12 clerics played in cricket’s County Championship including one aptly named J.H. Parsons, who played for Warwickshire in the 1920s and was regarded by many as the best batsman of his day never to have played for England.

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An article in *The Cricketer* in 1923 argued that vicars usually made the best captains as their experience of cricket at school and university gave them insight into tactics and strategy. A view not shared by another writer in the magazine who maintained that only parsons who were competent cricketers should play because poor performances could cause respect for a parson to decline, whereas those who played well could expect larger congregations.

Get you pads on, Patrick!!



Revd David Sheppard

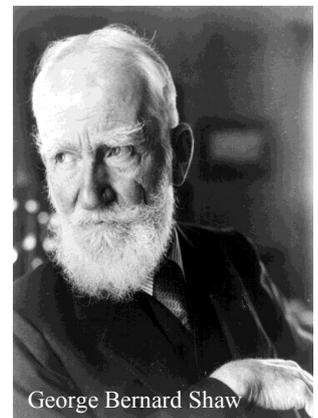
The most famous cricketing cleric, of course, was the Revd David Sheppard, who went on to become Bishop of Liverpool. Sheppard captained England and led the side on the successful Ashes tour of 1963. "The presence in the pulpit of David Sheppard filled Anglican cathedrals of every state capital from Perth to Brisbane," one newspaper reported. Sheppard made 0 and 113 in the victorious second Test in Melbourne, but dropped two vital catches. Not best pleased, Yorkshire's fiery fast bowler Fred Trueman was quick to chide: "The only time your hands are together, Reverend, are on Sundays."

It's a sledging story that, of course, gets embellished with every telling. Another version being, "Pretend it's Sunday Reverend, and keep your hands together". Or that it was Sheppard himself who said, "Sorry Fred, I should have kept my hands together". One couple in Australia reportedly asked Mrs Sheppard if the Reverend could christen their baby. She advised them not to, as he was bound to drop it.

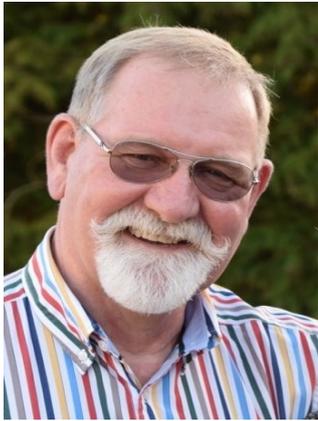
Eleven years ago I went on tour with England to South Africa and met up with a wonderful group of people who have all become firm friends. Following England has now become our annual holiday and most of us manage to tour most years. We all live in different parts of the country and support different counties – an excuse to have a summer reunion centered around a cricket match somewhere in England. This year we are off to Chelmsford and will breakfast with former England Captain Graham Gooch before Essex take on the Aussies.

A number of us share not only a love of cricket but a love of God, too. So we've taken communion in New Zealand alongside the revered Test Match Special commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins (sadly no longer with us); "performed" St Luke's Passion in Wellington Cathedral; attended Midnight Mass in Melbourne and sung gospel in Barbados where services can be extremely long with seven hymns and a psalm.

Cricket and heaven? George Bernard Shaw took a more cynical view: "The English are not a very spiritual people. They invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity."



George Bernard Shaw



Preparing Young People For A Journey Part 2

David White



For those that read the first instalment, the wait is over and our five young candidates, Poppy Compton, Charlotte Pound, Christopher Kingdom, Aidan and Lawton O'Neil are now safely confirmed into our Christian family at Holy Trinity Church.

I started this article in a previous issue of Trinity Times by recounting my personal experience of confusion in being prepared for Confirmation in the late 1950's. Was I really ready? Was I mature enough to understand what it meant to lead a Christian life? These questions came back to haunt me after Patrick asked me to lead five youngsters on the road to becoming confirmed members of our church....

What a journey we have all had!

I can honestly say that these youngsters have been an absolute inspiration to work with. I feel that as an adult I have learnt so much more about my own Christian beliefs through working alongside them.

Special thanks must go to the members of the clergy team that brought their skills, knowledge and support to the weekly sessions, especially Patrick, Steve, Nicki and Rachel and a very special thank you to my close friend Graham Hopkins and my wife Heather. They really brought the message home in the final session entitled, 'Living your life as a Christian'.



The Confirmation Service here at Holy Trinity on Sunday 17th May was a very special day. Bishop Christopher from Coventry led the ceremony and everyone that attended commented on how relaxed and reverent the occasion felt. We had four youngsters confirmed, plus a number of adults who were part of Steve Bate's Alpha Course.

New Communicants with Bishop John in Coventry Cathedral

Continued on next page...

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I was privileged to be the sponsor for Aidan O'Neil, and stood with my hand on his young shoulder, as the Bishop anointed him with Chrism (holy oil) with the mark of the cross on his forehead and blessed him – I can honestly say that I felt a tingle all through my body during the blessing – something very, very special. I felt blessed too!

Lawton O'Neil had been unable to attend our Holy Trinity service (due to school commitments) so Steve Bate arranged for his inclusion at the Coventry service with Bishop Christopher (Coventry) and Bishop John (Warwick) presiding.

So, a week later, on Pentecost Sunday we travelled to Coventry Cathedral. What a different service! The cathedral is a HUGE space, with questionable acoustics and a very modern 'rock band' – a much more contemporary, city-based service, that was a total contrast to the intimacy, the previous week at Holy Trinity.

