



TRINITY TIMES

DECEMBER
JANUARY
2015/16

60p

The Magazine For The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon

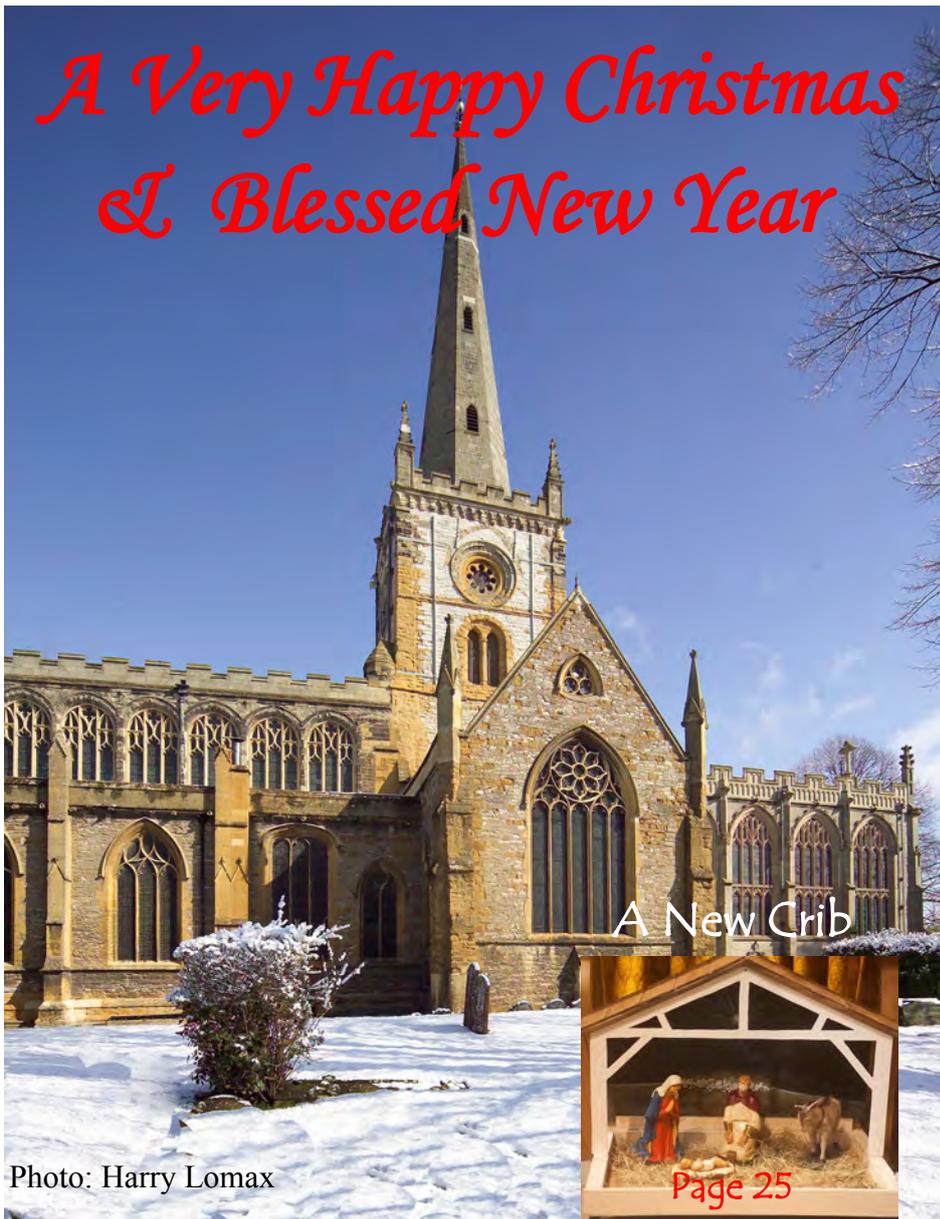


Photo: Harry Lomax



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Reconciliation
Pages 31-34

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Welcome...

We've given you lots to read over Christmas and the New Year, not least Val Cubitt's moving story (pages 31-34) about her father's time as a Japanese POW in WWII, and his subsequent journey of reconciliation.

Patrick has news about someone very dear to us all on page 4.

Then, on page 6, Charlotte Pound tells us about her continuing Christian journey.

There are new poems from Pete Cubitt and Dallin Chapman on pages 18, 19 and 23.

There's a fascinating feature by Dr Sarah Pickworth about her work in Afghanistan on pages 41 and 42, plus news from Amnesty International on page 24.

The November PCC report is on pages 27 and 28.

David Ellis has built a splendid new crib for the church; take a look on page 25.

Hazel Tattersall gives some timely Christmas wine tips on pages 36 and 37.

And on page 40 you can learn about a new and exciting artistic initiative that will be taking place in the church next year.

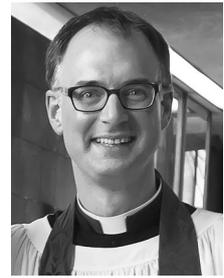
Tony Boyd-Williams continues his series about Shakespeare's clergy on pages 44 and 45.

Plus so much more, including a Christmas Quiz.

Finally, the cover price of *Trinity Times* will increase to £1 from the February issue (the first increase in five years) although savings can still be made by taking out a ten monthly subscription.

Steve & Hilary

The Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd Dr Steve Bate
Associate Vicar



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Pioneer Lay Minister



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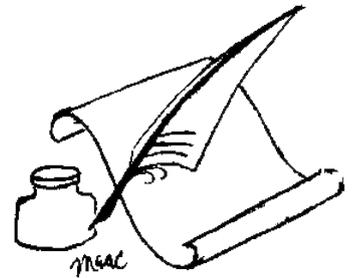
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Patrick Writes...



Family News at Christmas

Christmas is often a time when we catch up on news about family and friends (sometimes through the dreaded round robin newsletter!). Well, there is some important news to share with the church family this Christmas. For over four years now, Rachel Saum has been our Pioneer Lay Minister. As most of you are aware, she is currently in training for ordained ministry and is due to start her curacy in the summer of 2016. The Diocese have invited Rachel to take on a curacy that is very different from the usual, perhaps something that will come as no surprise for those who know Rachel's gift for doing things in new and exciting ways! This is a wonderful opportunity for Rachel, but sadly means that her ministry in this parish will have to come to an end earlier than we expected. Whilst she will not be physically moving to her new parish until June 2016, she is required to undertake a period of planning and preparation for her new venture and so her last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be 31st January 2016 (Candlemas).

This comes as a blow for many of us, especially those who have got to know Rachel during her time here and whose Christian journey has been so enriched by her ministry to them. The details of her new posting are yet to be finalised and so cannot be revealed at the time of writing. However, I am confident that she will be able to flourish as her ministry develops in a new place with new people, building on the wide experience and nurture she has gained whilst being part of the church family here in Stratford.

Of course Rachel's early departure makes our need to appoint a Children and Families Minister even more acute. There will be a Consultation Meeting for parishioners on Sunday January 10th in the Parish Centre (11.30am-12.30pm) at which we will look at the proposed job description and person specification and discuss our vision for ministry to children and families. However, there will inevitably be a gap between Rachel's departure and the arrival of a newly appointed person, so we will need to rally round to make sure areas of ministry that she was involved in continue, especially by supporting the team at the Holy Trinity@Rosebird service.

It is becoming clear that recruiting a *full time* (rather than part time) Children and Families Minister would bring considerable benefits, not least in our ability to draw applicants from a wider field. However, in order to do this we will need to increase the funds we have available by about £10,000 a year. If you have not yet been able to review your regular giving or consider signing up to our planned giving scheme, please can I encourage you to do so? It would be wonderful if the ministry Rachel has worked so hard to build up can be continued once she has left.

Christmas is about the birth of a new beginning for all humanity. I'm sure you will want to join with me in praying this Christmas that Rachel will be blessed in her new ministry, and that she is able to continue to bring to birth new ways of leading people to find Christ.

May the peace of the Christ child be with you and those you love this Christmas.

Patrick



Do try this at home

Chocolate Cream Pavlova



6 Large Egg whites 10oz/300g caster sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
2 rounded teaspoons cocoa powder—sieved.

Line a backing tray with a sheet of silican greaseproof paper. Still whisking the egg whites, add the caster sugar, a spoonful at a time, until the mixture is very thick. Measure in the vanilla essence and with a very large metal spoon quickly and thoroughly fold in the sieved cocoa smoothly. Pour and scrape this mixture onto the lined baking tray, gently smoothing it into the shape you want—round or oblong. Bake at 350f/180°c/gas4 for two minutes, then lowering to 200f/110°c/gas½ for a further hour. Leave the pavlova in the oven until cold.

