

# TRINITY TIMES

SEPTEMBER  
2015

60p

The Magazine For The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon



Patrick Writes  
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Amy  
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Christianity at Work  
Page 11

*"Thank you Jesus People"*

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St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers  
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# This Issue...

For the last 3 years, the name of Amy Whitehead has been included in the Pew Sheet and Prayers for Intercession. Amy's Grandmother, **Brenda Lageu**, explains.



Amy was suffering from anorexia and came close to death on a number of occasions. After 3 years in hospital she was no longer in physical danger but her psychological and spiritual health were, if anything, worse. In

September 2014, following her discharge from hospital, she was accepted at Mercy Ministries in Yorkshire, who offer a residential Christian discipleship programme to young women struggling with life-controlling issues. The Testimony she read out at her Graduation from Mercy in June shows how far she has come, with the help of God, working through both the staff at Mercy Ministries and her family. In September, Amy is starting a one-year residential bible study course at Capernwray Bible School in North Lancashire. My most heartfelt thanks to the people of Holy Trinity who prayed for Amy. Read Amy's Testimony on page 33.

Sam Bridges' *Au revoir* on page 44. He's off to Oxford.

Read Jim Hooper's Christianity at Work on pages 11, 12 and 13.

On page 16 read the first in a new series, *Time For Prayer*, written by Linda MacDermott.

There's now a list of monthly service readings on page 23. Plus loads more

*Steve & Hilary*



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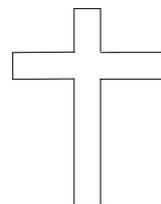
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Associate Vicar



Rachel Saum  
Pioneer Lay Minister



Revd Nicki Chatterton  
Curate





# Patrick Writes...



## " The Importance of Good Vision... "

Those adverts on the TV can be annoying, can't they? But I have to admit I don't mind watching the more amusing ones. One of my favourites is "Should've gone to Specsavers", especially the one where a Space Shuttle is on its way back to earth after a successful mission and preparing to land at Houston. The next shot is of the astronauts looking rather embarrassed at an airport baggage reclaim with the announcement over the tannoy saying, "Luton airport regrets delays due to an unscheduled arrival". If our vision isn't right we end up in the wrong place! It's a good message for selling glasses, but in a wider sense it's also true for any organisation, especially the Church. Unless we have a clear vision of where we should be heading, of what we are to be, then we run the risk of ending up in the wrong place, of not being the church and people God is calling us to be in this place at this time.

Over the past year I've been asking the question "what's our vision, where are we going?". It's been put to the clergy team, the Standing Committee, PCC and to everyone at our "What are we here for?" Lent course. At the Parish Away Day in May we began to pull our reflections together and consider suitable words that would, simply and powerfully, express our vision. Then in July the PCC finally agreed the wording. Our vision is:

Lives changed through God's love

So why do we need a new vision? From time to time the Church, like any other organisation, needs to review what we are doing to satisfy ourselves that we continue to play a valuable and collaborative part in God's mission in the world, and to meet the needs of the community that we serve. The aim is to rejuvenate our work for God, through a new, shared vision that will take into account the changing culture in which we live. It was not about change for change's sake!

A clear vision helps us create a common identity, signalling to all where the church is going. I hope it will energise us to work together towards the same goal. It also reminds us that we need each other if anything significant is going to happen for Christ.

Of course the next question is how we will do it. In order to address this the PCC have also agreed a purpose statement, which outlines the things we will do to fulfil our vision. Our purpose is:

To play our part in worshipping God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit),  
making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming communities.

Continued on next page...

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Making this purpose a reality with limited resources means we must identify which things are a priority at this time. We also need some clear objectives for what we will do, when we will do it and how we will measure the impact. This is all work in progress, and will from now on be an important focus of the work of the PCC.

Our new vision provides a picture that I hope will steer us on our journey from **what is** to **what could be**, and help us to avoid ending up in the wrong place! Working together and trusting in God, I am sure we will see lives changed through God's love.



**FRIENDS OF  
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## St Peter's Chapel Appeal

We have already received an encouraging response from individuals and groups within our Church community. But we need much more financial support if we are to restore and furnish this ancient chapel as a fitting place of worship. Please put your donation in one of the yellow envelopes available at the 'fish tank', the FOSC collecting point in the crossing (opposite St Peter's)

or contact



[Jonathan Drake \(290128\)](#) or [Ronnie Mulryne \(205774\)](#)



## My Christian Funeral Plan

Have you ever been at a funeral service and thought that's a nice prayer, poem or hymn, I would quite like that at my funeral? Or on the other hand have you thought I definitely don't want a funeral service like that one. If you have strong views on your own funeral the Bereavement Support Team have produced a form which might help you put your own wishes down on paper which you can pass on to your family or executor.

This form will be available from the beginning of September at the back of church, please take one home and think about it and pass it on to your loved ones. Often family members do not know what your favourite hymn etc is and they often find it hard to put a service together which they hope their loved one would approve of, so a form like this might be very helpful to them.

We do hope that you find this form useful.



*Gina Lodge*

**Bereavement Support Team**

# *Worship in September*

## **SUNDAY September 6th Holy Trinity *Trinity 14***

8.00am Holy Communion— Preacher Rachel Saum

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Rachel Saum

**Parish Centre:** Good News @ 10—Talk Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Congregational Evensong—Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton

**St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Family Worship—with Revd Jenny Rowland

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion BCP—with Revd Canon John Graty

## **SUNDAY September 13th Holy Trinity *Trinity 15***

8.00am Vision—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Vision I—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor  
Choir Return

6.00pm Choral Evensong—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor Vision I

**Parish Centre** 10.00am Junior Church-with Rachel Saum

**Parish Centre** 7pm Open To God

**St.Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Holy Communion— with Revd Nicki Chatterton

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd Graham Wilcox

## **SUNDAY September 20th Holy Trinity *Trinity 16***

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Vision II—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Evensong & Compline —with Revd Nicki Chatterton. Preacher James Sorel-Cameron

**9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird**-with Rachel Saum & Revd Nicki Chatterton

**Parish Centre** 10.00am Junior Church

**St.Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Morning Worship

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Family Holy Communion—with Revd Canon John Graty

## **SUNDAY September 27th Holy Trinity *Trinity 17***

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Food4thought—Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP—Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox

**Parish Centre** 10.00am Junior Church—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

**St.Helen's Clifford Chambers** 9.15am Trad Holy Communion—with Revd Graham Wilcox

**All Saints' Luddington** 9.15am Family Service & Harvest with Revd Dr Stephen Bate



See page 23 for this  
month's readings

# Worship in September

## Food4thought



### Food4thought starts this month and BCP Communion moves to the 4th Sunday

Starting from September, the 10am Parish Eucharist on the 4th Sunday of the month will be a shorter, less formal act of worship called *Food4thought*. This will be a service which includes worship, teaching, prayer and Holy Communion, which we hope will be more accessible for adults who may not be used to going to church, or who prefer a less formal style to the usual Parish Eucharist. It is intended that the music at this service will be provided by an instrumental group to allow for a variety of styles of songs and hymns, although we are still looking for players! This will therefore be the Sunday on which the choir have the morning off (rather than the 1st Sunday of the month as at present). Accordingly, the 6pm BCP Holy Communion service will now take place on the 4th Sunday rather than the 1st. So the monthly pattern will be as follows:

Sunday in the month	Church Building 10am	Parish Centre 10am (9.30am breakfast)	Other
1st	Parish Eucharist with choir	Good News@10	Choral Evensong 6pm
2nd	Parish Eucharist with choir	Junior Church	Open to God 7pm (Parish Centre)
3rd	Parish Eucharist with choir	Junior Church	Holy Trinity@Rosebird 9.30am
4th	Food4thought with band	Junior Church	BCP Choral HC 6pm
5th	Parish Eucharist with choir	Junior Church	

Services which are less formal (and have music led by instrumental groups rather than choir and organ) are shown in yellow. Notice that on each Sunday of the month (except when there is a 5th Sunday) there is the choice of either a formal/choral service or an informal/band led service. We hope this pattern will help us fulfil our desire to offer a range of worship styles so that there is something accessible and attractive to people of different ages and at different stages in their journey of faith.

Please come and join us for the first *Food4thought* which takes place on 27th September at 10am. The preacher is The Rev. Andrew Dow and the theme is "Look where you're going!". Let us know what you think!

Patrick



## RAYMOND SIMPSON-SMITH

It is a shame that John Betjeman is not around to mourn the passing of Raymond. He could have written a brilliant poem about such a character; traditionalist in many ways but far from staid, in fact highly colourful and larger than life, yet a man of faith and a man of the Church to his fingertips.

He will be remembered as a churchwarden – indeed, for most of his time in office, senior warden – who steered Holy Trinity through the departure as Vicar of Peter Holliday and the appointment of Martin Gorick. Also as a long-serving Chair of the Friends of the Music, who helped to put that organisation at the centre of the church's social life as well as promoting worship and the choir. More recently he will be remembered for his strong support for All Saints Luddington.

Last but not least, as a lover of drama and the stage, and one who therefore slotted so well into the inner life of Stratford, he will be remembered for his equally strong support of Trinity Players and his energetic front-of-house management.

A fuller appreciation appears in the next edition. For the moment, we pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Anthony Woollard*



## Norman Kitcher

1922—2015



Norman Kitcher was, first and foremost, an artist and craftsman who, aged 17, at the start of World War II, found himself serving in the RAF in North Africa as a radio operator. After the war he ended-up in a small wooden shed in the middle of a field that later became Heathrow Airport. He was there to help develop radio communications, but he didn't like that shed and quickly turned himself into a teacher of arts and crafts in Burford, where he met his future wife Freda.

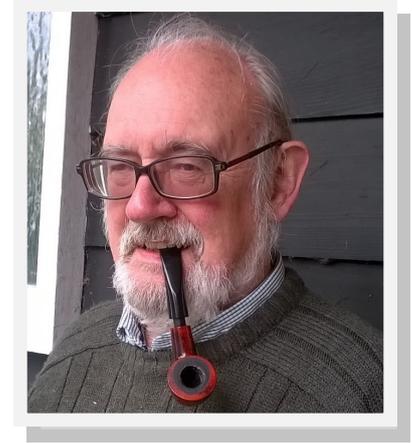
He built violins, and was a keen twitcher. He was also a gentleman of the first order. A full appreciation of Norman will be in the October edition of this magazine.