The new cathedral, built in the shadow of the bombed-out ruins of the old cathedral was a very special setting for a service that included three adult total immersion baptisms, five junior baptisms followed by thirty plus confirmations and then a mass Eucharist for the large congregation of families and friends. Another memorable evening for all of those in attendance.

This course has been a wonderful personal experience and I thank everyone at Holy Trinity for helping me direct these young people onto a road towards a Christian way of life – long may it continue with your help.



David and New Communicants with Bishop Christopher in Holy Trinity



the Jesus people....

.... from Holy Trinity



Thank You and Goodbye!

Val Milburn



It was an extremely hard decision but, the Jesus People are finishing their outreach to schools in July, the end of the academic year 2014/2015. Although this ministry has been a tremendous responsibility we feel blessed, as it's been a great honour to serve God, and take His good news into four primary schools and a Special School within the parish.

We have not made this decision lightly but believe that it is God's will, both for us and Holy Trinity that we should finish this ministry; it is a time for change, for moving on, for Holy Trinity to offer something different for schools' ministry. But we have decided that we should celebrate the fact that, as volunteers, we have been able to 'talk' about God to thousands of children over the last 9 years.

It all started in 2006 when Jan Craven devised a 7 year primary education programme; every assembly to be unique and covering much of the Bible. The Jesus People have evolved but stayed true to our mission to bring God to the young children of Stratford. "It's been an amazing journey for us as well as the children. It's been interesting and a real learning experience," says Pete Cubitt. We reach approximately 1250 children (4 to 11 year olds) on a regular basis, each year completing 54 assemblies (more previously) in addition to all the planning, preparation, and liaising with the schools. It's been a huge undertaking but, a rewarding and spiritual experience – a true joy for all of us. Dallin Chapman says "It's been a privilege being part of the Jesus People, not least because we've had such fun!" The assemblies are always visual and interactive, the answers the children give have constantly humbled and delighted us because of their understanding and natural sense of awe and wonder. As well as going into schools, we have occasionally participated in the morning service at Holy Trinity and at Rosebird.



Peter Cubitt

Nicki Chatterton

Val Milburn

Peter Morris

Continued on next page...

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The last round of assemblies will involve singing/music, puppets, drama, prayer and will be a real celebration, praising God all the way! Live music is “enthusiastically shared, from the first note down to the exit of the last child,” says Peter Morris. The schools have been saddened by our news but have sincerely thanked us. One headteacher said “We are so grateful to you for coming and giving us so much of your time, energy and commitment. The children always love your assemblies and get very excited when the Jesus People are in school.” We thank the schools, truly valuing the support and trust we have received and for the relationship we have with them. We pray that we have supported them in their teaching and learning of Christianity and that many seeds have been planted.

The team must also thank all our church supporters who, like us, have been determined to share the Christian faith in schools; from our spouses for their tireless support, to the clergy who’ve always ‘been there’ for us and to our very special Prayer Supporters. We thank God for all His love and for equipping us for this outreach.

Over the years we have been a team of only 4 and peaked with 10 members, but now the current team of 8 are signing off: Val Milburn (Team Leader); Sue Bond; Dallin Chapman; Pete Cubitt; Peter Morris; David Southeard; Margaret Sullivan; and Revd Nicki Chatterton. It’s a sad and emotional time for us as we say goodbye but, we’ve learnt ‘everything has a time and a season’ (Ecclesiastes 3 v1). In every way it’s been amazing!



All Saints' News

Jane Beeley Writes...



22 Years As Pro-Wardens

Roger Dopson and I became involved with the team at All Saints' about 22 years ago when Peter Holliday arrived in Stratford as the new Vicar. A meeting was called in Luddington to arrange the running of All Saints' and we both attended. Peter refused to let anyone leave the room until a team had been decided upon and after what seemed a very lengthy silence Pat Ganderton said she would chair a team if someone else agreed to take over her place on Deanery Synod. Not knowing what Deanery Synod was but wanting to get home, I said I would do that and Roger, who was supposed to be taking his wife for a birthday meal, agreed to be on the team, and we were free to go! However that was just the start.

When Pat's health forced her retirement as Pro-Warden, Roger and I took over, both having done the job alongside Pat for periods. We found we worked well together and have been very fortunate with the support given by the congregation and village residents.

We learned that if we needed a working party for the churchyard we only had to ask Dick Boswell who seemed able to mobilise half the village. There are always people willing to read lessons, arrange flowers and clean the church, and all the other jobs that need doing. It is thanks to all of them that the All Saints' is such a charming place to visit and everyone can be assured of a warm welcome.

Since Canon Raymond Cyster retired we have had many different clergy officiating at our services including, for several years, Margaret Sweet, for which we have been very grateful. Very few have complained about coming to Luddington, although Stuart Labran did arrive in his wellies one snowy Sunday and kept his large woolly gloves on for the sermon.

I am grateful that I have had the chance to work with so many people in the life of the church and for the experiences it has created. I have certainly learned a lot.