The Filling

½ pint/300mls double cream 4oz/100g dark chocolate (grated).



To Assemble

Turn the meringue onto a serving plate, peel off the paper, whip the cream and spread over the meringue. Scatter the grated chocolate over the surface. Don't assemble more than 2 hours in advance.

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Christianity at Work

“ At school, my group of friends is made up of atheists and Christians...”

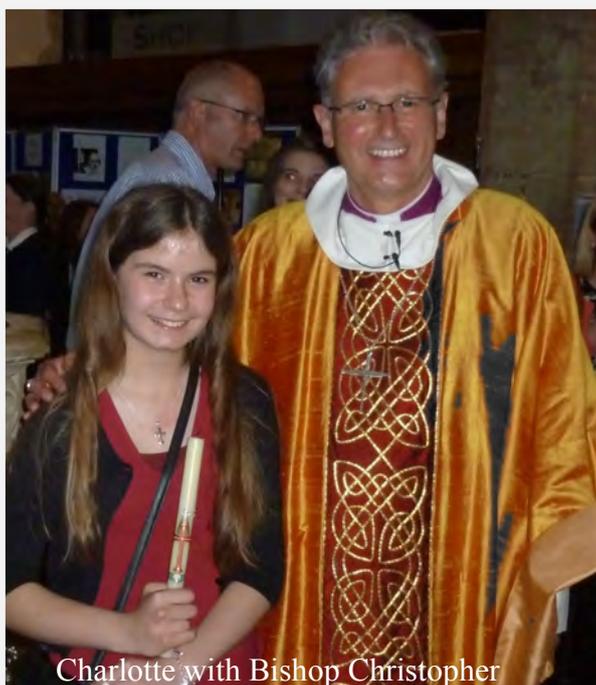
Charlotte Pound



Charlotte with Revd Martin Gorick

I'm Charlotte Pound and I'm 13 years old. I'm in my third year at Shottery Girls' Grammar School and I love it there. When I was a baby, I was christened in Holy Trinity Church by our previous vicar, Martin Gorick, and that's when my journey in faith began. From a young age, my Mum has brought me to church every Sunday morning to attend the Parish Eucharist and since the age of about 7, I have been involved in Junior Church. Junior Church (now Faith at Breakfast) has helped me develop my beliefs and learn how to live better as a Christian. Faith at Breakfast is mainly aimed at primary school children and younger so for the past 2 years I have been a helper to the leaders of the activities. I find this rewarding to help younger children learn something that I have learnt in previous years.

Earlier this year, I was confirmed by The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, The Bishop of Coventry. I wanted to be confirmed to show that these are my beliefs and not just what my parents declared at my Christening. Leading up to the confirmation service, four other young people and I attended group meetings discussing important aspects of our beliefs and living as a Christian. I felt that these discussions with people of a similar age and at a similar stage in faith helped me to explore my beliefs better. I am hoping that something will be organised for teenagers at our Church on a Sunday morning at the same time as the Parish Eucharist so I can learn more every week



Charlotte with Bishop Christopher

At school, my group of friends is made up of atheists and Christians but I am the only one who attends church regularly. My friends have very different backgrounds – including a friend from South Korea and one from Poland. All of us have followed our parents with our beliefs and regularity of attending church services, even though in Religious Education at school we are persuaded to think about our beliefs for ourselves. This has been a great opportunity for me to think about my journey in faith and to share it with you. If you want to ask me about what I have written about or anything else to do with my faith, I am normally at the Parish Eucharist on Sunday mornings.

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve

2:45pm Organ Recital

Prior to the Carol Service resident organists Benedict Wilson, Stephen Dodsworth, James Fellows and Lucy Hong will be performing a selection of Christmas music on the church organ.

3.30pm Christmas Carol Service (Doors open at 2:45pm)

A traditional carol service with candlelight in which we hear the story of the birth of Christ, enjoy the choir singing Christmas music and begin our celebration of Christmas by joining in plenty of carols!

5:00pm Christingle Service at St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

6:00pm The Big Nativity

An interactive crib service for families in which the amazing events in the stable are acted out and we sing carols together. Children are invited to come dressed as a shepherd, angel or wise man and join in if they wish!

7:30pm Luddington Carols on the Green

11.30pm Midnight Mass (Doors open at 10:45pm)

Our first Eucharist of Christmas is a wonderful celebration of Holy Communion with plenty of candles! As we enter Christmas Day itself, we rejoice that Jesus Christ is here with us, not just a baby born 2,000 years ago, but present in bread and wine and within each of us.

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion a short service using traditional language with a few carols. The perfect, peaceful start to your Christmas Day!

9:15am Christmas Eucharist at St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

9:15am Christmas Eucharist at All Saints', Luddington

10:00am All Age Eucharist. This service of Holy Communion is for all the family, whatever your age! With Christmas carols, crèche facilities for the younger ones and an interactive talk, it's a joyful celebration of Christmas for the whole community.

Worship in December



SUNDAY December 6th Holy Trinity *Advent 2*

8.00am Holy Communion— with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate

Parish Centre Good News@10 Christingle—with Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Choral Evensong—with Revd Nicki Chatterton, Preacher James Sorel-Cameron

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship—with Revd Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion BCP—with Revd Jenny Rowland

SUNDAY December 13th Holy Trinity *Advent 3*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

10.00am Parish Eucharist (Baptism Candles)—Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton

6.00pm Evensong—Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB— with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

Parish Centre 7pm Open To God—with Revd Canon Andrew Dow

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—Revd Canon John Graty

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd Jenny Rowland
& at 3.30pm Christingle-with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

SUNDAY December 20th Holy Trinity *Advent 4*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm - No Service

9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird—Nativity with Rachel Saum

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers—No morning service. 6.30pm Carol Service
with Revd Patrick Taylor

All Saints' Luddington—No morning service. 3.45pm Carol Service
with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

SUNDAY December 27th Holy Trinity *St. John the Evangelist*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Food4thought —Preacher Revd Canon Andrew Dow

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP—Preacher Revd Margaret Sweet

Parish Centre 10.00am— No Service

St.Helen's Clifford Chambers—No Service

All Saints' Luddington- No Service

"Lives changed through God's love"

Worship in January



SUNDAY January 3rd Holy Trinity *Epiphany*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor, Preacher Mike Milburn

10.00am Parish Eucharist—with Revd Patrick Taylor, Preacher Mike Milburn

Parish Centre GoodNews@10—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

6.00pm Choral Evensong— Preacher Revd Canon John Graty

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship—with Revd Diane Patterson

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

SUNDAY January 10th Holy Trinity *Baptism of Christ*

8.00am Holy Communion— with Revd Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Parish Eucharist (Baptism Candles)—Preacher Revd Nicki Chatterton

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

Parish Centre 7.00pm Open to God—with Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Evensong—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion —with Revd Jenny Rowland

SUNDAY January 17th Holy Trinity *Epiphany 2*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

10.00am Joint Service with Methodists—Preacher Revd Dr Stephen Bate

6.00pm Choral Evensong—Preacher Revd Graham Wilcox

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—with Revd Patrick Taylor

Holy Trinity@Rosebird 9.30am—with Rachel Saum

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Morning Worship—Revd Diane Patterson

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

SUNDAY January 24th Holy Trinity *Epiphany 3*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Food4thought —Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP—Preacher Revd Jenny Rowland

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—with Rachel Saum

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Trad Holy Communion—with Revd Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

SUNDAY January 31st Holy Trinity *Candlemas*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor, Preacher Rachel Saum

10.00am Whole Parish—Preacher Rachel Saum

6.00pm Special Service—with Revd Dr Stephen Bate

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—Revd Nicki Chatterton

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers—No Service

All Saints' Luddington—No Service

“ Lives changed through God's Love ”



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St Peter's Chapel Appeal

We have already received an encouraging response from individuals and groups within the Holy Trinity 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 church's crossing opposite St Peter's Chapel.

For more information
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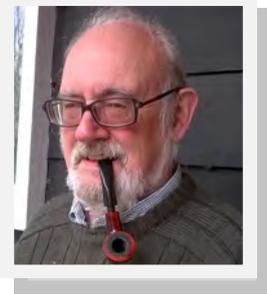
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Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World



" This really is about the destiny of nations..."



Every two years, the Greater Churches Network (of which Holy Trinity is a member) holds a residential conference on matters of common interest. Patrick and I went in October to the conference which this time was held in East Anglia. A great deal came out of that, some of which has been touched on in the PCC. But I want to focus on our customary visit to a member church, which in this case was Great Yarmouth Minster.