*Steve Newman*

# Anthony Woollard's

## Window on the World

"...be it ever so outrageous..."



My last column was about tragedy, and this one begins with the words spoken by the Duke of Albany at the end of *King Lear*:

The weight of this sad time we must obey;  
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.

In other words, there are times when the conventional response to a situation is felt to be wrong, and (to use a more modern expression) we should “let it all hang out”. Writing at a time which was very controlled indeed – by the Church, by the State, by conventions appropriate to different classes of people – Shakespeare is being quite revolutionary here.



Jeremy Corbyn

Photo:: [newsglimpse.com](http://newsglimpse.com)

It seems to be ringing bells in contemporary politics. Why are “extremists” of Left or Right – Jeremy Corbyn in the Labour Party, Donald Trump in the US Republican Party, and others – seemingly so popular all of a sudden? Because they appear to “speak what they feel”, be it ever so outrageous, rather than behaving like mainstream politicians and sticking to “what they ought to say”. Many people are fed up with political compromise-speak, and they latch onto anyone who seems more authentic.

Maybe that is a necessary reaction to the politics of recent years. Whether it is the best response to the challenges facing society is another matter.

It is good that there are some who speak from the heart without trying to be “politic” or adjusting to what they think the voters will swallow. On some issues recently, notably poverty and immigration, our Bishops have done just that. It is called prophecy. Naturally they have been accused of “meddling in politics”. But that is just what they have not done. They have spoken from a place beyond politics. They have reminded us about some deeper truths, for example that the “swarm” of would-be immigrants at Calais consists of real people, many of whom have suffered unimaginably. What that means in terms of practical immigration policy is not for the prophets to resolve. But the politicians and civil servants, whose job it is, need to face up to it.

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The term “shades of grey” has gained some unfortunate connotations recently through a series of erotic novels. Long before that, it was the name of a very small group of fairly radical Christians to which I belonged during my time in Whitehall. The name reflected the fact that, whilst our faith might offer clear principles for living together in society, putting these into effect was a much more fuzzy business, particularly for civil servants constrained by Government policies. I don't think the group achieved much, other than giving spiritual support to colleagues in what could be quite compromising situations. But maybe that was worth something.

In a messy world, compromise is constantly necessary, and politicians have to be politic (and civil servants even more so). Some may lose the plot and abandon their principles in the process. Those who challenge this are performing a service. But their principled authenticity will not, by itself, solve problems. There is a place for the uncompromising prophet, but also a place for the politician and the functionary who have to work in the real world.

T S Eliot is not a very fashionable poet these days, nor are the ideas which he expressed. But there is a passage in his *Four Quartets* where he deals with today's hunger for “authentic” spiritual experience. Yes, he says, such moments happen in our lives. But they are fleeting.



Photo: [theshakespeareblog.com](http://theshakespeareblog.com)

T.S. Eliot

“..... and the rest  
Is prayer, observance, discipline, thought, and action.”

In other words, focusing on the practicalities of “what we ought to say” (and do), rather than on “what we feel”, is usually the right thing within the everyday world where life is often boring and often involves compromise. This is equally true in both political and spiritual realms. It is learning when to accept that hard grind, and when to recognise and respond to those precious moments of authenticity that take us beyond it, that brings true maturity.

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# Christianity at Work

*Jim Hooper*

*"I've never forgotten that smile..."*

I once said to someone that I didn't think I could ever have been one of Christ's apostles.

"Why?" I was asked through laughter,

"I would be tormented by the doubt that he loved the other disciples more than me."

Well, of course that says much more about me and nothing about Christ or his followers.

I suppose that as human beings, and not deities, we need assurance through that great 'cloud of unknowing'. And perhaps part of trying to be a Christian is just accepting that faith, for some of us, is a fragile and imponderable gift.

As an actor, part of my professional remit, as an emotional scientist, is to examine human behaviour and try to interpret it via the gift of text, of other actors and the director.

Most of my work of late has been with Shakespeare and part of that complex Elizabethan picture. All of his creations inhabit a definite religious world, where heaven and hell are absolutes. I agree that for the sake of artistic licence one can profitably overlook this, but for myself, part of being truthful as a performer in his plays is to accept this fact as a crucial trigger in the process of creating a character and I always remind myself of it.

Ever since my confirmation, I am continually reminded how difficult it is to even be open about being a Christian at all especially at work. How often do we overhear colleagues proclaiming their non-religious beliefs, and yes it is hard to 'come out' and say I am a Christian and if you want to I can talk to you about it. No one lacks that courage more than me. I know that proclaiming your love of God - whoever or whatever he, she, it may be - is part of the teaching, but owning up to anything, least of all in potentially hostile situations, is never easy.

But should the 'workplace' be any different to anywhere else? I suppose the time spent there may compare to being in bed asleep - one third of our lives.

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The 'workplace' - as part of being a Christian - is everywhere because if we are guided by the power of Christ's love, then that gift is within all of us. Surely then our 'work' is to recognise His love and to cherish and act upon it.

"Father, grant that I may be filled with your Holy Spirit,  
And recognise it in others..."

Some years ago, while travelling in southern India, I visited a catholic father at his office next to the beautiful Basilica in Kochin. I fancied I wanted to do some kind of charity work at a local orphanage and was put in touch with young Father Joseph to help me in my quest. His dusty book filled office would have made a wonderful setting for a film. As I waited for him to lift his head and acknowledge me, an Indian worker came rushing into the room in a state of excited adulation, speaking broken English and Malayalam:

"Father, oh Father!" he said.

"What is it, Peter?" Asked Father Joseph, not raising his head from the paperwork he was studying.

"I saw this morning, in my very own garden, a beautiful, so very beautiful vision of Our Lady holding the baby Jesus. I saw Her as clear as I see you here my father."

I waited to see how the young priest would interpret this wonder.

Raising his head slowly, and with patient loving eyes, he replied.

"Well, that is truly a great blessing, Peter."

Then, turning his eyes to me, and with the faint hint of a smile, he added.

"Some of us are not so fortunate."

Peter left the office the most happiest of men.

Once on the tube I too fancied I saw opposite me a vision of Christ . He looked as if he might have been middle-eastern. He was about thirty, with the most astonishing long black hair. He was carrying tools in a bag, which lay at his feet. He was clearly a carpenter and my fascination with him went beyond his outward appearance for he seemed to communicate the most profound peace. As I watched him watching me, I too shared that peace, which gave the most incredible reassurance. As he got up to exit the train he turned and smiled at me. It felt like a sort of recognition.



Jim in the Shakespeare Service  
at Holy Trinity, 2014. Photo: Hilary Newman

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I've never forgotten that smile. Whether he was Christ, or an angel, is immaterial because I believe that his 'message' was pure and simple: that there is good in the smallest of human actions.

Perhaps part of our work, as followers of that extraordinary man, is to be vigilant, to recognise simple acts of love everywhere we are and to honour them. Never is this more explicit to us than in catastrophic situations, particularly the devastation caused by brutal acts of terrorism.

Emergency workers of every kind have something which is called Priority 4. This is invoked when someone is so severely injured that they are not going to survive. Another person then stays with them to wait, just wait. This to me is a supreme act of unconditional love.

I am always moved by the way early Christians (in the days of Roman rule) used to draw - as a secret sign to other Christians - one half of a fish in the sand. Another Christian would then complete the image.

Thankfully today we live under no such oppression, but perhaps we should try and honour that gesture in a more open and courageous way .

Whether in the workplace or not, all I wish for is to catch the occasional glimpse of God .

Jim Hooper has been with the RSC since the 1980s. He lives in London and worships at St. Paul's Covent Garden where he is also a server. When in Stratford he worships at Holy Trinity. Jim will be back in Stratford this month playing the part of the Archbishop of Canterbury in *Henry V*.

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# HOWLERS!

COMPILED BY PAT PILTON – pat.pilton@btinternet.com



A bouncy castle was stolen from the Solway Holiday Village in Silloth. The 1,500lb inflatable was taken between 7pm on Thursday and 11.30 am on Friday of last week. Police say it was not inflated at the time.

*The Times and Star, Cumbria*

## Channel 5 TV listings guide:

8pm There's a rhino in my bed

9pm Miracle Babies.

*Radio 4's News Quiz*



**Trailer on Radio 4's Today programme: What makes a man kill? Weekday afternoons on BBC Radio 4.**

*A man appeared in court accused of stealing an English dictionary. During the trial the judge suddenly halted proceedings and, turning to the defendant's barrister, said: 'I'd like a word in Chambers.' The accused, overhearing this, shouted: "Obstreperous!"*



## ONE-LINERS



Tim Vine

**I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.**

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis

**This bloke left a huge lump of plasticine in my dressing room. I don't know what to make of it.**

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

[www.timvine.com](http://www.timvine.com)



*"After the summer we've had, I'm expecting a lot of people to bring fish!"*

# *KINETON MANOR*

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# Time For Prayer

“Please make the photocopier work...”

*Linda MacDermott*



Attending an interview is never an easy thing to do, that's the point of them really. In preparation for my recent interview for the post of Parish Manager I worked hard researching as much as I could find about Holy Trinity, St Helen's and All Saints churches. I found out what happens at the Parish Centre and which groups use the building. I read some copies of the *Trinity Times* in order to get 'a feel' for the congregation, and I bought a new pair of shoes! But most importantly, in preparation for my interview, I prayed.

I prayed that God would guide me, that he would guide the interview panel, that he would calm my nerves and those of my fellow interviewees, and in particular, I prayed that his will would be done. These were not eloquent prayers, but my faith and my Bible tells me that God heard me (1 John 5:14).

Having just left a very busy role training staff at the county council, there were days when I needed some guidance or wisdom. A very quick 'God please help me sort this out' was about as much as I could manage. I am sure that God heard me and helped me in those moments, but perhaps not necessarily in the way I expected.

Over the course of my working life, I have seen prayer in the workplace take many forms. A solicitors practice in Birmingham holds a morning staff prayer time in a coffee shop, and at CPAS the staff get together each day at 10.30am to pray for their work. It is always a privilege to be part of an organisation where prayer is central, but more importantly it is a privilege to work with individuals who understand how essential prayer is to their own working lives.