A History of Trinity Times

by Geoffrey and Doreen Lees



Part Two: Faith, Hope and Love

Dennis Spiller concluded his first letter initiating *Trinity Times*, “ Finally at the beginning of a new year, I wish you well and hope that 1982 will be a year of peace for us all. During the centuries it has stood Holy Trinity Church has seen good times and bad. (Have you noticed the bullet holes in the west wall of the north porch, or the vandalized tomb of my predecessor, Dean Balsall, near the high altar?). As we go into 1982 there are disquieting signs; I pray for Peace in the world, our nation, our homes and minds. I pray for growth of Faith, Hope and Love.” *

Editor, Maggie Fuller, added her own thanks to those who had “responded so warmly and promptly to my request for material for this first edition,” and continued, “There is so much going on all the time at Holy Trinity that I know I have only skimmed the surface so far. Everyone I meet tells me about someone else I should meet! Mrs Patricia Wainwright, who is responsible for the church flowers, told me Holy Trinity Church and the people who work in it and serve it in so many ways would fill a small book.”



Surely that is as true now as it was then but we are not so sure the book would be that ‘small’.

Prominent in that first edition was the item from the Churchwomens Group. Mair Jones, its chairman, wrote:

“The Churchwomens Group was founded on 1st November 1945, with the primary object of raising funds for the purchase of a church hall. By 1950 they had collected £2000 which was used to buy the Welfare Centre in Tyler Street. This was to be the first church hall and was renamed Trinity Hall. It was sold in 1957. In 1959 the group paid £8000 for the land on which the present church hall stands and over the years gave a great deal of money to the Church Hall Building Fund. The present hall was opened in 1966

“ The group bought the crockery which is in use today. They have also presented a clock, the curtains, some tables and a piano. Many things have been given to the Church also. These included altar linen, prayer books for the clergy, furnishings for the Chapel of St Thomas a Becket, some hassocks and the Sacristy trolley.”

* Of course 1982 brought The Falkland’s War

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That trolley was made for the church by 'Jim' Dawes, that skilful and loyal church member, responsible for so many of the wooden items of church furniture we still see around us. (As in the case of Patsy, Jim and wife Morfydd still have the TT posted to them every month and say how much it means to them to keep in touch with what goes on here. This is also true of Mair who retired to her present home in Roxburghshire some years ago).

Other donations to organisations in the town are mentioned, Mair concluding by recalling the usual format of Wednesday meetings with speakers and "chats over cups of tea", closing with the observation that "After achieving its original object of building a church hall, the group has become a meeting place for friendship and fellowship." Current members will know that that also is as true as ever. This 50th anniversary of CWG was marked with a service of thanks and dedication conducted by Bishop Vernon Nicholls, another of our past clergy who will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.



David Biddle

Photo: The Loft Theatre

David Biddle, yet another dear friend sadly lost to us recently, wrote a tribute to the group in particular of how much his mother had looked forward to the monthly meetings.

So began the *Trinity Times* with the establishment of a regular format incorporating essential listings of church services, clergy members, churchwardens (including, in addition one, familiar names such as Professor Ronnie Mulryne and Phil Hart), organist Peter Summers and with reports from the Sunday School, the Bell Ringers, the Embroidery Group (heavily involved at that time with production of the some 400 kneelers designed by Will Hawkes with which we are all familiar) etc, and with topical articles from a wide variety of contributors. This general pattern was followed for many of the following months and years and much has been retained to the present day.

At this stage we would like to acknowledge with thanks the kindness of Patsy Spiller in supplying the photograph of Dennis which appeared in last month's *Trinity Times* and for recalling for us her own very active involvement in the production and circulation of the early editions, together with the substantial help of their children Peregrine and Virginia. Patsy receives a copy of TT from us every month and has a complete set from first to latest.

Next Month: "Highlights of Trinity Times from the first decade."



Stratford 1890s

Volunteering For Holy Trinity Church Memories For A Lifetime

Annie Martirosyan



Holy Trinity Church has always been a special spot in my heart - the first place I would want to see upon landing at Heathrow and the last to part with. I must have spent innumerable hours on my favourite bench in the graveyard with the rising sun and many more in the silence of the dusk by the river...

I arrived in Stratford in late September 2013 to start my degree course and a few days later, I went to the Church to see if I could volunteer there. I was met with warmth and kindness that I would receive throughout the following 15 months. I was told the Church really benefitted from volunteers and they were always happy to see new people joining in. Students, however, were rare - many would come at the start of the year to offer regular help but would soon find themselves too busy with the studies.

As I left the Church, taking my favourite river path towards Clopton Bridge, I knew I would not drop, not me. No matter how busy, I would always find time for my Sunday shift. I did.

I cannot put down my passion and care for Holy Trinity Church to being particularly religious, though I am infinitely enchanted by religion. I was christened in the Apostolic Church of Armenia - the first land that adopted Christianity as a state religion in as early as 301 AD. I cross myself from right to left when I am in a Russian Orthodox Church and I once attended a Catholic mass led entirely in Polish and still felt at home. I wear a Celtic cross sometimes, and runology has been an interest both on academic and spiritual planes. I believe one does not have to assign their moral codes to a specific form of religion to attend church.

And one certainly does not have to be a devout worshipper to want to serve a church. I spent months travelling throughout Britain in a spiritual pilgrimage to see as many of those regal, skyey (to use a favourite Shakespearean word) Gothic cathedrals and old, gentle churches as I could. Churches, cathedrals and ancient places fill me with a sensation so intense and tender that it confounds any boundaries of a single form of religion. Volunteering at Holy Trinity Church was a sweet experience. Apart from the pleasure of working with the kindest people somehow brought together under the roof of this beautiful church, I learned and grew.