That is a spectacular building, far bigger than ours, but with a far smaller congregation, doing splendid work in a tough environment. Their young assistant clergy in particular, working most effectively with young people, were so outstanding that most incumbents would gladly have poached them! But equally outstanding was a churchwarden and local historian who has demonstrably done much for the town's self-esteem – which has been identified as a major spiritual problem.

If there is one word I would apply to Yarmouth as a town, it is "exposed". Exposed, obviously, to cold winds off the North Sea. Also horribly exposed to economic changes; once a great fishing port, then on a smaller scale a centre for offshore oil, and now on an even smaller scale a base for offshore wind-farms. Unemployment and poverty hit you in the face. Yet there is one church in the town which is flourishing, in terms of numbers at least, far more than the Minster. That is the Roman Catholic church. Why? The influx of Eastern Europeans. Yarmouth, and East Anglia generally with its agricultural base, are exposed to that also.

We will soon be called to vote on our future inside or outside the European Union. The issues are very complex. They are not simply about what is coldly called "the free movement of labour". Yet for many people (in a few places at least) the arrival of "foreigners", sometimes in large numbers, is the most obvious impact of our EU membership.

The whole process could be managed better, no doubt. As could the EU as an organisation. The bigger any organisation is, the more opportunities for inefficiency and corruption. The temptation to retreat into smaller units is very great.

But, whether we like it or not, we are all "exposed" to a wider world. For all its faults – most recently the problems over Greece and the eurozone, and the still unresolved issues about the refugee crisis - the EU has maintained since the 1950s a degree of peace, prosperity and unity in an area of the world which was a continuous battleground for centuries. Some of us, more than others, have a sense of "belonging to Europe", which may become more important than ever in the uncertainties of future international relations. Slogans like "Better Together" may look a bit over-simple but they are not to be sneered at.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

It is not for me, or the church, to tell anyone how to vote. All I would ask is that people rise above their own limited perceptions. This really is about the destiny of nations.

The outstanding clergy and congregation of Great Yarmouth Minster, "exposed" to the social costs of a changing world, have certainly risen above any limited, defensive reaction. In the power of the Spirit they have taken threats to their community and turned them into opportunities. That should surely be an example to us, in all our social and political choices.

A Review of Trinity Players' Production of *The Black Car*



Steve Newman's latest historical play is *The Black Car*, a visual radio play, which covers the life of T.E. Lawrence and the mystery surrounding his death.

The *Black Car* was performed for the first time in Holy Trinity Parish Centre Hall on Saturday 31st October 2015. Peter Cubitt played T.E. Lawrence while other members of Trinity Players provided the voices of a wide range of characters drawn from different times in his life.

The action rapidly switches between scenes from Lawrence's life and the action in a courtroom where an imaginary inquest is being held into the circumstances of his death. The pace is fast and the script tells a tale of a life full of action that is both funny and moving.

This required cast members to invent and project a very wide range of voices and sometimes move from one to another very rapidly. Peter had to portray Lawrence as a child, Lawrence as a soldier, Lawrence in the desert, Lawrence as a diffident lover and Lawrence on the point of death. This was no mean feat and was a testament to his acting skill. Tim Raistrick was a commanding King's Councillor wielding his gavel with gusto. Anne Blair, with a delightful Gaelic accent that was both soft and feisty, hinted at the fact that Lawrence's mother was associated at various times in her life with Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Graham Wilcox provided the voice of Lawrence's father which while stern and irritated also managed to convey great affection for his son. Robert Kingdom made a cockney corporal one minute and a convincing Australian the next. Val Cubitt played a frightened boy and a delightful American journalist with equal ease. David Southern was happily speaking as a wonderfully effeminate Rupert Graves when, because of one of the sudden changes of scene, he had to switch with eye blinking speed to the bluff Welsh artist, Augustus John. Geoffrey Lees was the aging Arab leader Adu and projected his voice admirably while Clive Bardell was very convincing as the loyal and admiring army sergeant who would have followed Lawrence to hell and back. Other characters were also created instantly and effectively and included the CO (Colin McDowall), the Major (Roger Taylor), Caitlin (Jane Southerd) and the Boy (Christopher Kingdom). General human hubbub and some other live sound effects were supplied by Margaret Wilcox and myself.

A huge thank to Tony Guy for the sound and lighting.

Steve, as always, must have read widely and researched deeply in order to tell this story. The audience could not help but leave with a deeper appreciation of the man behind Lawrence of Arabia and a sense that the mystery behind his death has yet to be fully solved.

Jane Taylor



*A Very Happy Christmas & A
Blessed New Year*

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Stratford-upon-Avon

What The Dickens



“Be here all the earlier the next day” barked old Ebenezer Scrooge to the hapless Bob Cratchit when he nervously asked for Christmas Day off. We might shake our twenty first century heads at Scrooge’s meanness and smugly congratulate ourselves on how far we’ve come since the early Victorian era. Today, Christmas Day is sacrosanct, a day set aside for observing the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ with presents, families, turkey dinners, the Queen’s Speech and a nap before the “Doctor Who” Christmas Special. Then maybe a ‘Christmas break’ from work for a week or two? All that sounds nice, but is it the reality?

Many people go to work on Christmas Day, arguably unnecessarily. They will be slaving over hot ovens and stirring huge tureens of gravy or waiting on tables in busy restaurants; they will be manning bars or looking after guests in hotels. I was speaking to the manager of an electrical retail store in Reading last year, and we talked of our plans for Christmas. I was disturbed to hear that his and his staff’s Christmases would consist of readying their store for the Boxing Day Sales until midnight on Christmas Eve, then, after a bleary eyed few hours at home, returning to the store to hold off the hordes of bargain hunters at 6am on December 26th (“*Be here all the earlier the next day...*”).

Of course many of those who work on December 25th are working to genuinely look after our welfare, even if we tend to take them for granted. We may well have cause to be grateful for the services of Firefighters, Police Officers, medical professionals, newscasters, clergy etc. I’m fiercely proud of the fact that, before her retirement, my mother was frequently at work on Christmas Day looking after poorly babies at the Princess of Wales hospital, and that my sister may well also be at work there tending to her patients on December 25th.

So, as we’re enjoying our Christmas Dinners this year, let’s thank God for those who are working hard for our benefit out there, and spare a thought for those who are just working hard.

Rhodri Jones—Editor Llangynwyd Parish Magazine, South Wales

Novel Theology

JANUARY—Charles Dickens *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*

FEBRUARY—Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid’s Tale*

MARCH—Carys Bray *A Song for Issy Bradley*

APRIL—Catherine Fox *Acts and Omissions*

*The first Thursday of the month. For more information: Anthony Woollard
01789 204923*



Click & Chatter

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Do you enjoy knitting and other handicrafts? Come to the Parish Centre on the 3rd Friday of the month—2.15pm. Next meeting January 15th.





Soundbites, one of the most successful of many recent innovations at Holy Trinity, is taking a winter break. The heady mix of a beautiful setting, enticing sandwiches, mouth-watering cakes, good company and, most importantly, fine music, has proved a real midweek winner.

What started as a summer replacement for our church's traditional Wednesday organ recitals is now, twenty months later, still drawing regular audiences of 80-100 people. Because the lunchtime recitals are restricted to 30 minutes, it is an audience that often attracts as many visitors as it does locals and members of our congregation. Many a tourist has told us: "Thank you, that was so unexpected and really enhanced my visit."

Whilst familiar performers like Sam Bridges, Solomon Hayes, James Fellows, Peter Summers, Stephen Dodsworth, Andrew Henderson and Benedict and his sister Eleanor, have been the mainstay of the weekly recitals, our Director of Music has done splendidly in attracting accomplished singers and musicians from far and wide – and for free. What talented musical friends, and/or power of persuasion, Benedict has!

We have been treated to a virtuoso performance of Brahms Piano Sonata No.2 by BBC Proms' artist Ashok Gupta; Schubert and Beethoven from the talented Hurst Trio on violin, cello and piano; Walton's Crown Imperial and Elgar's Nimrod Variations in a celebration programme by Benedict of Elizabeth as our longest-reigning monarch. There were full-blown choral performances from the US Windwood Chancel Choir and the Pittsburgh Youth Orchestra and Choir; and the eclectic talents of flautists, folk singers; a cappella groups, hits from the musicals and, of course, no shortage of special - and powerful - performances on the newly-enhanced organ.

The one sad note was that world-acclaimed concert pianist Natalia Strelchenko performed for Soundbites just days before her tragic death. The many who attended were privileged to witness Natalia's extraordinary talent and flamboyant style and a minute's silence in her memory was observed at a later recital.