It never ceases to amaze me how Christian workers seem to find one another, even in very large organisations. During my time at the council, I have met Christian workers who have been very vocal about their faith, and others who have been very quiet, everyone an individual and each on handling the pressures, frustrations and joys of their working lives in different ways. I have always found these to be very important contacts and there has been many an email sent from, or to, a colleague asking for prayer support before an important or difficult meeting.

I am certain that God hears each and every prayer, whether in a formal prayer time or not. I am sure that even the mundane prayers are heard – 'please make the photocopier work' is one of my most uttered work based prayers! Prayer at work is happening all over the place and a good thing too. Wouldn't we want the work of our local councils, schools or doctors surgeries to be prayed about? After all, their work affects us all one way or another.

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Neither my faith nor my Bible tells me that I'm going to be the next Chief Executive of John Lewis (oh, the staff discount!) or a coffee taster for Taylor's of Harrogate (a perfect job), but I do know that if I stand firm and faithful, and be prayerful, the work of my hands will be the work that God wants me to do, and that really is the perfect job.

If you hear me praying over the photocopier in the parish office – please fetch a screwdriver because something will be stuck!

## Honour The Spirit of Louise Weatherhead

In February 2014 Louise Weatherhead passed away, a Stratford resident well known and loved by many. To honour her spirit and her memory her son Wayne and neighbour Andy are encouraging friends and members of the local community to join them running *Stratford's Big 10k on September 13<sup>th</sup>* dressed in pink and purple, in aid of The Shakespeare Hospice who supported Louise through her illness.

Some of the parents involved with children and families' ministry at Holy Trinity Church have already signed up, including Ruth Poulten, Chris Rogers and Andy Martin. If you would like to join them please let Andy know

[andrewmartin@acumenassociates.org](mailto:andrewmartin@acumenassociates.org)



### Priscilla Henderson

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# September's Diary...



**Every Wednesday Lunchtime in September**— Soundbites is a series of FREE lunchtime concerts (1.00pm), with sandwiches available to buy from 12.30pm. Money raised will help The Friends of the Music support the music of Holly Trinity.

**Friday 18th September**—Click and Chatter, 2.15-3.45pm, Holy Trinity Parish Centre Lounge. Contact Andrea Blood (266825) or Gillian Nunn (415830) for further info.

**Saturday 3rd October**-Saturday Live in the Lounge. Relax with friends over a glass of wine and enjoy words and music by members of Trinity Players. You are most welcome to come with a reading or a song that you would like to share. Parish Centre Lounge—Admission Free.

**Wednesday 23rd September**— Alpha Course, 3 Coopers Close, Stratford-upon-Avon. For more info contact Steve Bate 01789 299195

**From Saturday 12th September** to October 25th—The new RSC production of Henry V.

**Saturday 12th September**— 'Ride & Stride' Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust is holding its annual 'Ride & Stride', sponsored push bike riding, or walking from one historic church to another to help raise money for those churches that don't have a tourist income.

There is no [Faith in Film](#) in September.

October's choice is *The Spy Who Came in From The Cold* starring Richard Burton





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# Kevin Tomes' Page

## That One Thing...



Many years ago I was explaining to my then girlfriend about my love of professional wrestling. It was thoroughly entertaining and I didn't see it as much different from, for example, her love of *Eastenders*. Both shows have 'goodies' and 'baddies', they have over-the-top stories, numerous occasions of very public confrontations and fake fighting. The only major difference to my mind is that a top-robe 'Stratusfaction' headsissors takedown is a lot more impressive to watch than a Peggy Butcher backhand slap.

All this was well and good up until she happened to walk in one day to see me watching an episode of *Saturday Night Smackdown* wherein WWE Owner and CEO Vince McMahon invariably dropped his trousers in the ring.

The segment went on for almost half an hour and I'll never forget the look on Angie's face... "Oh, so *this* is that thing you like...".

It was not a great introduction.

That memory always reminds me of a friend's experience while he was a teenager.

Noah, who grew up in Arizona, is a fan of role playing games and computer games and has been since he was very young, just like me – it's how we met. He was especially a fan of the *Ultima* series of computer role-playing games.

During the 90's in the southern U.S. there was a moral panic that involved both computer games and role-playing games. They were thought to be bad influences, even satanic ones. Young teenage Noah had a hard time convincing his mom that these accusations were baseless, and mostly the invention of a hyperbolic press. He had an even harder time explaining it when Origin Systems released *Ultima 8* and decided to call it '*Pagan*'. Complete with box art featuring the fires of hell lapping around a black iron pentagram.

I'm sure a lot of people can sympathise with mine and Noah's experiences. Many of us have that one thing, that one interest, hobby, activity – anything - that we find entertaining, fascinating, or important; but that others find simply baffling, or even offensive or dangerous.

For some of us, that one thing can be our religion.

In my experience, education is the key to solving this. Although it may not always work out. My attempt to win Angie over to the world of wrestling by showing her a sample of it didn't work and never would – Noah solved his problem by inviting his mom to watch a game of *Dungeons and Dragons* he played with his friends, demonstrating and

We both tried. Angie will never enjoy wrestling, but she was at least open to the idea of me showing it to her.

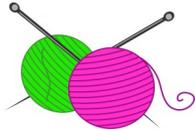
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Noah's mom would never play D&D, but at least her experience helped her understand what it was, rather than to continue fearing it out of ignorance. Everyone grew as a result of those attempts, even Noah and me. We both learned what it was that our counterparts either didn't like or didn't understand about our hobbies, and that knowledge, that growth is important.

It can be risky, it sometimes may not work. But I think it's worth it to explain to those friends you have about that one thing you like.

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



## Nifty Knitters

Calling all the 'nifty knitters' who have knitted sheep for our *Holy Family* each year and any new interested knitters. This year for a change we are asking if you could knit us some *Kings* and *Shepherds* as shown here. They are 3½ inches tall and very simple to make out of any left over wool. Patterns available from the Parish office, or in a folder at the back of church.



Nicki Chatterton

## Social Shoppers

Do you like chatting to shop assistants as you do your shopping? Do you have friends who work in, or own shops in Stratford? I need your help.

Regular prayer for the world of work can help those involved in work to feel affirmed and valued, particularly when their job makes it difficult to participate in church activities. Retail workers and shop assistants are one such group that we generally meet and see on a daily basis, but who go almost unnoticed. As we get closer to the run up to Christmas, such a busy time for all those who work in shops, we will be having a *Prayer Day* for our *Retailers* on 22nd October.



In preparation for this I need people who will join me, or join together to go round the shops in Stratford telling them of this day and handing out prayer cards for them to fill in, to be collected and then placed on the alter during our *Prayer Day*. In addition to this we will be asking if they would like to get involved in having part of our knitted Bible during Advent. More about this will be revealed in the November Trinity Times.

For more information on *Nifty Titters* or *Social Shoppers* contact Nicki on 07769871237.

# Ed Mulryne's Page



From Somewhere In Cornwall...



The first stage of my secondary school education has ended. That's it. My GCSEs are over, I have grown into a taller, more highly strung person and I now know that - spoilers - carbon dioxide is a compound. After all that, what can I say? What indeed.

In terms of exams, I will be relieved if my results spell out the name of at least one Swedish winner of Eurovision. But, in terms of time, exams were such a small part of my time at high school. And while exams are an unforgettable ordeal, my main memories of it will be of the people I spent so much time with.

Or at least I hope they will.

In my opinion, there is no nobler profession than teaching. I think teachers are saints who deserve as much praise as possible. In today's world, footballers, politicians, film stars etc get paid enormous amounts of money for what they do, while many teachers - who prepare us for life; who toil day in day out for the betterment of our young people - get by on so little. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the teachers who have taught me so far. Especially the ones who despaired at my inability to balance an equation.

So here I am. Now comes the next stage. What will I become? What will I do? I might join a gang. I might become a rap artist, talking about being 'in da hood' and saying 'west side'. Much, I'm sure, to the consternation of my parents. I imagine that the only time they want to see me 'in da hood' is on graduation day.

What happens next could be a disaster. Or not. Here I go.

# From The August Registers...



## Christenings

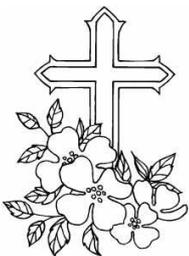
- 9th Meredith Rose Lee Jones  
Theodore Edward Daniel Reginald  
Christopher Tristram Walter Todd; Henry Edward Augustus Todd
- 30th Tyler Phyan  
Brody Petre

## Weddings

- 1st Johnathan Milne and Francesca Barone
- 21st Christopher Hartis and Chloe Watkin
- 22nd James Wheeler and Hayley Chapman
- 22nd Alessandro Guapino and Kirsty Dobson



## Funerals



- 4th Jessie Ling Gilchrist
- 21st Raymond Simpson-Smith
- 25th Kathleen Buck
- 26th Norman Kitcher

Members of the congregation will remember Jessie Ling Gilchrist. She'd always sing the hymns, and follow the service, without the aid of a service booklet or a hymn sheet; always word perfect. She will be missed.



Sunday Readings for Holy Trinity Stratford-upon-Avon  
All Saints' Luddington &  
St Helen's Clifford Chambers



**6<sup>th</sup> September 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm
James ch.2 v.1-10,14-17.	Exodus ch.14 v.5-end. Ps.119 v.49-56
Mark ch.7 v.24-end	Matthew ch.6 v.1-18.

**13<sup>th</sup> September 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm
James ch.3 v.1-12.	Exodus ch.18 v.13-26. Ps.119 v.73-80
Mark ch.8 v.27-end	Matthew ch.7 v.1-14.

**20<sup>th</sup> September 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm
James ch.3 v.13- 4.3 + ch.4 v.7-8a.	Exodus ch.19 v.10-end. Ps.119 v.137-144
Mark ch.9 v.30-37	Matthew ch.8 v.23-end.

**27<sup>th</sup> September 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm
James ch.5 v.13-end	James ch.5 v.13-end
Mark ch.9 v.38-end	Mark ch.9 v.38-end

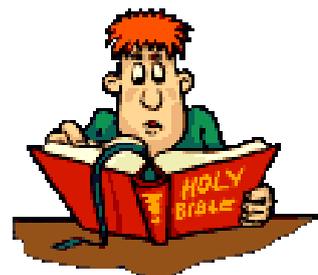
**All Saints Luddington & St Helens Clifford Chambers**

The same readings except 27<sup>th</sup> September which is Harvest Festival at Luddington;  
Readings : Joel ch.2 v.21-27. Matthew ch.6 v.25-33



*Compiled by John Cohen*

As a help and guide for the congregations.