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As the resting place of the most famous literary genius of all time - Shakespeare - Holy Trinity Church has no shortage of tourists. Sometimes it would get quiet and empty in the Church only to be animated by a sudden gush of Japanese students or a plane-ful of Russian teachers. My main duty was to serve at the Chancel where tourists donate to go in to see Shakespeare's grave. Sometimes, when the Verger was free to take stand, I would go into the Chancel and talk to the tourists about the Church, Shakespeare and history. Having grown up bilingually, my Russian would often come handy whenever we had a host of Russian tourists. In the Holy Trinity, all creeds and nations, all purposes and dreams do meet. I remember an elderly Muslim man sitting on a pew and listening to an afternoon reading from the Bible, an Indian student talking of his dream come true as he walked into the Chancel to see Shakespeare's grave, and a young couple with a pram standing in wonderment of the Gothic splendour of the Church.

What I experienced during those 15 months of volunteering at the Church is immeasurable. The Vergers I worked with - especially, John and Pauline - taught me so much beyond accepting donations and handing out the leaflets in the right language! My most cherished memory is connected with Shakespeare's Birthday procession in 2014. I was wearing a white tunic, proud and exhilarated as I stood, dazzlingly happy, as a flower lady next to the women who had been in charge of the flowers on Shakespeare's birthday for years. I still do not know how I deserved such an honour to be a flower lady for the day!

I urge everyone, especially students, to find time to lend a hand to the beautiful and bounteous community of Holy Trinity Church. There are many volunteering opportunities; donating even an hour per week can be of a great help to such a busy Church. Do it for the sheer sense of being useful. Kindness and generosity are not just the basis of Christian life - these are universal values and a simple essentiality that makes us human.

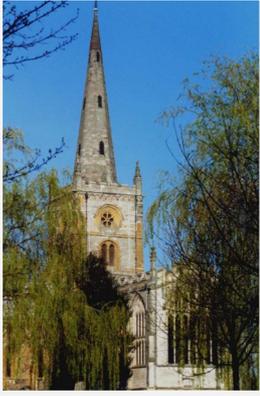
Now - so far away and missing - as I look back in time, I see the doors of the Church open inside my soul and a warm breeze of tranquility envelopes me. Like the little girl who let go of her mother's hand and ran back into the Chancel to take in one more eternal minute of the unearthly silence of this beautiful, medieval Church - I know, I will always be back.

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

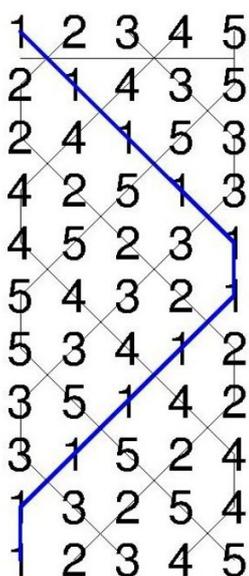
Jeanette Davey
Deputy Tower Captain



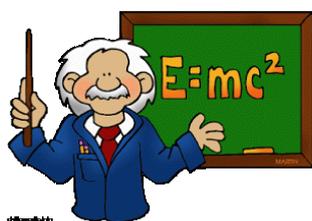
Last month in Trinity Times I introduced you to the breadth of things we can learn about and get involved in when ringing, which apart from the ringing itself can include some maintenance of the bells or ropes, and interest in engineering, physics, archives or the technical aspects of ringing itself. I hasten to add that most ringers would be horrified to think that they had to master the scientific disciplines. We don't. But a basic ability to understand numbering systems and methodology would be a big help.

So this month I'm going to jump in at the deep end (because if you're interested in joining us, you'll hopefully get there eventually), and that's to tell you a bit about the technical aspects that we need to learn in order to ring a range of methods. Methods, if you recall from last month's article, are our version of tunes. Unlike other musical instruments, we can't ring conventional tunes because a bell can't strike twice in succession, so notes can't be repeated. This is due to two factors: the time it takes for a bell to rotate and the weight of the bells. Rings of bells can vary considerably in weight, but here in Stratford our range is from 5-19cwt (hundredweight), which is from quarter of a ton to nearly one ton in weight. Each ring of bells is known by the weight of the tenor, so in Stratford we have a 19cwt tenor. That tenor info alone is enough for visiting ringers to understand the general weight of your bells.

Instead of ringing from music we ring by numbers, because the bell can only move



one place at a time, swapping places with the bell next to it. But there's a catch. We can't use crib sheets to ring by - that's cheating - so we have to learn by heart. Take a look at this most simple of methods on five bells. It's called plain hunting, and what you'll see is that each bell moves from front place to back place, one blow at a time. Take some heart that you don't have to learn which bell you're striking behind (or over), but it helps at the beginning. You just need to learn which position you're in - 1sts place, 2nds place etc. Remembering which actual bell to follow



doesn't help in the long term, because methods get more and more complex and knowing the bell you're striking over becomes increasingly

impossible.