Soundbites is playing its part in reaching out to the community and attracting new people into our church. Thanks to the commitment of Jane Hornby and her Friends of the Music Committee, our Wednesday "helpers", the baking skills of Hazel and Margaret, and everyone who gives so generously to the retiring collection, it is also helping to secure the future of our choir and the music tradition of Holy Trinity.

"The performers have really enjoyed the Soundbites experience and are keen to return," Benedict said. "My sincere thanks to them, the committee and, not least, our enthusiastic audiences who have made these recitals so special."

If *you* haven't experienced Soundbites, do come along when the 2016 season commences on February 3. We think you will find it to your taste. And if you can't wait, make a date for December 2 when Stephen Dodsworth and Benedict will be playing music for Advent. There might just be a Christmas treat, too!

Mourning in the Morning—a New Poem by Pete Cubitt

Photo: Hilary Newman

I'd seen the pictures in the papers, on the news night after night, even on a friend's phone!

Thousands and thousands and thousands of red poppies surrounding the Tower of London.

Everyone was talking about them, and thousands and thousands and thousands of people were making a journey; their pilgrimage to the Tower, to see for themselves. To say they had seen it.

The vast sea of blood red poppies oozing from the window in the wall, like an unstoppable wound.

Their proud stain flooding the grass green moat in an incoming tide of silent pain. Each poppy a person, once full of life and hope; of all that makes each one of us such a valuable and unique human being.

That person gone, gone forever; now a faded photo alongside some fruit; a team of medals kept safer than the owner; a happy tear in the eye when 'his' toast is said before each Christmas dinner.

Almost missed it; the car parks were full nearby, a thirty minute walk; we gave it a try.

The weather was as sad as us, weak; tear grey blue clouds smudged the office block skyline, as the tired Thames wandered past trying to remember its way back to the sea.

We were in a crowd, a suck of a crowd, the pull of the poppies drawing us on.

Quietly, patiently, expectant, we moved ever closer.

There were thousands there, so many coming from so far.

Shuffling our way over the last one hundred metres, no push, no shove, no sound really.

Waiting for our turn at the front, by the fence, by the moat.

A chance to see and see we did.

A sea of blood red poppies lapping against the walls of The Tower, a lake of given love.

Thousands still, yes stock still.

The scale was unbelievable; one death is a tragedy, thousands become a statistic! Numbers are written on paper, these poppies were written as a view, as a gasp, as a moment of wonder; when words are sensible enough to keep quiet and let our emotions voice our feelings.

Look down and see a pool of poppies gently ebbing away; those once proud poppies seemed to be dying themselves.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Lifted from the mud, placed and packed without time for ceremony into wooden boxes, then moved on through the chaos of milling humanity, mud and tents. Each pre ordered, pre ordained to find their final resting place.

Was I disappointed to have missed the complete picture? No, no not at all. This felt more real, more poignant.

Look across and see the chute of scaffolding laid bare as bones beneath the wounded window.

It's been a year, a year, yet I can remember that day as vividly as if it was only yesterday!

I've remembered and I expect thousands will be remembering their experiences of that ocean of poppies.

So it worked then, for all who saw, however they saw.

We must always try not to forget to remember.

If we forget to remember, we forget those who gave their lives.

We must remember that they are gone, in order to remember that they were here.

It is in our remembering that they live on and on and on.



Christmas Collections

The three charities to benefit from the Christmas Collections and the Christmas Card Amnesty this year will be...



Trinity Players' Second Outing of BFG a Giant Hit!



Photos: John Burgess

From The November Registers...



Christenings

15th Oliver Charles Peter Jupe
22nd Darcy Alina Holmes-Arnold

Funerals

Albert Earnest Wilkins 4th
Ann Maureen Hicks 10th
Ida Joyce Butler 11th
Mavis MacDonald 18th
Patricia Eunice Jones 19th
Geoffrey Arthur Hood 20th
Bernard Graham Thompson 27th



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



Compiled by John Cohen

6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Choral Evensong
Baruch ch.5	Isaiah ch.40 v.1-11
Luke ch.3 v.1-6	Luke ch.1 v.1-25

13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm Evensong
Zephaniah ch.3 v.14-end	Zephaniah ch.3 v.14-end
Luke ch.3 v.7-18	Luke ch.3 v.7-18

20th December 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00 & 10.00 am	6.00 pm No Service
Micah ch.5 v.2-5a	
Luke ch.1 v.39-45	

Carol Services at Luddington at 3.45 & Clifford Chambers at 6.30 pm

24th December Christmas Eve

3.30 Carol Service [Readings TBA]	6.00 pm
11.30 pm Eucharist of Christmas Night	The Big Nativity
Hebrews ch.1 v.1-4	
John ch.1 v.1-14	

25th December Christmas Day

All Age Eucharist

8.00 [10.00 am TBA]	6.00 pm No Service
Isaiah ch.9 v.2-7	
Luke ch.2 v.1-14	

27th December St John the Evangelist

8.00 [10.00 am TBA]	6.00 pm BCP Communion
1 John ch.1	1 John ch.1
John ch.21 v.19b-end	John ch.21 v.19b-end



Music For December

Benedict Wilson—Holy Trinity's Director of Music



Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Vaughan Williams *The truth from above*

10 408 12 MP 554 7

Voluntary: Bach *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 599*

Gott, durch deine Güte BWV 600

6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Plainsong *Before the ending of the day*

466 315 16

Responses: Smith; Stone; Naylor

Canticles: Gibbons *Short Service*

Psalm 75

Anthem: Vaughan Williams *The truth from above*

Voluntary: Walther *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Sunday 13th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Ord Adam *lay y bounden*

345 5 362 HOAN 108

Voluntary: Bach *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645*

MP 708

6pm Evensong

Introit: Ord Adam *lay y bounden*

7 499 351

Responses: Ferial

Canticles: Chanted

Psalm 50.1-6

Anthem: Skempton *There is no rose*

Voluntary: Bach *Prelude and Fugue in A minor BWV 559*

Sunday 20th December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Wood *O Thou the central orb*

186 15 48 10 33

Voluntary: Gigout *Toccata*

No Evening Service at Holy Trinity – the Choir is singing

Carol Services at Luddington, 3.45pm, and

Clifford Chambers, 6.30pm

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

2.45pm Christmas Organ Recital - by resident organists

3.30pm The Christmas Carol Service

Special order of service

6pm The Big Nativity! A carol service for children

Special order of service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Special order of service

Motets: Ord Adam *lay y bounden*

Stopford *I saw three ships*

Voluntary: Dupré *Variations sur un Noël (Theme and Finale)*

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am All Age Christmas Eucharist

Special order of service

Motets: Stopford *A Christmas Blessing*

Wood *Ding! Dong! Merrily on high!*

Voluntary: Bach *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605*

Sunday 27th December – The First Sunday of Christmas

10am Food4thought

Special order of service

6pm BCP Holy Communion

36 32 28 26

An Offering

A Poem

Dallin Chapman

Through desert nights, cold sands shifting
as hooves moved the stillness,
over mountain passes, grasses
grey at dawn, storms blinding clouds
which drowned our cloaked forms.

On through netted spaces, trees
tracing their lineage, skies dwarfing
our small earth, shrinking meaning,
the star our guide, companion.

Tired.

Eyes raw with sunset, sunrise,
pierced by midnight, pulled wide,
alight with constellations, mysteries.

After such encounters, village shrunken,
dwellings hunched,
no palaces or pomp, no welcome,
a place abandoned now by history,
forgotten.

Except the star bowed there
holding its light,
a candle to our stumbling tread,
our shallow breath.

I'd carried it so long, so far,
it seared my skin.
I lay the casket down with
shadowed heart,
that myrrh, my offering.





"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"

Every year the **Stratford Amnesty International Group** invites members of the public to send messages of support to people around the world who have been unlawfully imprisoned, tortured and repressed. This year we invite you to join with us in writing a card to one of our '**Individuals at Risk**'.

At the back of the church there will be a table with information about these individuals along with cards to sign. Four cases we will feature are:

Phyoe Phyoe Aung of Burma and her fellow students are serving up to 9 years' imprisonment for their peaceful participation in a protest against a new National Education Law.

Fred and Yves in the Democratic Republic of Congo are in prison because of their actions to strengthen civic education among young people. One charge against them carries the death penalty.

Israa Al-Taweel of Egypt is a young woman in a wheelchair and is in prison with her health deteriorating. She has been denied medical help, access to a lawyer and is in prison without charge.