# To A Penny on Skye A Poem by David Ellis



1

Ah! So you did wait for me, confirming my past  
under a hard stone overgrown with moss,  
beneath the mist of all the years between.  
I wonder if you still remember a young boy  
of freckled face and tousled hair blown all awry,  
flushed with attaining this craggy height,  
snorting the wild breeze and surveying

2

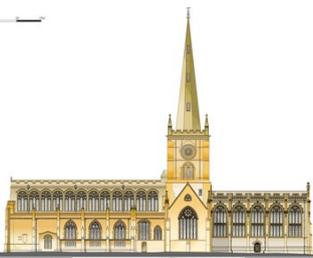
I took you from my pocket then, new and shiny,  
and kissed you fondly as I laid you on this  
damp brown bed of peat and left you here,  
where the clouds chase and the eagle tilts  
its wide wings to lift on the wind.  
How black you are now! I have often thought  
of the fierce storms and the crippling cold,

3

While you have stayed for fifty years I have climbed  
so many craggy heights, urged by the spirit  
which first brought me here - have felt the warmth  
of love's embrace. From the first flush of primrose  
in my youth to autumn sunlight on the bracken slopes.  
I have known the sharp thorns of ill-placed trust  
and disappointed dreams and sometimes fallen  
headlong bleeding on the screes and wept.  
That fresh face which last fondly gazed on you

4

Yet these same eyes, enriched by memory, can gaze  
upon the jagged edge of distant heights, and far across  
the Hebridean Sea to faint green islands, still alluring.  
Shall I take you with me, precious coin?  
Or shall I leave you here to measure out my time  
until I join my hopes with yours of being



## Loans For The Southside

Work has now begun on our South Side extension. By early next year we will have a wonderful new facility for those who use the church, which will be thoroughly in keeping with our glorious historic architecture.

Unfortunately, the money the PCC has "saved up" for this is not quite enough. In fact there will be a period at the beginning of 2016 – before we can fully reclaim the VAT – when we might be roughly £70,000 short for at least a few weeks. Even after VAT reclaim we could be around £50,000 short. But we would expect to earn enough money from visitors, later in 2016, to bridge that gap.

So we are asking, not for **gifts**, but for interest-free **loans** - which should be repayable within a year. Already £32,000 has been pledged. We need somewhere around another £40,000. If any reader would like to offer a loan, large or small, to help towards this, please let the Treasurer Anthony Woollard (01789 204923, [awoollard@joyousgard.org.uk](mailto:awoollard@joyousgard.org.uk)) know **as soon as possible**. Cheques should be made out to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC and can be sent to or left in the Parish Office for his attention. Alternatively, our reference for BACS payments is CAFBank, sort code 40-52-40, account no 00015844. All loans will be acknowledged and carefully logged.

Of course we will not refuse gifts either! But, if you feel able to donate something (over and above your regular giving) specifically for church restoration, we would much rather you gave to the parallel appeal by the Friends of Shakespeare's Church for the linked works which they are financing in the South Transept. If we can finance the extension itself simply through loans, that will be much less of a burden on us all.

*Anthony Woollard*



# English Wine Sparkles

## Hazel Tattersall



*" The growth in quality sparkling wine has been amazing... "*

Whether for a celebration or just 'chilling out', many of us enjoy a glass of sparkling wine. Prosecco, Cava or Champagne may be your choice, but have you tried an English Sparkling Wine? If not, then you are missing something! English wines may not be your immediate choice but surprising developments in the quality and production of our sparkling wines are certainly worth checking out.

Vines were known to have been planted as early as the 11th century in the southeast of England, as recorded in the Domesday survey. In the early Middle Ages monastic orders were cultivating grapes and producing wine. The interest in cultivation continued in this country until the 20th century; but little commercial production was done between the First and Second World Wars.

Growing grapes to produce English wine was, until the late 1980s, not seen as a sustainable commercial industry. Southeast England was then the principal area of production, with a few exceptions. Grape varieties planted were mainly German, such as Müller Thurgau and Reichensteiner, producing still, light bodied wines.

However, it was at this time that an American couple came to England with the idea of producing a sparkling wine made in the same way as Champagne: with the second fermentation in the bottle.

Sandy and Stuart Moss had no previous experience so their ideas were treated with doubt and disdain, even the Ministry of Agriculture advised against it. However, they persisted, consulting with Champagne growers and winemakers. Their key aim was to find somewhere with soil and climate similar to that of the Champagne region in France. Eventually they settled on a timbered medieval house in Sussex dating back to William the Conqueror.



The house, 'Nyetimber' (given by Henry VIII to his fourth wife Ann of Cleves) became the 'launch pad' for the production of internationally award winning sparkling wines.

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier vines were brought from France for planting. Their first vintage, produced in 1992, was chosen as a toast for the

Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1997. It is now recognised as a leading brand.

*Continued on next page...*

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At the English Wine Producers Trade Tasting last May (where about 70 different sparkling wines were shown) the enthusiasm from buyers, writers and restaurant owners alike was evident. Although still wine production has increased in both quality and quantity in recent years, the growth in quality sparkling wine has been amazing. Brands such as Nyetimber, Chapel Down, Ridgeview, Camel Valley, Bolney, Denbies are now widely available in wine merchants and supermarkets.



English sparkling wines are winning international competitions, sometimes beating Champagnes. So why not treat yourself?

Since England won the Ashes Waitrose insist the sales of English sparkling wines have risen hugely. *Steve Newman*

The Class of '45—the one that got away...

*Very Many Happy Birthday Wishes to Sheila Beamer who joins our class in September.*



## QUEEN MOTHER'S CLOTHING GUILD



This year's Coffee Morning will be on **Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10.00am to 12 noon**, in Holy Trinity Parish Centre, in the lounge. I am very much looking forward to seeing all our members there – and we are always delighted to welcome new faces! Please do come along if you are a knitter, a sewer, or if you would like to donate any bought article of new household linen or new clothing (for both sexes and all ages). Every year, the Clothing Guild distributes thousands of garments amongst some 60 other charities within the British Isles, providing for countless needy recipients.

For further information, please telephone Eithne Mulryne on (01789) 205774.

With very best wishes.

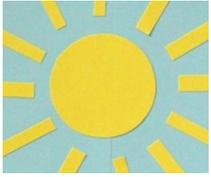
*Gillie Jackson*

## Trinity Tots

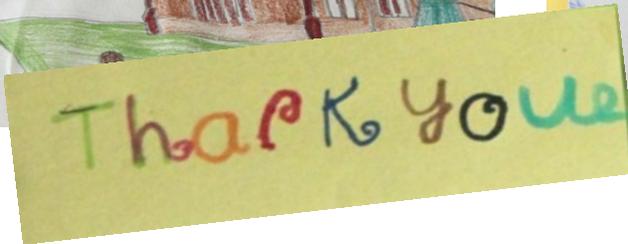
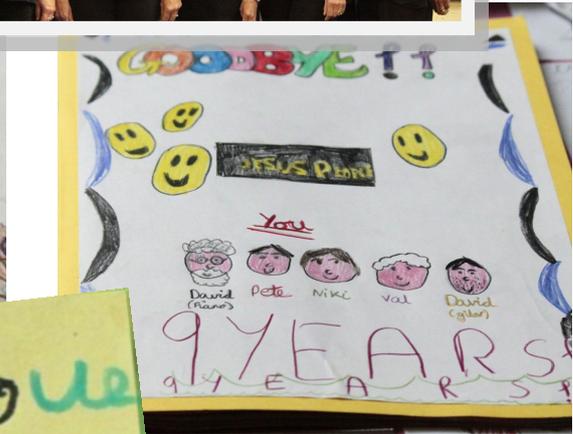
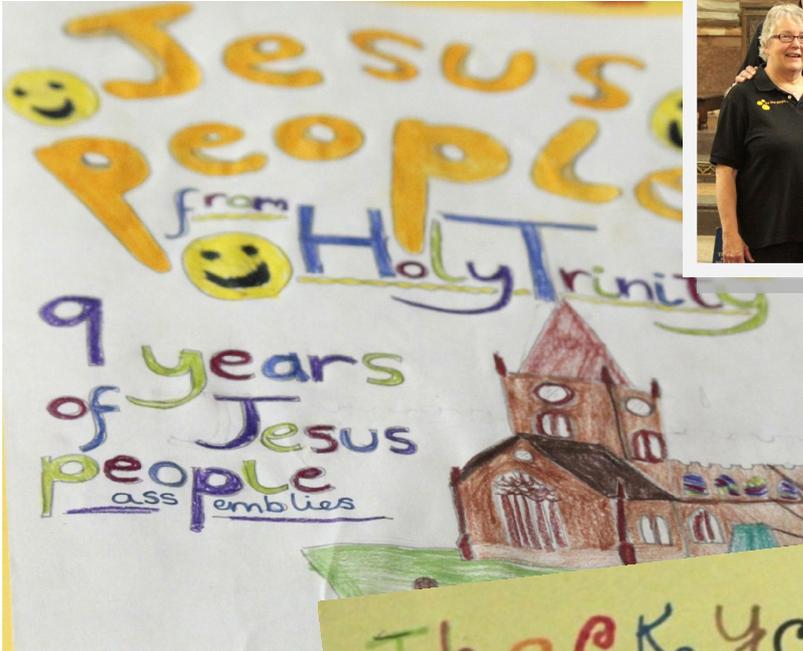
For the under 5s



Trinity Tots meets every Thursday at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre Hall during term time. We need more volunteers. If you can help please contact Steve or Val Bate on 01789 299195

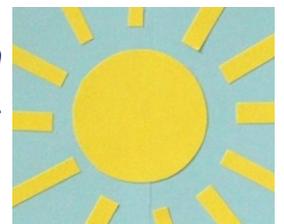


# "Thank You Jesus People"



The final week of the Jesus People saw us taking assemblies in all of our schools to thank children and staff and to say goodbye. At each of the (5) assemblies we were overwhelmed with the generosity shown to us; we were presented with pictures, writing, cards and 'books', speeches of gratitude were made, a prayer was said for us and we even had a charitable donation made in our name. Children could not contain their emotions; they cried, they carried on singing when we had finished the assembly, and they kept asking us "why?" (are you finishing) and telling us "please don't go." Our prayer was always that we had planted seeds, not thinking that we would ever see many of those seeds come to fruition. But during this last week we saw the possibilities – God was indeed very gracious to us. We then finished with a service in Holy Trinity Church on 12<sup>th</sup> July that celebrated the nine years of this schools' ministry. The service, although we felt sad and emotional, was wonderful with so much warmth and with a real feeling of 'family' – it was very special.