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1	5	7	3	9	2	0	4	8	6
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5	1	2	3	4	7	6	9	8	0
5	2	1	3	7	4	9	6	0	8
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5	2	3	1	6	4	8	7	0	9
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8	9	1	0	6	4	7	2	5	3
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9	8	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2
9	1	8	0	6	7	4	5	2	3
1	9	0	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
9	1	0	7	8	5	6	3	4	2
1	9	7	0	5	8	3	6	2	4
1	9	0	7	8	5	6	3	4	2

So instead we learn various tricks and tips to help get us through a method. Here's an extract from a complex method on ten bells. Look at the blue line. Can you see what's meant by dodging, where a bell moves one step forward, one step back, and one step forward again. Extending that, this extract shows leading (two blows at the front), snap or point lead (one blow at the front) and lie (two blows at the back). And can you see the work that's being done in 7ths and 8ths position? That's simply defined as Cambridge Places. Rest assured that this is one of the more difficult methods to learn. If you say you can ring Cambridge, you'll get a respectful 'oooohh' in many towers. And ringing it on ten is capable of being done by a very, very small minority. There are just a handful of staple methods for many towers but nearly 19,000 methods exist and new ones are regularly devised.

Hopefully, you can now appreciate why some numeracy is useful, and we have more than our share of mathematicians and physicists who become ringers, but they are by no means the majority because ringing is much more about technique than about strength or mathematical ability. I, for one, am more than happy to admit that my physics and maths skills were not quite up to scratch at school. Learning this takes time – as long as you like – if you don't want to learn a method, that's fine; we can work with all standards.

There are two other things which you'd need to learn. The first is ropesight, ie being able to see what some of the other bells are doing. The coloured bit which we pull is called the sally, and seeing which sallies are where helps a lot. And the second is to hear which bell is yours.

So, if you were to join us, where would you start? After learning the technique of how to ring, you'd ring rounds probably on 6 (that's just 1-6 in that order) and aim to get the striking right, with a nice, even rhythm. Then you'd ring call changes, the stage before method ringing. In call changes, everyone rings what they are told to ring, blow by blow. That process can be taken as slowly or as quickly as the new ringer can cope with. We were all learners once, so all understand the need to practise the basics, and it's a team activity: the only way you can learn is as part of a team. Some never progress beyond rounds and call changes, and that's fine too.

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.

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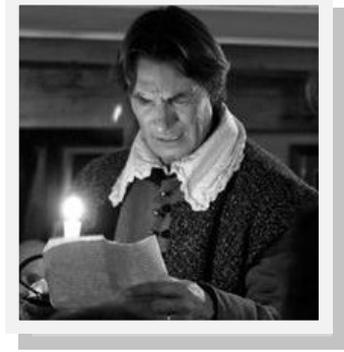


Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



The Poetry Page

Peter Cubitt



What is Poetry?

Poetry is life.

Poetry is a song without a tune.

Poetry is a wordscape of our internal world.

Poetry is our creative response to someone or something.

Poetry is freedom, unlike a story and yet a poem can deliver such a powerful message.

Poetry is magical; It has a life of its own. Words appear and disappear,
Tumble and stumble from inside.

Poetry is difficult and sometimes so easy that you think IT is in charge, not you!

Poetry is a shadow, a tiny glimmer of an idea that you must follow but not too close otherwise you might scare it off.

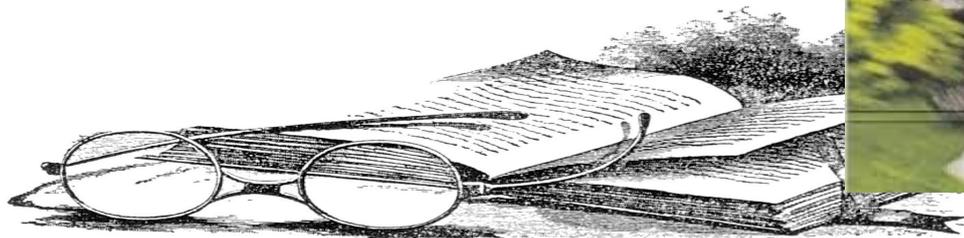
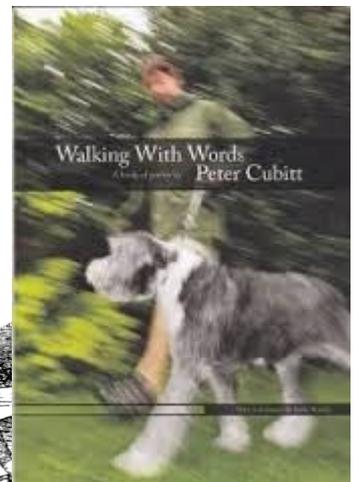
Poetry is not hindered by your age, sex, or intelligence. It's an invisible bridge between two minds. The words are the eyes of the poet; so the reader can share the view.

Poetry is an old language that we share with all humans. This language is hidden in the depths of some and in others is continually shouting and demanding attention.

Poetry is in all of us.

Poetry is life.

Peter's book of poetry *Walking With Words* is still available, at £7.99 +p&p, from Newman Books. Contact Steve Newman on 01789 296771, or by emailing: stevenewman.newman@gmail.com





Coming Up Rosés

Hazel Tattersall



Summer is officially here and as our tastes in food change, so with our choice of wines. In our stores, the 'pink wave' is noticeable on the wine shelves, in expectation of demand. Popularity and sales have risen substantially over the last 10 years. However, it can be very confusing when selecting rosé wine as to its style: dry, off dry, light or fuller bodied.

Sounds obvious, but firstly, have a good look at the colour which can range from palest pink, to salmon pink, deepening to light red.