Waleed Abu al-Khair of Saudi Arabia is a prominent human rights lawyer who has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, charged with "insulting the judiciary" and "disobeying the ruler".

We know our messages of support make a difference. Below is feedback from 2014:

Moses Akatugba: *Moses was accused of stealing three phones when he was 16. He 'confessed' while being tortured; had served 10 year in prison, and was on death row. The Nigerian Government granted him a full pardon in 2015. Moses wrote to Amnesty "While before I felt all hope had gone, the story changed when Amnesty came in. The messages I received overwhelmed me. I regained hope."*

Lui Ping: *In China, Lui Ping was sentenced to six and a half years in jail in June 2014 for her peaceful work exposing corruption. She has been tortured, denied medical care and access to her family. Public attention to her case resulted in her daughter being allowed to see her.*

Raif Badawi: *Raif was sentenced to 10 years in prison, and 1,000 lashes for his actions as a 'blogger'. He is still in prison in Saudi Arabia. Raif's wife has written "I can't thank you all enough for every word, every tweet and every letter that was sent to us. Because of you, Raif and my family have felt supported at a time when we thought no one cared about our suffering."*

Amnesty was launched in 1961 by a British lawyer, Peter Benenson, who ran a newspaper appeal, 'The Forgotten Prisoners'. It called on people to begin working peacefully for the release of thousands of people, imprisoned throughout the world for their political and religious beliefs. In Stratford the **Amnesty Group** meets twice a month and there are two other groups - at **Stratford Grammar School for Girls** and **King Edward IV School**. For more information about the **Stratford Amnesty Group** go to the website www.amnesty.org.uk/stratfordonavon.

Kathy Stredder

David Ellis Creates A New Christmas Crib

Having retired from ministering at church services Canon David Ellis has turned his attention to artistic creativity. Last Christmas he restored the Holy Trinity Church nativity figures. It all began when he repeatedly expressed his compassion for a shepherd who had for a long time languished on the vestry desk with a badly broken elbow. With his experience of restoring plaster figures in Cumbrian churches he offered to apply his skill to the stricken shepherd. This led to a request to minister to all the nativity figures, using wood resin and acrylic paint to restore them to their former health and beauty. The worst case was the donkey with a hind leg entirely missing. Knowing how garrulous people sadly have this effect on donkeys David suspected that an over-lengthy sermon at Evensong could possibly have caused the poor beast's trauma. A prosthesis was duly fitted, ligaments and all, and wise men whose treasures and headgear had suffered much in the course of their journeyings were smartly toffed up again.



These figures have however for some years lacked a crib. They have simply stood among straw on the floor of the Becket Chapel or St Peter's chapel without a home to focus their destiny. Could their helper possibly fashion a stable? The challenge could not be refused. Thus David was given a commission to construct a crib which would both fit the space beneath the nave altar on Sunday mornings and be easily moved to the Becket Chapel for the rest of the week. It should also be collapsible for storage when not in use. Patrick had seen a crib where the background was 'a stunning view of a mid-night blue sky from which the bright star shines down on Bethlehem.' David who is a member of the Stratford upon Avon Art Society thus began to pray for special inspiration.



The vicar gave his approval to a small model version of what might fit the bill and work began this November. The base, measuring 3ft x 2ft is mounted on casters which were retrieved before the Ellises' marital bed of 53 years went to the tip. A hinged board rises from the rear of the base to form the background and some 12 inches in front of it the frontage of the stable (Tudor beam style) cut out of plywood, pegs into the base. Both the background board and the stable front have inverted v-shaped (gable end) tops surmounted by a slatted roof which holds them together. The whole model can therefore be propelled along the floor with the nativity figures on board when erected, and can easily be flat-packed for storage. It will make its premier appearance in Holy Trinity Church in time for the carol service and will at some point receive the traditional blessing.



David also made the large wooden cross with its stand, which was used for the first time last Good Friday. Retirement, as many of us realise, passes through various guises, but never actually occurs.

Steve Newman



Ed Mulryne's Page



The Christmas tree is in the hallway – how the servants struggled - and the lights are going up as I write. The lovely old Christmas songs are playing on the Chris Evans show. The mistletoe is being hung from the chandeliers. The turkeys are locking up their children. It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Once again it is time to address the fact that this year is slowly slipping away and the Yuletide season has thrown itself upon us yet again. This is delightful, of course, because it means happiness. Celebration is filling the air. However it does, sage poet that I am, make me a little melancholy - where did the time go?

Indeed, it's at times like this that I like to consider what went well during the year and what didn't go so well. It's a reflective thing, and reflective isn't necessarily what people would describe me as. I think the last time I was properly reflective was when I squeezed into that high visibility jacket that was too small for me and I had to wear it for six months before the paramedics managed to cut it off. That's certainly something of a regret. I loved that jacket!

One of the staples of this special season is the Christmas present wish list . So I thought I'd use this opportunity to let you read my list now. Hopefully you'll feel generous?

Tank driving lessons – the ordinary driving lessons didn't go so well!

A crash helmet for the tank driving instructor

Insurance

Loads of assurance

A lovely spice rack

Harmonica lessons - the instrument sounds great in a tank

Sewing lessons – I really must finish that wedding dress

Facial hair

Walking, running and sitting down lessons

The Penguin Book of Shakespeare

The Walrus Book of Middleton

A hamper

A pamper

A pamper hamper (they're lovely aren't they)



This is, of course, a joke because it's not about the gifts is it, except the facial hair, it's about the birth of Jesus Christ. It's about the food, the family and the beautiful music we're singing this Christmas and the busy life of the church, though not necessarily in that order. I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and a glorious New Year.

PCC News for November



“Evolution not revolution” was how graphic design consultant Chris Wheeler described the approach to Holy Trinity’s re-branding at November’s PCC.

Mr Wheeler, who’d been invited to present his designs, explained the brief. “I was asked to keep to the original logo and to incorporate the existing imagery and colours. So I’ve kept the logo of the 3 fish and the original colour scheme - as the blue and gold work very well together. I’ve also created a unique font which brings together the traditional with the modern.”

PCC enthusiastically backed the new designs, but there were some concerns about the print costs associated with the use of colour. Mr Wheeler clarified, “decisions on print would have to be made internally and would be dependent on each individual situation.”

PCC voted unanimously to adopt the re-branding.

Finances

The 2016 budget was unanimously endorsed, after scrutiny by members of the PCC. Jonathan Drake enquired about the apparently over modest increase in staff and marketing costs, but was satisfied with treasurer Anthony Woollard’s explanations. “We are faced with certain challenges next year, but we are not in a bad position. Most indications are that our income is healthy.”

Fees for 2016

Proposals for future wedding and funeral fees were also endorsed. These involved virtually no change from 2015 except for a small increase, as agreed, to meet the costs of the new marriage preparation programme, and a similarly small increase to rectify an anomaly over bellringers’ fees at Clifford Chambers.

Buildings

Church Warden Mike Warrillow gained PCC support to erect a net over the windows on the West End, as a deterrent for Fantail Doves. He said that the Town Council had agreed to pay half the costs to do so.

Mike also said that there was no change to South Side extension timings, which remain on track to complete by March 4th. “The walls are going up and the interior block work has started. But we do need to decide by 5th December if we’re going to proceed with the work in St Peter’s Chapel.”

Anthony Woollard informed members that he had successfully negotiated a £60,000 loan from the Diocese to help pay for the additional archaeology costs of the South Side project.

Anthony said he would receive the money in January and hope to repay early in the summer – dependant on good visitor income and a VAT rebate which he’s in the process of contesting.

Other Team Reports

Nurture and Discipleship

Reverend Steve Bate informed PCC that Jane Rogers would be joining the team and John Hall-Matthews and Junie Tong would be co-opted.

Continued on next page...

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Children & Families

Steve also advised that the team were working on a job specification for the new Children and Families Minister post, to be advertised in the New Year.

Holy Trinity in the Community

PCC endorsed Mike Milburn's proposal for Holy Trinity's Christmas collections money to support local charity Echoes, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and the British Red Cross, focussing on refugees.

Parish Vision

Reverend Patrick Taylor urged everyone to use the vision "lives changed through God's love", wherever possible – in personal prayer, intercessions, teaching and any communication.

But he also had several challenges to the PCC. "How do we measure our progress and success in each area of work? How do we know we're fulfilling our purpose?" Patrick also proposed that the Vision Group re-convene to try to answer those questions.

Exhibition Update

Mike Warrillow updated members on plans to hold an art exhibition in Holy Trinity, to reflect the "Seven Ages of Man" and celebrate 400 years of William Shakespeare's legacy.