Then it was all over. Still assured that it was right to finish, God had given us an amazing and unique final week that will stay long in our memories. What a send off, what a joy, what a God!



**Val Milburn**

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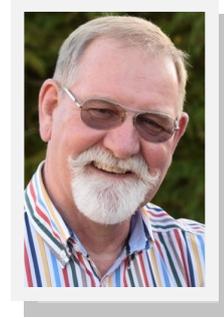
email: [info@el-greco.co.uk](mailto:info@el-greco.co.uk)



# New Hospital Chaplains

*David White*

*“Worth its weight in gold!”*



If you have ever been hospitalised for any length of time, you will understand the feeling of isolation that often occurs. Nurses and doctors come and go all the time, constantly monitoring your situation, collecting medical data on a regular basis to ensure they prescribe the correct treatment to aid a speedy recovery.

However wonderful nurses are, they are often too busy to provide one essential role – that of having the time to sit and chat – time to get to know what worries you, the patient.

Sometimes all one needs is a relaxed, friendly face sitting opposite you to listen, preferably someone you have no previous connection with, someone non-judgemental, someone that obviously cares, and someone that will take time to get to know you a little better, providing spiritual support through thought and words and prayer, if requested.

This is the world of a Hospital Chaplain.

Having personally been in hospital in recent years, I have experienced the welcome presence of a Hospital Chaplain – their appearance at your bedside can be likened to a ray of sunshine on an otherwise grey day.

Standing next to you is someone from the multi-denominational hospital-based chapel.

A caring male, or female volunteer, that you can download your innermost thoughts, doubts and worries to in total confidence. The five or ten minutes they share with you is often as beneficial to your spirit & well-being, as a nurse's attendance is for your body.

They will not criticize or judge you – and, if you ask, they will pray for you.

Now that is VERY special when you are not feeling 100% - the spiritual lift from that experience is worth its weight in gold!

Warwick Hospital have just added new lady chaplains to their team from the congregation at Holy Trinity Church.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Bishop Christopher of Coventry Cathedral licensed Jane Connolly and Heather White as new Hospital Chaplains, and re-licensed Kath Parrington at a special service in the Chapel at Warwick Hospital.



The Licensing Service was attended by the regular chaplains and ministers of the Hospital Chapel, representing the many faiths and churches from across Warwickshire. Our own Reverend Patrick Taylor and Revd Margaret Sweet were there to support Jane, Heather and Kath from Holy Trinity.

Mr Glen Burley the CEO of the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust presented 10 & 20 year long-service awards to members of the Chapel team.

He commented on the important role that Chaplains played in support of the NHS team within Warwick

hospital, and how the dedication and pastoral care of the chaplaincy team brought special comfort and respite to patients.

To see Heather joining this band of dedicated volunteers was a proud moment that will stay with me for a long time.

# A Review of The RSC's New Production of Shakespeare's Othello

Graham Wilcox

"A study in the reality of evil..."



It is some years since I have had an opportunity to see *Othello* performed on the stage and so I was looking forward to seeing the current RSC production and I was not disappointed.

In recent years the play has been a focus of controversy over whether or not the title role could be played by a white actor 'blacking up' and it is now the general rule that only a black actor can play the part (although there have been some recent protests about this convention).

The RSC production casts black actors in the roles of both Othello and Iago and this had some interesting consequences. For one thing it made the whole Iago-Othello relationship much more central to the play and indeed emphasised their distinction from the rest of the cast. As the programme notes re-iterated, Iago in fact has the biggest part in the play and here, as played brilliantly by Lucian Msamati, almost dominated the whole proceedings. In contrast Othello, played by Hugh Quarshie, was gentle and almost passive but with an underlying violent streak. The emphasis was on the double central roles of these two and they came on together to take the final curtain call.

Putting the emphasis on these two characters and making them both black rather put the racist interpretation of the play on the back burner. There is of course plenty of racism in the play not least from Desdemona's father Brabantio, played with fitting bile by Brian Protheroe, and the white Venetians but it is not the driving force in the central Iago-Othello relationship any more. Iago's hatred needs to be explained on other grounds as indicated in the text such as his belief that Othello

had cuckolded him and that he was passed over from the lieutenantcy in favour of Cassio. Perhaps this reflects the fact that we have now moved on from the Paul Robeson- American civil rights era of performing the play that many of us remember; after all mixed racial marriage is now far less controversial in our society than it was in the 1950's.



Photo: Keith Patterson (RSC)

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The horror of the tragedy for me in this production was not so much Othello's predictable murder of Desdemona (played here as a rather feisty girl by Joanna Vanderham) but the terrible betrayal of friendship and trust by 'honest Iago' of Othello.

Moving away from the racist perspective makes this all the more vivid and the most terrible moment in the play is not so much the murder but the mocking laugh of Iago at the very end at the sight of his slain victims, Othello and Desdemona, on the bed before him. It revealed the power for me of the play as a study in the reality of evil whereby one human being can systematically destroy someone who has put all his faith and trust in him. That is as contemporary as any issue is today.



Photo: Keith Patterson (RSC)

**International Encore Cinema Screenings of Othello From 23rd September 2015**

## Junior Church

Junior Church are looking for volunteers to help with the childrens' activities, one Sunday a month. Interested? Contact Sherron Guise 551086

  
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References Available

# A History of Trinity Times

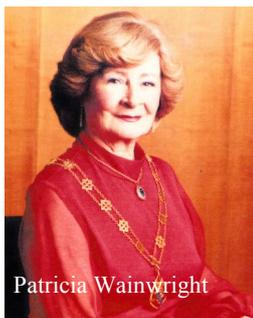


by Geoffrey and Doreen Lees



## Part Four: More Highlights from The First Decade

In Part Three of “Highlights” (August edition of T.T.) some extracts were included from Patricia Wainwright’s early contributions to the series “Know your Church”. In a later article in the series Patricia continued with an account of the link between the Lady Chapel and the Clopton family, writing; “Surely no family name is so well known in the town as that of Clopton. Sometime before his death in 1348, Archbishop John of Stratford widened the north aisle of Holy Trinity and placed there a chapel to the Holy Virgin. Thus it was until the Reformation. The first member of the Clopton family to wish for a tomb within the Lady Chapel was Sir Hugh Clopton. Hugh made his fortune as a mercer in the City of London, becoming Lord Mayor in 1492. He lived partly in Stratford and around 1483 erected a ‘pretty house’ which later we see as Shakespeare’s ‘New Place’. During his lifetime the altar tomb was built. It stands empty because Sir Hugh died and was buried in London in 1496.



There are two other tombs in the chapel that were placed there after the Reformation. On a fine altar tomb in alabaster lie the effigies of a man and his wife. He is in armour with a sword and gauntlet at his side. His head rests on a helmet and his feet on a lion. His lady wears an open gown. Round the mensa run the words ‘Here lyeth the bodies of William Clopton and Anne his wife. William died ye XVIII April 1592 and Anne XVII September 1596’. On the wall above are effigies of their six children of whom only Joyce and Anne survived their father. Joyce was married to George Carew who had returned to England in 1592 after twenty years of distinguished service in Ireland. On 4 May 1605 King James I, in recognition of his loyal services, created him Baron Carew and in 1626 Earl of Totnes. It was during his tenure of Clopton that the idea came to him to turn the former Lady Chapel into a chapel and burial place for the Cloptons. He was responsible for the fine tomb of his parents-in-law. His tomb and that of his wife is even more magnificent. He died in 1629 and his wife Joyce in 1637, leaving no children. This great Carew monument is an altar tomb surrounded by ensigns of martial pomp, trophies of arms, canon etc. On this recline full length effigies of the earl and his countess, both in robes of crimson and fur, and wearing their coronets.

Others are commemorated within or buried under this chapel, including Sir Arthur Hodgson and his wife Dame Eliza, both of whom died in 1902. He had the chapel restored in 1892.

Turning her attention to the Chancel, Patricia proclaimed “I think the Chancel is the most beautiful part of the church. It seems to be generally agreed that Thomas Balsale D.D., Dean of the College, rebuilt the Chancel ‘from the ground’, a work apparently completed before his death in 1491. On the left near the altar is Dean Balsale’s tomb. In grey marble, it must have been once very splendid, but the brass figure of the Dean has long been gone and the whole tomb is sadly defaced. The tomb was opened many years ago and the body of the Dean found to be undisturbed.

*To be continued...*



"God heard those prayers..."



## Amy's Testimony

God has saved my life. Not only physically, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. He has been patient, so, so patient with me, and His unconditional Love and acceptance continues to amaze me.

Never think you are too messy for God. He can handle anything. Nothing is too much for Him. It is not about us and what we can and can't do, it is about Him and who He is.

I arrived at Mercy in September (2014). Lost, not knowing who I was anymore. Running away from God, family, friends, anyone who tried to help me. After spending almost 3 years as an inpatient in hospital, I considered myself well as I was no longer physically unwell, but inside the enemy was having a field day. I fell for every lie he fed me and truly believed I was a mistake, not worthy of love or anything good. I ran towards anything that would back up this lie, thinking damage and destruction were what I deserved. Shame and guilt weighed me down. I hated what I had become, but thought that by hurting myself I was somehow paying back for all the hurt I had caused others over the past few years.

How wrong I was! This is where Jesus, my personal Saviour and Friend comes in! He died for ME. ME personally, so that I don't have to live with shame or guilt. He took ALL my sin, shame and yuckiness to the cross – they are gone! I don't have to carry them anymore.

As 1 Peter 2:24 says 'He personally carries my sins in His body on the cross so that I can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds I am healed'.