It's helpful to know a little about how these wines are made and the grape varieties used. Grapes with deep coloured skins e.g. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot give deeper coloured wines than lighter skinned Grenache, Cinsault and Pinot Noir. A region's climate affects grape ripeness and so alcohol levels. In France, for example, wines from the northerly Loire, may be lighter in colour and style from those in Provence or Languedoc Roussillon.

Depending on the country, label descriptions will differ e.g. Blush in California, Rosado in Spain, Rosato in Italy. Also there are regional terms such as Blush (California), Clairet (Bordeaux) and Chiaretto (Italy's Lake Garda region). So to winemaking where skin colour and contact is key. Most wines are made from red-skinned grapes, but there are some heavily pigmented white grapes e.g. Pinot Gris. Although there are several methods of production, the most usual is known as the 'saignée' method, a French term meaning 'bleeding'. After light pressing, the skins are left in contact with the juice for 12-24 hours, allowing colour pigments and flavourings to 'bleed' into the 'must', giving deeper colour and structure to the finished wine.



So how do we choose an appropriate style? As a wine educator, it's a question I am frequently asked. Do we want a wine to enjoy as a chilled aperitif, a sparkling wine for a celebration perhaps? Then a paler, lighter alcohol style may suit.



When it comes to food, be more adventurous and try a fuller bodied style, perhaps a Languedoc rosé with a lightly spiced chicken curry. Fresh crab linguine is delicious with an Italian medium dry style. A board of Spanish charcuterie works well with a Rioja Rosado.

Whatever your choice, I hope you enjoy it.

The Friends of the Music of Holy Trinity Proudly Presented
The Alcester Male Voice Choir

A Review
Jane Taylor



On Saturday 16th May we were delighted to host The Alcester Male Voice Choir in Holy Trinity Church under the leadership of their founder-conductor, Judith Land. Over the past 40 years this Choir has raised many thousands of pounds for charities, churches, schools, clubs and associations by holding regular monthly concerts in South Warwickshire and beyond.

The Choir has an enviable reputation for the quality of its singing and varied repertoire both of which appeal to audiences of all ages and of all musical tastes. The Choir has performed in many prestigious venues including The Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham Town Hall, Cardiff Arms Park, Worcester Cathedral, Ely Cathedral and many more. It is due to appear at St George's Chapel, Windsor in July.

Their programme in Holy Trinity featured songs from *West Side Story*, *Pirates of Penzance* and Wagner's *Lohengrin*, as well as other theatrical scores, and they included stirring marches such as Onward Christian Soldiers and Men of Harlech. Vocal solos were provided by two talented young singers, William Monks and Matt Harris, while Holy Trinity's own Stephen Dodsworth gave us a brilliant instrumental interlude on the organ. Another very talented musician, the Choir's accompanist and singer-songwriter, Elliot Rooney, sang and played one of his own composition to much popular acclaim.

The penultimate rendition of Singin' in the Rain was accompanied by a tap dance routine provided by two charming young ladies, Evie Lowe and Emily Tullett, complete with umbrellas and eye-catchingly sparkly costumes. It all made for a highly varied and entertaining evening.

Thanks to some strategic advertising the church was packed and the audience clearly enjoyed the music because applause was long and loud and donations to funds were very generous. Both types of reward were gratefully received.

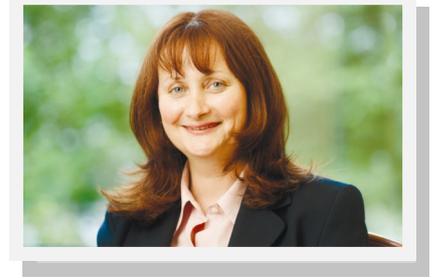


The Friends of the Music are greatly indebted to The Alcester Male Voice Choir, Judith Land, Elliot Rooney and all of their friends who worked so hard to create for us a wonderfully memorable concert and lucrative fund raising event. We very much look forward to their next visit.

Photo: John Burgess

St. Helen's News

Pauline Newbury Writes...



A Brief History of The Origins of St.Helen's Church

The original church of St Helen's was constructed in the Anglo-Saxon period and dedicated to the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The advowson, together with the Manor and lands pertaining to it, passed to the Abbot of Gloucester at the Norman Conquest. The property was then administered by the Chamber of the Abbot, hence the name Clifford Chambers.

After the Reformation the advowson passed to the family of Rainsford who held the manor. At the time of the Civil War the Rainsford family, who espoused the Royalist cause, lost all their property. The estates and advowson then passed to Job Dighton, whose family held them until 1807 when they were left to the Revd. Arthur Annesley by his uncle Lister Dighton. They remained in the Annesley family until the end of the nineteenth century.

The Norman church had a nave with North and South doors and a chancel. A chapel was added on the North side. The original Anglo-Saxon church was rebuilt in the Norman period, although part of the Saxon work can still be traced in the tower and the foundations. In the 15th century all the windows were altered to the pointed Perpendicular style, with a tower and wooden porch added.



In 1886, owing to the dangerous condition of the whole structure, a major restoration was begun; the architect was Mr J. Cotton of Birmingham.

The Norman chancel arch was replaced by the present Gothic arch, with the chancel extended to the east and the vestry added.