He told the PCC that there will be a preview of the artwork in early January for all those interested in buying it. Jonathan Waller, a Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Coventry University has agreed to produce the work, which will be hung on the columns in church from April to the end of August.

Mike said, "This has also really sparked the imagination of the Academics from Coventry and Warwick Universities, to the point where there may also be funding for a book to accompany the exhibition."

Other news

More than 2,000 school children have been invited to perform in Holy Trinity's inaugural musical nativity "Hosanna Rock". Director of Music Benedict Wilson and Rebecca Sampson toured round 8 Stratford Primary Schools, encouraging all those interested to attend rehearsals in the Parish Centre on Wednesday evenings from 5.30 to 6.30pm. The show will take place on Thursday 3 December in church from 6.45pm.

The Hospitality Teas Team is generously donating £5,000 to the restoration of St Peter's Chapel. They would also like to extend their opening times on a Saturday from 1.30 to 4.30pm and offer hospitality on Shakespeare Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

And as an outline proposal, they would also like to offer a coffee morning, on one Saturday each month in the Parish Centre, to serve the local community. A full proposal will be presented in the New Year.



Compiled by Ruth Poulten

Answers: 1. Deck the halls, 2. Joy to the World, 3. Silent Night, 4. Little Donkey, 5. Hark the Herald, 6. Holly and the Ivy, 7. We Three Kings, 8. The First Noel, 9. While Shepherds Watched, 10. O Little Town of Bethlehem, 11. O come O come Emmanuel, 12. See amidst the Winter Snow, 13. It Came upon the Midnight Clear, 14. Away in a Manger, 15. O Come all ye Faithful, 16. Once in Royal David's City, 17. Angels From the Realms of Glory, 18. Ding Dong Merrily on High, 19. I Saw Three Ships, 20. Torches.

The Trinity Ladies



Churchwomen's Group 70th Anniversary

In 1945 just after the 2nd World War the ladies of Holy Trinity Church formed a group with the aim of prayer and fellowship. Times were hard in 1945: rationing was still in place and it was difficult to get tea, coffee, sugar and milk for the ladies to have a cup of tea together after their meetings. Revd. Margaret Sweet's mother was the first Secretary of the group and Margaret remembers very clearly helping her mother write notes of information to the members of the group and after writing the notes out at least 30 times then having to deliver to those who were within walking distance! Margaret says that despite the shortages the group always managed a cup of tea and a biscuit at the end of the meetings – just as we do today.

That first group of ladies also managed to raise enough money to pay for the land upon which our Parish Hall stands; I was informed by Mair Jones (our leader for 28 years) that the cost of the land was about £800. The group held coffee mornings and jumble sales and many other activities to raise the money. The group has continued to raise funds for the church up to the present day. A few years ago we regularly had a charity stall on the Friday Market where we sold items which members had donated and we also had a bring and buy table at our monthly meetings as well as a raffle. Today we still have the raffle and a charity jar which members put loose change in. We also have a Charity Tea Party in March where we turn the Parish Hall into a tea room and invite our friends and neighbours to join us for tea and cake and charge them £2 for the privilege. This money is donated to a particular charity. We also give a large portion of the funds to charity each November, the Friends of Shakespeare's Church getting the largest donation.

Every year on the first Tuesday in November we attend as a group the morning Communion service followed by coffee and celebrate our anniversary.

In 2005 we celebrated our 60th Anniversary; we had a service in the Beckett Chapel followed by lunch in the Parish Hall. This year we celebrated our 70th Anniversary, at the 10 a.m. service on the 1st November Rev Diane Patterson (a member of the group) led us in our prayers of intercession and our leader Ann Morris read one of the lessons. We also again had a special service in the Beckett Chapel on Tuesday 3rd November led by Rev. Diane Patterson; members of the group did the readings and prayers. Peter Morris played for us and we sang two hymns and at the end of the service Happy Birthday to the group! The members very much appreciated having Communion together as a group and afterwards we had coffee followed by a lovely lunch thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at the New Inn, Clifford Chambers.

The group have now changed our name to "Trinity Ladies" but our aims will continue to be the same as those ladies who started the group in 1945, that is to meet for prayer and fellowship and raise funds for the Church and other charities.

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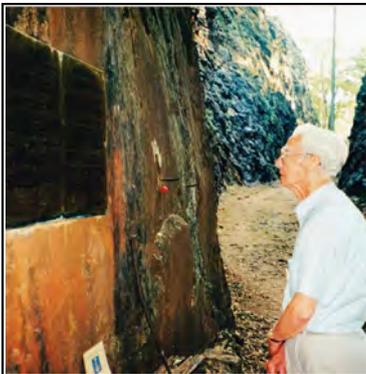
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The Monkey on His Back

By Val Cubitt in memory of her Dad.

A True Story of Captivity with the Japanese in WWII



Ron reading a commemorative plaque

My dad was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore in 1942. As children, to make us laugh, he often told this story.

“When I was a prisoner with the Japanese, I had been very poorly, in the camp hospital in fact. As I recovered, I was put on ‘light sick duties’, this meant sweeping all the leaves from the Japanese Officer’s camp. Of course in Singapore, the leaves were always falling, there were no seasons. The officers had a pet monkey, on a very long chain, and every time it caught sight of me, thin and weak, endlessly sweeping leaves, it would run down from it’s tree, jump on my shoulders, and tug and pull and yank at my hair, chattering away! Of course, the Japanese officers loved this, and called to others to watch, they clapped,

they jeered, they laughed, they thought it was hilarious, and of course, I had to keep sweeping, I daren’t do anything to the monkey, on pain of severe punishment. Until one day...

I was sweeping, the guards weren’t around, and the monkey came. I looked around, it was all clear, I reached up, I lifted the monkey down, and I gave it a real good hiding! The next day, there I was, there the guards were, and there was the monkey in his tree, chattering and watching! The guards waited expectantly, they nudged each other, they grinned, waiting for their free amusement, but the monkey never jumped on my shoulder again!”

Our dad, through his terrible memories of captivity, carried that monkey on his shoulders, for... almost all of his life. This is his story.

He was 21 on October 3rd 1939, when war broke out, he was called up immediately. He was enlisted into the Royal Artillery and did his basic training in Norfolk, Scotland and Monmouth, a peace loving young man, not long out of his teens, was now a soldier, in the 148 Field Regiment of The Bedfordshire Yeomanry. He was allowed a final leave before his overseas posting, which was to support Montgomery’s 8th army in the desert. His training was for desert warfare. He set off from Liverpool in the dead of night in October 1941, with the 18th Division, combat uniforms and equipment all painted in desert camouflage. It was the time when the U boat campaign was at it’s height, and at church parade on board ship, they sang ‘For those in peril on the sea...’ with extra enthusiasm! But fate intervened, and while at sea, Pearl Harbour was bombed. Dad’s division was immediately ordered to divert to Singapore, the equipment had to be re-painted green, for the jungle, and they were ordered to prepare for a fighting landing!

Two weeks of bombardment followed, with no air or sea back up. Singapore fell, and on 15th February 1942, my dad was a prisoner of war...he was 23 years old, and it was the beginning of three and a half years of starvation, slave labour, deprivation and disease. The first year in Singapore was bad, but worse was to come.

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The Japanese said they had rest camps in Burma and Thailand (Siam as it was then), and they would be moving prisoners, my dad was put into F Force. F Force suffered the most casualties of all. They travelled or 5 days and nights packed into steel sided railway carriages, 35 to a carriage, it was impossible to either sit or lie down. The sides were so hot they couldn't be touched and men had dysentery. Some never made the end of that journey. Those who did then were forced to make the rest of the journey by foot, from Banpong to the furthest reaches of the railway. It came to be known as The Death March, and they set off through jungle in the monsoon period, throwing away kit as they went, as it became impossible to carry. Many did not make it...my dad did. Kuwii, became his work camp, a filthy clearing near the railway, already inhabited by despairing Dutch prisoners, and here they were to set to work building rattan huts to live in, before the nightmare began.

But the human spirit always warms the heart, in later life, when dad needed to talk about it; he shared some special moments with us. He told us how once, when lying in a sick hut, a voice from the bamboo slats next to him, asked him his name, when he answered 'Ron', the voice said, 'Ron, will you hold my hand?' they held hands all night, in the morning the fellow prisoner had lost his fight for life, but dad had given all he had to give...a little comfort. And then, when my dad was close to death from starvation and disease at 24, with no will left to live, one of his own officers was



Ron remembers old friends

passing through his camp, trying to keep records of prisoners. He recognized my dad, dragged him out of the sick tent, ordered him to sit on an upturned log and began shouting at him, ' what are you doing, lying there, think about your mum, what would she say if she saw you like this....he then collected dad's rice ration and forced him to eat, returning every day, until finally, dad's spirit came back, and he recovered enough to join the working parties again, building embankments, which continued day after day after day after day...until the railway was completed.