My relationship with Jesus is now personal to me. He is not just Jesus I read about in the Bible, but He is MY Jesus. I now look to my future with so much excitement! God is right beside me every step of the way and He never stops amazing me with His faithfulness and grace. I am watching as He works His promises into my life – restoring the years the enemy stole from me and mending my relationships that had seemed unmendable. Nothing is impossible for God!

I thank Mercy for providing a safe place for me to come and discover the Truth of who I am and start a lifetime adventure of discovering more and more about God's goodness and awesomeness. I believe He has a lot more to surprise me with.

I am thankful for my past because without it I would not be where I am now. I may not be there yet, but I am miles from where I was! I have tasted freedom and I will fight to keep what God has given me.

Amy

# Tony Guy - Toward An MBE

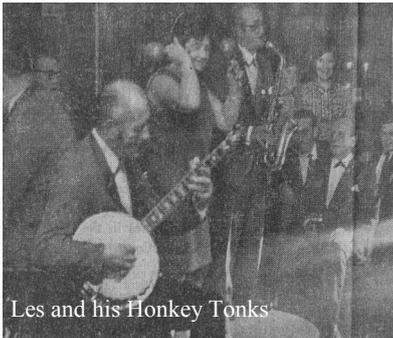
## Part Two

### "You dancing?"

*In Conversation with Steve Newman*



Tony was eager to remind me that his father's pub was one of the first to have live music, which, along with the bar food was another great success, with 'Les and His Honkey Tonks' a great draw, and perhaps something of an inspiration for Tony's future involvement producing the Scout Gang Shows. 'Les and His Honkey Tonks' (often with Tony's mother playing drums) were still knocking out the tunes after Tony left Blackpool, and raising money for the Guide dogs for the Blind.



Our celebrated Gang Show organiser met his future wife Joyce at a youth club dance where Tony unashamedly flirted with her over the shoulder of her then boyfriend as she tried to concentrate on dancing to the 'Rythmairs Dance Band'. It must have been excellent flirting because Tony and Joyce married in the May of 1961 in Blackpool's Congregational Church. Naturally they had a guard of honour of Boy Scouts. Tony can't remember if 'Les and his Honky Tonks' played at the reception. The couple honeymooned in Switzerland.

"After we left Blackpool in the mid-1960s we settled in Warrington. One of the first things I did was seek out the manager of the town's theatre and ask if I could help out with putting on their regular Gang Show. The manager nodded enthusiastically and gave me a broom and told me to sweep the stage."

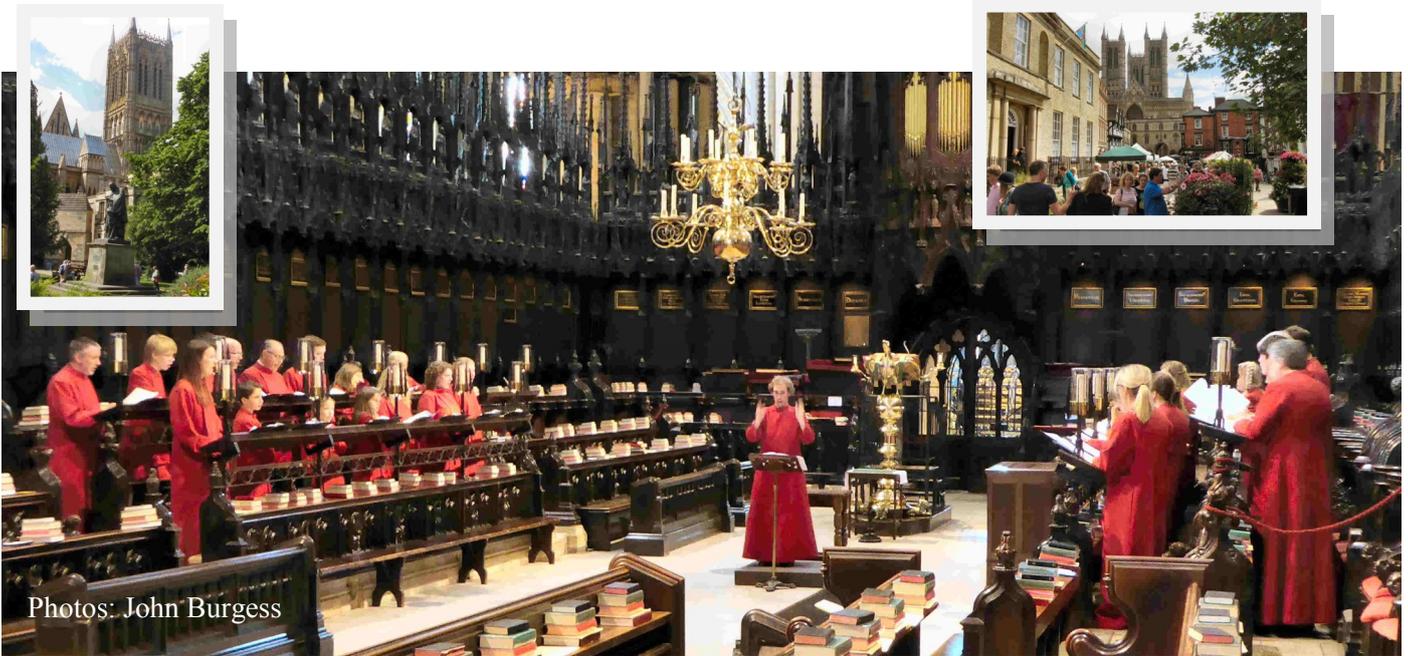
By 1966 Tony was producing the show.



"In 1967 we'd moved to Blackburn where I'd taken up the position of Chief Engineer at Thwaites Brewery. Just 400 yards away was the stage door of the Odeon Cinema. Within a couple of days I'd persuaded the cinema's manager to allow me to organise a Gang Show there."

That first Gang Show soon turned into NEL'S—the North East Lancs Gang Show that that toured many towns in East Lancashire. NEL'S folded when Tony and Joyce moved to Warwickshire.

*To Be Continued...*



Photos: John Burgess

## Holy Trinity Choir Sing at Lincoln Cathedral

We can be very proud of Holy Trinity Choir, their Director of Music Benedict Wilson and Organist Stephen Dodsworth who filled Lincoln Cathedral with beautiful music over the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Their first service was Evensong on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July at which they sang Stanford in C and Benedict's anthem "And as our vineyards" with words from Shakespeare's Henry V. At Sung Eucharist on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July they gave us Darke in F and William Byrd's beautiful anthem "Teach me, O Lord" (text from psalm 119 vv. 33 – 38). Byrd may have composed this piece during his time as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lincoln Cathedral before he moved to London to become a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in the service of Queen Elizabeth I.

Our organ scholar James Fellows played at Mattins on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July and should be congratulated for his stunning performance on an unfamiliar organ with little time to get to know the instrument. Well done James! At this service the choir chanted canticles and then gave us Joubert's anthem "O Lorde, the maker of al thing". Their final service in Lincoln was Evensong again at which they sang Howell's "Collegium Sancti Johannis Cantabrigiense" and Wood's "O thou the central orb".

Throughout the weekend the antiphonal singing of the psalms, particularly at Evensong and Mattins, was very impressive. The timing was perfect when we consider the unusually large distance between the North and South choir stalls in Lincoln Cathedral.

Over those four services the choir grew in confidence, relaxed into their role and began to visibly enjoy the experience of filling a huge and imposing cathedral with their proficient and well-rehearsed sound. Thank you and congratulations to them all and to Benedict for his hard work and enthusiasm which has helped our choir to develop into a highly competent and admirable instrument of worship.

The Dean and Clergy of Lincoln Cathedral were greatly impressed by the quality of the sound that came from our choir and the resident congregation were also full of praise.

The choir would like to thank those members of the congregation and their friends who made the journey to Lincoln to support them. The presence of familiar faces at all of the services was a terrific support and a boost to confidence.

*Jane Taylor*





# *The Bells, The Bells*

## *Jeanette Davey*



Now you know a little bit about ringing from my first three articles in Trinity Times, you could listen in and even contribute to a chat between ringers. Here are some jargon-busting words to help you further:

Treble: Bell No 1 in any ringing

Tenor: The heaviest bell rung during ringing

Rounds: Ringing in numerical order, from 1-10, or however many are ringing

Call Changes ('Changes' for short): Being called into position by one person, who is known as...

The Conductor: Like a music conductor, there's always one person calling. It's a complex job, because it's the job of the conductor to keep others right if they go wrong, whilst also keeping him or herself right, whether that is changes or...

Changes: However, are a slightly different concept to call changes. If you ring 720 changes, that means that the run of bells (say ten bells as per our tower), has rung in a numerical order which is not repeated (starting 1-10), 720 times.

Method: Our equivalent of tunes (see Episode 2: June 2015)

Peal: We don't ring 'in peal', rather, we ring **a** peal. It comprises at least 5,000 changes, plus sometimes a few extra as a special nod to the person being celebrated, so 5,450 for the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's birth last year. It takes about 3hrs 15mins non-stop on our ten bells and comprises ringing changes without repetition, otherwise it fails. And it has to be done from memory. If you recall, no prompts are allowed. Stratford is allowed just three peals per year so as to not annoy the neighbours too much. As such they are for very special occasions.

Quarter Peal: At least 1,250 changes, which take about 45-50 minutes non-stop. Also for special occasions and unlimited at Stratford, within reason. We ring them less than once a month, more likely than not for Evensong.

Half- peals: Are very seldom rung.

Firing the bells: A very tricky concept, when it is the aim of all of those ringing to get their bells to strike at exactly the same time. It's tricky because each ringer has to pull their rope at different times, due to the fact that each bell's wheel size is different. It's done for a special occasion, by bands who know they can. The first time I've heard it in years is when the Queen exited Westminster Cathedral after the service in May to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. It was broadcast on the Sunday closest to the commemoration of VJ Day, on Radio 4's Bells on Sunday on 16<sup>th</sup> August – go to BBC's iPlayer and you'll find it.

*Continued on next page...*

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I reckon that, when I did see it on TV that day, the Queen noticed that the ringers were doing something different. There are also splendid examples on YouTube that you can both see and hear. Input 'Firing the bells Swanage' and 'Firing the bells Beoley' and you'll see what I mean. Note everyone turns to the tenor and pulls relative to when the tenor pulls, to adjust their timing. This is because, as the tenor is heaviest, it's easiest for the others to adjust the timing of their bells.