I must thank the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), and the Stratford-upon-Avon Decorative and Fine Arts Society (STRADFAS), for allowing me to quote from The NADFAS Record of Church

Furnishings, published in 2006, the completion of which was assisted by members of Holy Trinity Church, and Barry Wylam, the late Warden of St. Helen's.

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 on 01789 299195

Advertising Feature



The Dirty Duck (or is it The Black Swan?) is undoubtedly Stratford's most famous pub—if not the world's—with a great reputation for its beers and ales—not to mention the wines - and some pretty good food too, plus excellent service from landlord Sam's great bunch of staff.

Since the 1880s the pub has been a second home for actors working at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre and for the RSC, such as Ellen Terry, Richard Burton, Laurence Olivier, Peter O'Toole, Diana Rigg, Peggy Mount, Jim Hooper, David Bradley, Sir Anthony Sher, and so on.

In its own right 'The Duck' has become a much respected performance venue, staging shows from such local groups as The Bird of Prey Theatre Company, and the Stratford Playwrights, plus out of town visiting groups.

Even Holy Trinity Church produced *Sunday Night At The Dirty Duck* a few years ago. The shows were a showcase for local comedians—not least the clergy(!), musicians and actors, that went down well with the pub's locals, tourists, and members of the church's congregation.

The Dirty Duck is not the oldest pub in town, but nonetheless dates back to the 18th century as an ale house. Before that, parts of the building probably date back to the 12th or 13th century.

It's name, 'The Dirty Duck', only dates back to 1943, when American GIs and Canadian airmen obviously thought 'The Black Swan' far too long.



Javier Patrick & Landlord Sam

The Dirty Duck

Telephone: 01789 297312

dirtyduck.stratforduponavon@greenking.co.uk



GREENE KING
BURY ST EDMUNDS

The Dirty Duck

Waterside

Stratford-upon-Avon

Ronnie Mulryne Has a Quiz for You!

Where in Holy Trinity will you find:

The oldest part of the Church you can easily visit?

The most remarkable memorial in Holy Trinity (and far beyond)?

A beautiful arts-and-crafts aumbry?

A medieval altar recess?

The only part of the Church dedicated to those who fell in WW1?

Our strongest connection with our friends in the United States?

The newest chandelier?



The answer to all these questions (you've guessed) is the south transept, known today as St Peter's Chapel. The beautiful lancet windows – narrow pointed windows – are 13th century, proving that the Chapel belongs to the earliest phase in the Church's construction. The remarkable memorial remembers Richard Hill, a contemporary of Shakespeare, but the astonishing (unique?) fact is that the tribute to Hill is carved in four languages, Hebrew, Greek, Latin and English. Go and see if you can make out what it says – if you can work around the modern stonework associated with the installation of the organ case. Both the aumbry, used for storing sacred vessels, and the medieval altar recess, are inside the clergy vestry, which occupies almost one half of the Chapel, and are therefore not easily seen by most members of the congregation. St Peter's was re-dedicated in 1920 to the fallen of the First World War, and has some interesting memorial tablets recording the names of local volunteers, including a tablet to members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Go and look. What you won't find in St Peter's is the most strikingly beautiful of the memorials, originally in St Peter's, but now installed in the Becket Chapel, where its golden colour echoes the recently purchased and hung Tibor Reich fabric. Almost finally, the Chapel's magnificent south window, obscured today by the wall of the clergy vestry, was commissioned and paid for (in part) by the American ambassador and depicts among others some of the founding fathers

And finally, as the broadcasters say, there's the rather grand new chandelier suspended above the Chapel. This has been purchased and installed by the Friends of Shakespeare's Church as the first step towards the restoration and refurbishment of St Peter's. We've been aiming initially at the transformation of the Chapel as a place of worship. At present, some say, for most people it's little more than a busy corridor between the crossing and the clergy vestry, though this fails to notice its use as, for example, the place where the daily office is celebrated or healing prayer takes place.



Continued on next page...

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Yet it is potentially a lovely and sacred space where quiet reflection and prayer can be enjoyed by congregation and visitors alike. We aim to move the clergy vestry to the new extension currently being constructed to the south side of the church, so opening up the chapel's full beauty, and to provide new and up-to-date chapel furnishings, including a new altar and new seating.

All this seemed practical within the usual resources of the Friends, given the familiar, generous help of the congregation. Until, that is, we received the latest report of the church architect, which included the unwelcome information that the chapel's south gable – the wall occupied by the 'American' window – is crumbling and in part out of alignment. We've been told that repair is urgent, within 18 months, which counts as urgent in the history of Holy Trinity. An estimated cost is in the region of £100,000, with the whole restoration and refurbishment now estimated at £150,000. This is a crisis ... and to take account of the cost-saving potential of workmen being already on site for the extension we need to have sufficient funds in hand to allow the to begin repair later this year.

The Friends have responded by approaching the Town Trust, which has been generous to us in the past, and by entering into discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has a scheme specifically targeted at urgent repairs to historic churches. But in both cases, though we live in hope, we're likely to come up against the brute fact that many others are also in need, so we may receive little assistance or even none at all. We are exploring the requirements of other grant-giving bodies and are launching an appeal both to our own congregation and to those in Stratford who value the historic importance of Holy Trinity and who appreciate its role in the annual civic life of the town, as well as everything it offers as a sacred place for baptisms, weddings and burials.