Out of 55 in my dad's camp, which had also been hit by cholera, 8 crawled out. dad was one of them. They were transported back down the river by barge calling in at Chungkai. It was here that dad recognized an officer and called out to him, dad weighed just over 4 stones, was ragged, bearded and dirty, the officer didn't recognize him, until he heard the voice, 'its Ron!' The officer immediately called for some rations and help. He tried in vain to persuade the Japanese to let dad stay for just a few more days, but to no avail, but as they were ordered back onto the barge, he gave dad all he had, 2 ticals (coins), a few vitamin pills and a small tin of insect itching powder, dad never know whether it was the things he was given, or simply the kindness and belief he received that helped save his life. But he truly believed that it was gestures like this that helped him and others survive, when at their lowest.

My dad arrived back in Singapore at night, he was taken to the Changi area and spent time in Changi jail itself. He spent the rest of the war here, with little food and endless work, but compared with life on the railway, it was home.

As the end of the war came, he had survived. It was close, the prisoners were actually set to work digging trenches for their own graves, when the second atom bomb was dropped. If it hadn't been, thousands and thousands more would have died...on both sides.

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Ron with a former guard.

Our dad was the most loving dad anyone could have wished for, always full of fun, and song, with holidays and happy times in abundance. He was never a materialistic man...life itself was too precious. Yet, we knew the scars, the memories and the nightmares never left him, until perhaps, the encounter with a Japanese Christian lady in the 1990's named Keiko Holmes.

Keiko had made reconciliation for FEPOWS (Far East Prisoners of War) her mission. She began attending FEPOW meetings, arriving the first time, at the Royal Festival Hall in full Japanese costume. This did not go

down well, and she was asked to leave, but still she persevered and continued to turn up. She tried to talk to them. They refused. She tried to encourage them to go on a pilgrimage to Japan with her. They refused. She asked them to talk about their experiences. She listened. And then gradually, something began to happen. These old men began to think. For years my dad refused to be drawn in, preferring to keep the hate and hurt and torment hidden away. But one day he did talk to her. She asked if she could tape what he said, he agreed. Slowly, trust and friendship grew. Dad never wanted to go to Japan, he didn't want to meet another Japanese person, but by now, at almost 80 years old, he wanted the pain and hate to go away. I remember him looking at his two grandchildren, our children, Laura and Jim and saying, "You know, I would hate anyone to blame my grandchildren for something I did, perhaps I need to stop hating theirs." And with this thought firmly in his mind, he agreed to go on the pilgrimage, but on condition that he could talk in schools and colleges and meetings about his experiences. Good needed to come from such a difficult journey.

He did go, with mum, He did tell his story – he also visited a Japanese family in their home, and heard about how they had lost relatives in Hiroshima. He met their grandson, Yuji, 18 years of age, the same as Laura at the time.

He also met a guard from F Force.

This was unexpected and utterly and totally one of the most difficult moments in my dad's life. He wanted no hate him, he wanted to lay at his feet the deaths and needless suffering of so many young men, friends and comrades. He wanted to...But all he saw was an old man, who like my dad was scarred, he saw a man full of remorse for the part he had played. We have a photograph of that encounter, and the only words my dad could say to him was, "I think it is time for you to get on with your life, and I will get on with mine."

But did this heal the scars for dad, you are probably wondering, did he find reconciliation and peace?

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When it was time to leave, mum and dad were standing at the railway station, next to another railway track that would begin their journey home. Yuji and his family were there to wave them off. Yuji stepped forward, looked into my dad's eyes and said, "Ron, I am so sorry." My dad, with eyes full, looked back into his and said, "But, Yuji, you have nothing to be sorry for." Yuji replied, "I am saying it for my people". In that moment, my dad said he felt a huge weight lifted. The monkey on his shoulders had gone. That one apology, from a boy, standing next to a railway track in Japan, had wiped away the hate. It was a moment that as a family, we treasure, and will never forget. A moment we remember with thanksgiving. Yuji, you will never know the weight of those few words. It took one young man to do what a nation had not. It really is individuals touching the hearts of other individuals that can change the world.

A year later, Yuji came to university in England, he stayed with my mum and dad for a week, they brought him to visit Stratford and he went to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre with our daughter Laura. We had a lovely time together. Dad said, he would sometimes find himself quietly looking across at Yuji as he sat chatting in their sitting room, and think to himself, "well I never, how life goes full circle." And my mum cooked a rice pudding for him, 'to make him feel at home'! I'm not sure Yuji enjoyed his rice with milk and sugar!

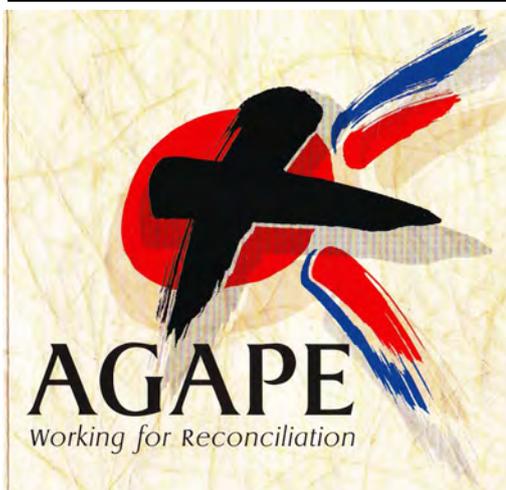
The following year, my dad's 80th, we all went with him on a pilgrimage to Thailand. We visited the infamous Burma/Siam railway, the bridge over the River Kwai, and the war ceremonies at Kanchanaburi and Chungkai, where we found the graves of friends, some of whom dad had helped to bury in those railway camps. It was deeply moving. We then spent some time in Singapore and saw Changi Jail.

We still keep in touch with Keiko, and she continues to work for AGAPE and reconciliation. She was awarded the MBE and mum and dad and their whole pilgrimage group were invited to attend the ceremony at Windsor Castle. We receive all her news letters. She now organizes visits for the grandchildren of FEPOW's, and both Laura and Jim went on one such pilgrimage and stayed with Japanese families. Mum is invited to a reunion at the Japanese Embassy every year.

When dad died in 2001, aged 82, there were many mourners, family, friends, FEPOW's....And flowers from a Japanese family, with the words,
"For Ron's Grave".



The scars were healed, the hate had gone, the monkey no longer on his shoulders, the circle was complete.



Keiko Holmes was awarded an honorary OBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in April 1998.

St. Helen's News

Pauline Newbury Writes...



A Clean Fresh Look for St Helen's

Monday 26th October saw the start of the redecoration of St Helen's. By midday three tiers of scaffolding had been installed across the chancel and by the end of the day every monument had been covered and the huge task of removing the peeling paint began. In order to comply with regulations lime wash paint was used and in places four coats were needed.

The painters were then faced with a challenge - they didn't realise we intended to hold our family service on Sunday and needed the paint to be dry!! The service was a huge success although Jenny decided not to preach from the scaffolding!!

Once the work on the nave and chancel was finished the painters then moved onto the task of painting the vestries. However firstly they had to be cleared - if anyone would like a 6ft piece of new kitchen work surface or a selection of fluorescent tubes - assorted sizes (why we have them we don't know as we don't have any fluorescent light fittings) do please let me know.

It's been a challenge but great fun - we now have a clean and freshly painted church which is warm and inviting.

As a thank you to everyone, not only for their kind donations but also for their patience during the work, (no-one took us up on our offer of a quick brush down after services) we are holding a Wine and Nibbles evening on the 10th December between 6.30 and 8.30. It will be lovely to see you there.



Trinity Tots

For the under 5s

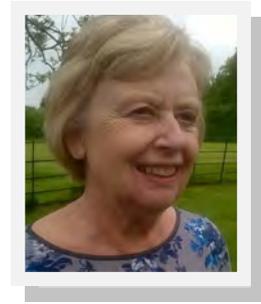


Trinity Tots meets every Thursday at 1.30pm in Holy Trinity Parish Centre during term time. We need more volunteers so we can continue to supply this service to young families. If you can help contact Steve or Val Bate on 01789 299195



Christmas Wines

Hazel Tattersall



As Christmas approaches and family food planning begins, I often find myself thinking back to my childhood and the food we had then. Always an extra cake since Christmas Day was also my father's birthday.