Campanology / Campanologist: I've never heard a ringer use that term. It's used by non-ringers as the most predictable response when you say you're a bellringer, thus: 'Ahhhhh! A campanologist!' (*she groans under her breath...*)

Grab: A hateful term in my opinion – when you ring at a tower for the first time. It's used thus: 'I got a grab today' (positive term), or, as a derogatory version: 'He just went to that tower to get a grab'

Half-muffled: Muffles are used for a funeral, when one side is muffled to produce a solemn but beautiful sound, with the other side of the clapper ringing out as normal.

Tied: The bells swing but the clapper is fixed in position by a wooden brace or DIY version, such as a rope or bicycle inner tubes, principally used with a beginner so their solo tolling can't be heard!

'Look two, treble's going, she's gone': That's how the treble ringer starts our ringing. It's a lookout call, effectively saying '...is everyone ready?'

'This is all': Said by the conductor when a method is just about to end.

'Stand': That's the term for stopping your bell moving. You stand the bell. It's stated by the conductor at the end, so we all stop at the same time.

Singles and Bobs: These are calls made by the conductor to alter the changes that are rung, giving different lengths of pieces of ringing and varying the music. 'Pity' is sometimes held for ringers called Bob because the command is shouted out, as are corrections by the conductor, who will correct you either by your name or your bell number.

Sally: Not requiring another sympathy vote for those called Sally as per those called Bob, because it just refers to the stripey coloured bit of the rope, which in our tower is red, white and blue.

Ring up and down: I'm sure I'm beyond my word count in this article so I'll tell you about that another time, when I can get someone to help me write a piece in plain English about the mechanics of the bell!



## Hospitality Teas

Hospitality Teas are being served in Holy Trinity Church until the end of September.

Saturdays from 2.30-4.30pm. And Sundays from 2.00-4.00pm.

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# The Religious Characters in Shakespeare's Plays

## Part One: "I Am Left Out"

Tony Boyd-Williams



In his introduction to *The Dramatized Bible* (published in 1989 by the Bible Society), Michael Perry suggested that "Generations of ministers and teachers have turned the Bible text into drama so that worshippers or students can be actively involved in its teaching." This sums up how stories can possess great spiritual truths and also how Biblical themes may (and are) reflected in stories and drama.

The thousands of visitors from abroad both to Holy Trinity Church, the RSC's theatres, and the Shakespeare Birthplace Properties confirm beyond doubt that William Shakespeare is not only one of the greatest figures in English literature who is internationally respected, but also the most quotable and quoted writer in the English language.

In his *Shakespeare: The Animated Tales* (which accompanied the BBC series of that name) Leon Garfield observed that "In the plays that are his chief legacy to the world - and surely no-one left a richer! - human nature is displayed in all its astonishing variety."

The theologian F.W. Dillistone, in his classic book, *The Christian Understanding of Atonement*, takes the view that:

"There is little doubt that Shakespeare assumed the truth of the essential Christian gospel ... his overmastering concern was to construct works of art out of the raw material of human greatneses and weaknesses, of human actions, large-hearted and ignoble. On this stage we see the horror and the glory of human life and no works of English literature have surpassed the splendour of his tragic dramas."

And yet, whether watching or studying any of Shakespeare's tragedies, comedies or histories, we must not overlook that there is a collection of his characters who are very often the poor relations when it comes to academic debate or performance commentaries. To whom am I referring? Let me give just one

example. At the end of the first scene of *Henry VI - Part 1*, the funeral of Henry V is somewhat hastily abandoned after the entrance of various messengers who inform those assembled that, in France, the conflict of the Hundred Years War has broken out again. The nobility, including the Dukes of Gloucester, Bedford and Exeter hurriedly exit on urgent state business leaving the one representative of the Church on his own as if ecclesiastical matters are of no importance. The character concerned - the Bishop of Winchester - then confides his frustration and anger to the audience:

*Each has his place and function to attend:*

*I am left out.*

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Exactly! However, as the drama unfolds, Shakespeare skilfully shows that this character is an important pawn in the dramatic chess board of diplomacy and intrigue. Winchester is just one of over forty religious characters who either appear or who are referred to in the plays and each has his/her part to play. As we approach the Quatercentenary commemorations of Shakespeare's death, I shall be writing a series of articles which will discuss that just as all chess pieces are needed for a game, this rich variety of religious characters are vital pawns in the plays in which they perform and



Tony-Boyd Williams is a retired priest, a playwright, RSC theatre guide, and an authority on the plays and life of William Shakespeare. This month's feature is the first in a series of eight articles.



## The Big Friendly Giant



The Big Friendly Giant (Pete Cubitt to his friends) needs a boy and a girl to help him tell how he defeated the child-chewing giants. Are there any young people at Holy Trinity who would like to join the fun with Trinity Players? There will be two performances on November 14th 2015. Please contact Ursula Russell on 01789 204923 or email: [urussell@joyousgard.org.uk](mailto:urussell@joyousgard.org.uk)



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# All Saints' News

## Jane Beeley Writes...



Harvest Festival at All Saints' will be held on 27th September at 11.30 a.m.

We will be joined by the choir from Holy Trinity. Everyone is invited to enjoy the celebration in the beautifully decorated church. If for any reason you cannot get to the service the church will be open from 11.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. for two days following so do go and admire the flower arrangements if you can.

The Harvest lunch will be held in the Village Hall after the service. Anyone not attending the service is welcome to join us for lunch at 12.45 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. Tickets are not required but if you can let us know if you are coming it will help with catering—phone 269618. And if you can bring a salad or a pudding that would be even better!

If you would like to bring a Harvest Gift to the church, items for the Food Bank i.e. tins or similar, would be very welcome.

The new All Saints' Team has been hard at work and are planning work to the trees in the churchyard to make the church more visible. There is also work required to the church to repair plaster and damp patches and, with some help from the Parish Council, the churchyard is getting a good tidy. The work means expenses mount up and the donation received from the Village Fund is a great help. Unfortunately there was a shortfall in the All Saints' finances last year but it is important to keep the church in a good state as a focal point of the village, as well as a place of worship.

Raymond Simpson-Smith will be sadly missed at All Saints'. Over the last few years Raymond, together with Ruth, has been a great help and support and we send our condolences and sincere best wishes to her.

### News From The Luddington Village Hall Committee September 2015

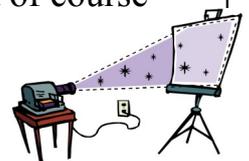
We are now looking forward to a cosy Autumn and Winter for all our hirers and events. The new heaters have also made the interior of our hall look very smart.

Our next major project is to purchase a projector, screen and sound equipment for our village film nights, speaker evenings and quizzes. This equipment would of course also be available to hall hirers. Forthcoming events for the Autumn are:

**Coffee Morning—Wednesday 16th September at 10.30-12.00**

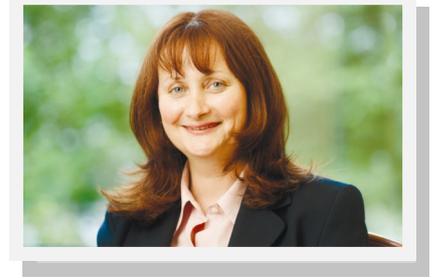
**Skittles Evening—Saturday 19th September at 7.30pm.**

**To hire the Hall 07803 575090 For other info contact Sue Brayshay 01789 750674**



# St. Helen's News

Pauline Newbury Writes...



## St. Helen's Gets A Face Lift!!

A regular Architect's Quinquennial Inspection of St Helen's church during 2013 revealed that urgent repairs needed to be carried out on parts of the roof, stonework, and the re-plastering and re-decoration of the internal walls.

A flyer was produced and delivered to every house in the Parish and the response was extremely encouraging. Although our regular congregation is small, the church is extremely important to the community of Clifford Chambers and the parishioners rose to the challenge!! Many donated financially to our appeal, others helped fund raise by organising a Home Produce Sale, Christmas Fair, Plant Sale, to name but a few. We have also been successful with grant applications.



At the end of 2014 we were in a financial position to have the roof repaired and our next priority was the re-decoration of the internal walls. Continued fund raising resulted in us being able to instruct our Architect, Marson Rathbone Taylor (MRT) Architects to prepare a specification for the works to be carried out on our behalf and send out to tender. Having worked with Sibbasbridge previously (they carried out a complete restoration to the tower a few years ago) we were delighted to receive their very competitive quote.

It has been many years since St Helen's was re-decorated - we are all looking forward to the work being completed which we are anticipating will be in time for our Christmas services.



## Lifebuilders

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

For more details contact Rachel Saum on 07815793625



"I do." That's just the start of it!



Val Milburn

Marriage Preparation Team



"Now, listen up, we've been married for years and years and we've got it all sorted. We're going to tell you how to have a perfect marriage!" WRONG! That is not what the newly formed Marriage Preparation team are about.

The idea is to get couples, who are getting married at Holy Trinity; St Helen's, Clifford Chambers; All Saints', Luddington; St James', Alveston; and St Andrew's, Shottery talking to each other in order to think about their marriage rather than just focusing on their wedding day. The four couples who attended the first one-day course admitted they didn't know what to expect and wondered if they were going to be 'preached at' or 'dictated to' and if it would be really formal and very boring. Happily, all of the couples were delighted to find that the course was extremely useful. One bride said "It's been wonderful to have a day to think about our marriage. Our thoughts have been totally occupied with the wedding and it's been brilliant to have the time to talk to each other about the future and not to think about seating plans!"