If you can help, either by way of personal support or knowledge of the charitable grant-giving sector, we'd be more than happy to hear from you. Please get in touch with the Clerk to the Friends, Jonathan Drake, on 01789-290128 or speak to Jonathan or me or any Friends' Trustee. If you're computer savvy you can visit the Friends' website for more information – and if you aren't yet a member of the Friends, please join. Or visit the church bookshop to purchase your copy of *A Taste for History* – there are a few copies still left. Some groups within the church, including the Hospitality Teas group, the Trinity Ladies and Margaret Dale's plant stall, have given generous help, for which we are very grateful, and we've had support too from individuals and from the Friends of the Music. Why not join all these in helping us to complete this important project?



Ronnie Mulryne

Chairman

Friends of Shakespeare's Church

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 jenny@rowland.entadsl.com 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 Manager –Linda MacDermott :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

Trinity Ladies—Ann Morris: 01789 266226

Electoral Roll Officer—Tim Raistrick: 01789 509885

Friends of the Music—Jane Hornby: 01789 263966

Friends of Shakespeare's Church-Jonathan Drake 01789 290128

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: ruth_langdon@yahoo.co.uk 01789 295031

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

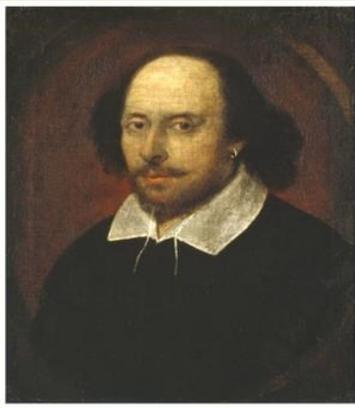
Stratford Churches Together—Sarah Gretton: 01789 205820

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



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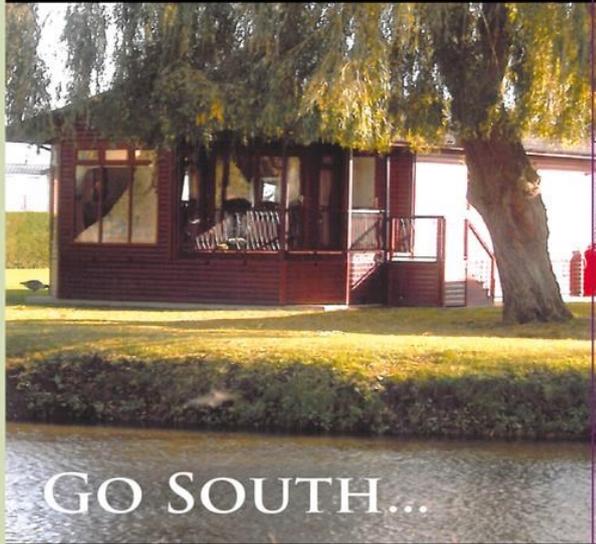
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O Lord God,

your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his resurrection

he restores life and peace in all creation.

Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance

and those oppressed by their fellow humans.

Remember in your kingdom those who have died.

Lead the oppressors towards compassion

and give hope to the suffering.

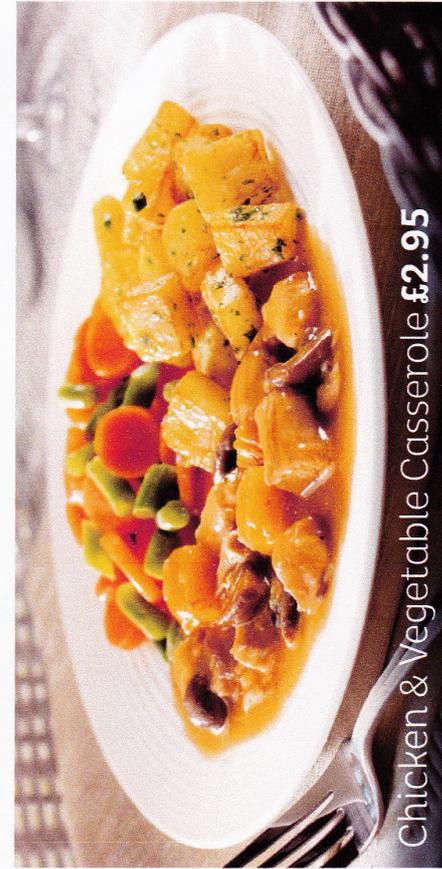
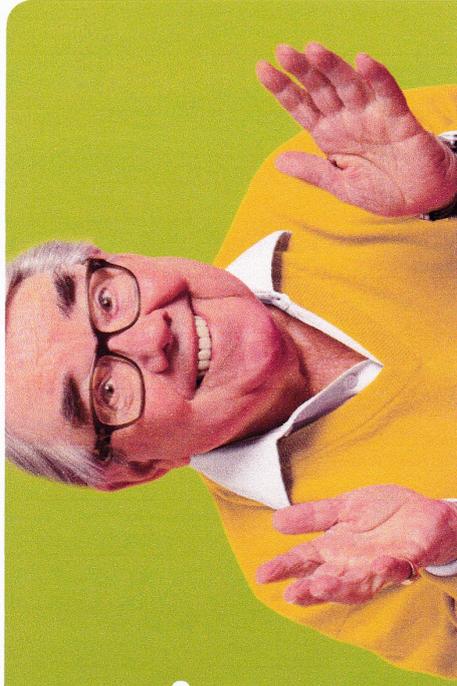
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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