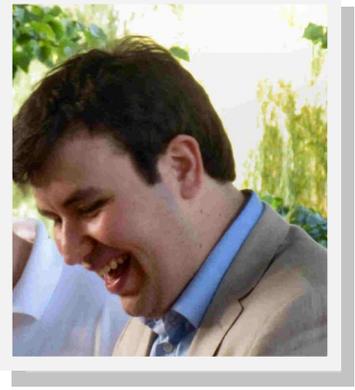
The possibility of a marriage preparation course was discussed at a meeting with Revd Patrick Taylor, Revd Canon Richard Williams, Revd James Warren and seven lay people from the 3 parishes who were 'gullible' enough to say 'yes' to forming the team to run the courses. The seven are: Val and Mike Milburn and Hilda and Jon Craig (HT); Julia and Howard Lucas (St James') and Sarah Cushing (St Andrew's). After that, the team went on a Mothers Union training course to become qualified facilitators. In pairs, we also spent a day at St Alphege's Church, Solihull, observing and, importantly taking part in their one day marriage preparation course. Next came the organising of our tailor-made, Christian-focussed course, including content, where, when, who and, oh yes, lunch! On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, three of us (Val, Mike and Sarah) ran the first course in Holy Trinity Parish Lounge, ably assisted by two wonderful Holy Trinity ladies (Hilary Newman and Jill McDowall) who helped with the lunchtime arrangements. They could hear what was going on in the lounge whilst they toiled in the kitchen and Jill mischievously said afterwards that she thought it was great and that "There should be a refresher course for those of us who have been married a long time!" Now there's an idea!

The course is informal and relaxed, and there's lots of time for the couples to have private, as well as group conversations. These discussions plus practical exercises are on topics raised by us. We concentrate on three 'Cs' - communication, commitment and conflict (rather, celebrating differences!). The couples entered into the spirit of it all and said they had all got a lot out of the course, as we did too.

Two of these courses have been completed, the second of which was held in St Andrew's, Shottery. We have had couples from different churches each time and from their very positive feedback plan to run courses two to three months before their wedding day. And quote - "It's not been too religious"; however we do talk about the wedding vows and one of the clergy comes towards the end of the day." After all they are getting married in a church! Our prayer is that they leave us a little better prepared to start their big adventure together.

# "Au revoir."

## Sam Bridges



As I sit here, writing this article, I realise it has been a year since I sat down and thought properly about what I wanted to experience in my Gap Year. I was never one of those people who always think about the exciting new adventures that they can experience once they leave secondary education; in fact, I rather liked school, the rigour, the discipline, the structure. So, what on Earth would I do without someone telling me what to do for a whole year?

It was Holy Trinity that meant, as I was waving all my friends off as they departed for their own university experience, I had some sense of purpose. Discussions with Benedict, Rachel and Patrick enlightened me to how I could be of help both in the music and ministry at Holy Trinity. I was amazed that as I was the new cog thrown into the workings that everybody was always so welcoming and friendly as I was finding my feet. I was always met with a smile in the office and very often with a new opportunity or experience being proposed to me. This has been a role that I have hugely enjoyed, getting to know the 'Behind the Scenes' of Holy Trinity and understanding Church life from a completely different perspective.

Having been a pupil there for eleven years, I was delighted when the Stratford Music Centre offered me Saturday work accompanying a small group of singers. This work doubled and redoubled as the year passed, I took on roles such as cover work and teaching some of my own pupils. Furthermore, my ongoing connections with King Edward VI School led to a job conducting an ensemble once a week.

Ironically, at the end of August I was worried that I would have no rigour, no discipline and no structure to my life, yet, by the beginning of October I had three part-time positions doing what I love: I was in my element.

This year has proved to be one of the most valuable experiences of my life. To list a few of my personal highlights: I have led Morning Prayer, I have become a communion assistant, I have guided pupils through their grade 8 exams, I have organised the River Serenade, I have even sung in a nightclub in Soho.

After such a rewarding year, I have to ask myself, *what now?* What do I think the future holds for me? Do I want to be a teacher? Work in a church? Be a performer? A composer?

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In January 2014, after an unsuccessful application to Oxford University, I was told by many friendly faces at the Church that, “God moves in mysterious ways but he always knows best”. The remarkable truth of this statement has been made apparent for me this year. As I get ready to start my first term studying Music at Worcester College, Oxford, I realise that there has been one common message throughout the year, something which I now firmly believe. Always have faith: faith in God, faith in others but, ultimately, faith in yourself.



## Soul Space

Soul Space is for 11 year olds and above and meets on Sundays at 7.30pm at 3 Coopers Close, Stratford-upon-Avon. For more information contact Vale Bate on 01789 299195



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***New to the Parish? Contact the Welcome Team via the Parish Office***

## **Clergy**

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508155
Associate Vicar	The Revd Dr Stephen Bate	01789 299195
Pioneer Lay Minister	Rachel Saum	07815 793625
Curate	The Revd Nicki Chatterton	07769 871237



## **Assistant Ministers (Hon)**

The Revd Neville Beamer, 01789 263435	The Revd Diane Patterson, 01789 266453
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow, 01789 417852	The Revd Jenny Rowland, 01789 415548
The Revd Margaret Sweet, 01789 297395	
The Revd Canon John Graty, 01789 298856	The Revd Graham Wilcox, 01789 551759

**Director of Music** - Benedict Wilson, 01789 266316

**Head Verger** - Paul Harris (from 7/9/15) 266316      **Vergers** - Nigel Penn, Pauline Day - 266316

**Parish Manager** - Linda MacDermott - 266316      **Parish Secretary** - Rosie Blumire - 266316

**Bookkeeper** - Wendy Steinheimer - 266316      **Parish Assistant** - Kevin Tomes - 266316

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## **Church Wardens**

Jane Hornby - 01789 263966	Lynne McCarthy - 01926 642054
Tim Raistrick - 01789 509885	Mike Warrillow - 01789 298928

**Village Wardens** All Saints, Luddington - *Vacant* (Paul Stanton, PCC member)

St Helens, Clifford Chambers - Ann Simons 01789 261558 and Pauline Newbury 01789 415603

**Baptism Team** - Rachel Saum - 07815 793625      **Bell Ringers** - Charles Wilson - 01789 295467

**Bereavement Support Team** Gina Lodge      01789 204850

**Safeguarding Officer** Mike Warrillow      01789 298928

**Junior Church** - Sherron Guise - 01789 551086      **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

**Lay Chaplains & Parish Prayer Diary** Andrea Blood 01789 266825

**PCC Secretary** Kath Parrington      01789 268492

**PCC Treasurer** Anthony Woollard      01789 204923

**Home Groups** The Revd Dr Steve Bate      01789 299195

**Home Communion** The Revd Nicki Chatterton      07769 871237

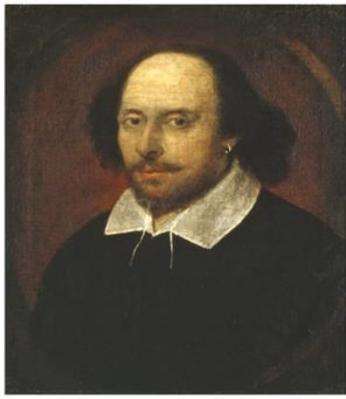
**Stewardship Officer** Chris Kennedy      01789 299785

**Trinity Players** Ursula Russell      01789 204923

**Trinity Tots** Val & Steve Bate      01789 299195

**Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator** Gillian Nunn      01789 415830

**Welcome Team** - Hilary Newman 01789 296771 and Helen Warrillow 01789 298928



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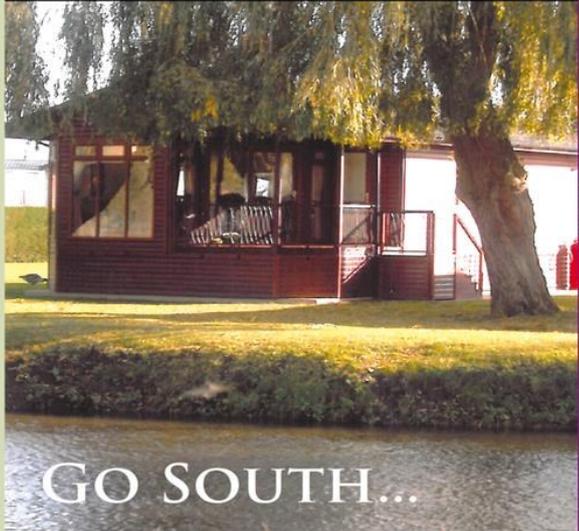
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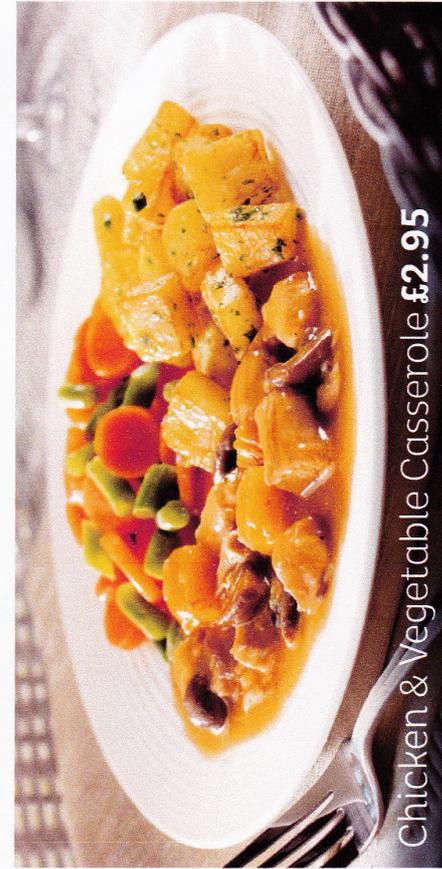
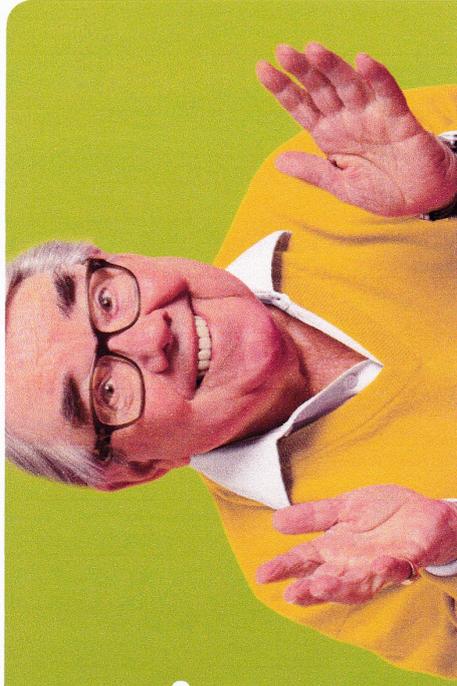
Lord of Life  
Be in our thoughts  
Now and in the time  
To come  
As we remember  
Our wars  
And pray for peace

Amen

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