I was the youngest with three older and constantly hungry brothers. My mother, a very good and adventurous cook, always 'seconded' me to help in the kitchen with preparations ahead of the day itself.

On Christmas Day, we always went straight into the turkey main course, but one year she decided to serve a starter for the first time. Her choice was prawn cocktail, prettily served in glass dessert dishes but caused such confusion with my brothers, because they thought it was a pudding that was until they tasted it!

My parents were both 'tea total' so water was the 'drink of the day' in our house. They would have been very surprised to know about my career in the wine business!

So as you wander down the wine aisle, what might you choose to accompany your Christmas meal? For me, it is the prime opportunity to try some new wines along with our old favourites.

Here are some suggestions, which may help you. Just recently I was asked to present a tasting of Albariño wines from Galicia (NW Spain). This grape grown only in this beautiful coastal region produces wines, which are perfect accompaniments to a seafood starter: dry, with lively acidity, citrus flavours and some mineral notes.

Another interesting Spanish white wine is from the Rueda region in Northern Spain, made from the Verdejo grape. Surprisingly, this inland region with hot summers and cold winters produces this dry, fresh, crisp wine with greenapple and pear flavours. Good for a range of starters.

Whether your main course choice is turkey, goose or other poultry, the varied accompaniments of bacon rolls, stuffing, sausages, sprouts, not forgetting cranberry sauce, also need to be considered

If white wine is preferred, a medium bodied white Burgundy e.g. Macon Villages (Chardonnay), is a good choice. For something different, try a white wine from the southern Italian region of Campania. My suggestion is either, Fiano di Avellino or Greco di Tufo. Both are dry, crisp with firm body and have good length. Fiano shows some spice and hint of floral aromas whereas Greco offers apple peel aromas and some mineral notes.

If your choice is red, then try a medium bodied wine with firm structure, medium tannins and ripe red fruit e.g. a New World Pinot Noir from Chile or New Zealand. Alternatively, for something different try a Portuguese red from the Douro or Alentejo regions. The grape varieties names may not be so familiar e.g. Touriga Nacional, Tinto Roriz but their mulberry/blackberry fruit, supple richness and peppery spice would match well.

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Moving on to the dessert. Christmas Pudding can be challenging at this point in the meal where, appetites have been satisfied! Before making your choice, it's worth remembering that one of the key ingredients in the pudding is the raisin, in particular the Muscat raisin used in the best puddings. Traditionally, a rich sweet wine is recommended, often made from the Muscat grape e.g. Muscat de Beaumes de Venise or Banyuls (Southern France) or an Australian Muscat. Usually these wines would be served at room temperature, but on this occasion, I would chill for 30 mins to give a fresher contrast to the pudding. However, the Muscat grape is also used to make another style of wine, a sparkling version produced in Piemonte - Asti Spumante and Moscato di Asti. Well chilled with foaming, refreshing, grapey acidity and low alcohol, for me, it is the perfect accompaniment for the pudding. I've had some very positive feedback from friends and clients for this recommendation.

Finally, for your aperitif, don't forget that glass of English sparkling wine!!! However, whatever your choice, I hope these suggestions will help as you celebrate this festival.

A Twelfth Night Poetry Mass – for Shakespeare!

Please come and join us for one of the earliest quatercentenary celebrations of Shakespeare for 2016.

On Twelfth Night, Tuesday 5 January at 7.30pm, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust will be holding a Poetry Mass in Holy Trinity Church. This is a service of Holy Communion which uses poems to complement the main liturgy. These will reflect the Christmas and Epiphany seasons (and include some Shakespeare included for good measure).

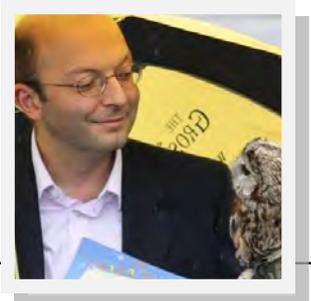
But there'll be a specially produced anthem at the end, sung by an augmented choir, and given full expression by Benedict Wilson on the organ. I've written a new libretto named after Ben Jonson's 1623 poem about his friend: *To the memory of our beloved, the author, master William Shakespeare and what he hath left us*. I've set the words to the final moments of Richard Wagner's great opera *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg* (*The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*). That music is like honey for the ears: a truly celebratory, inspiring, and moving score. Stephen Dodsworth is arranging the piece for organ and voices.

I have dedicated the libretto to the German Shakespeare Society (the oldest of its kind and the largest outside the States) in honour of Germany's long-established love of Shakespeare and the many friends and contacts I've made there over the years.

The president of the German Shakespeare Society, Claudia Olk from the University of Berlin, is coming over to attend and honour the occasion, and I hope some of you may like to come and support this early Shakespeare anniversary event, too – and partake in Holy Communion at the same time. Twelfth Night (the eve of Epiphany) seems like exactly the right time to do so!



Paul Edmondson





CHRISTMAS HOWLERS!



A member of a church gave the minister a gift of cherry brandy on the condition that he would say thank you in the parish magazine. His response read: "Thank you Mrs MacIntosh for the gift of cherries and for the spirit in which it was given." *myfishbites.com*

The Crown Inn — why not celebrate Christmas with us? (Every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day)
You Really Couldn't Make It Up

Barnsley Council banned lollipop lady Pam Bowen from putting tinsel on her STOP sign—even though she had been doing it at Christmas time for 20 years. The council said: "The sign carried by School Crossing Patrols is prescribed by an Act of Parliament. To change it in any way makes it illegal." *The Sun*

For sale: Office chair, black, padded, with arm rests. Hardly used. Was bought for teenagers to do homework
Small ads pages of the Hexham Courant

Street lamps will be switched off at night in parts of Benfleet as the council attempts to find savings. Deputy leader of the council Alex Sawyer said: "We have not taken this decision lightly." *Radio 4's News Quiz*

Due to insufficient funds, the first museum in Britain dedicated to the history of quilts has folded. *BBC website*

It is proposed to use this donation to purchase new wenchers for our park as the present old ones are in a very dilapidated state.
Carrollton Chronicle, Ohio, quoted in Just my Typo



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

ONE-LINERS

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic

Santa's elves are just a bunch of subordinate clauses.

The three stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite

What is a parents favourite Christmas carol. Silent Night



OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES:

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied, "Oh, he's just looking for a place to park."

Five year old Lucie told researchers that she knows three wise men brought presents for Jesus because she saw it on a video. When another child said the presents were gold, Frankenstein and bronze, Lucie responded: "I think Jesus would have preferred toys".
The Independent



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

You are invited to the the Choir's
Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 5th
December**

12-3pm

The Parish Centre

Tombola
Father Christmas
Prizes
Cakes
Mulled Wine
Arts and Crafts
and much more!!

Free Admission!

FREE ADMISSION

Hosanna Rock!

Fun
Musical
Nativity

3RD DECEMBER 6.45pm

Burns' Night



Saturday 23rd January 2016

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

From 7pm

Traditional Food & Music

As part of the fundraising for the Choir's
tour of Canada in 2016

For more info email: music@stratford-upon-avon.org

Stratford Concert Band's Christmas Concert

Saturday 12th December 7.30pm

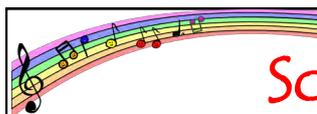
Wesley Hall, Methodist Church,
Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The concert will include pieces
from *The Jungle Book* and *West
Side Story*, plus many favourite
Christmas tunes.

Tickets £8 (under 16s FREE)

admin@stratfordconcertband.org.uk

or on the door.



Soundbites

Wednesday December 2nd @ 1pm

Holy Trinity Church

Music For Advent



Faith in Film

December 20th



David Lean's epic film of the Russian Revolution, *Dr Zhivago*, starring Omar Sharif, is the Faith in Film December choice.

Join us in the Parish Centre at **7pm** on Sunday December 20th to experience this movie classic.

Jonathan Waller— Seven Ages of Man Art Exhibition



April 2016 will be a fantastic month in the town's calendar with many organisations staging events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Many of these will be hosted by us in Holy Trinity church. However, we also wanted to create something special of our own that would connect Shakespeare's life with the Gospel and create interest within the local community.

We have therefore developed the concept of an art installation in Holy Trinity to combine a well-known Shakespearean theme with the Christian message. Marion Homer, our new Marketing and Visitor Development Officer, was tasked with making this idea a reality and the result is that we will be hanging seven specially commissioned paintings on the pillars of the nave, each one inspired by one part of Shakespeare's famous 'Seven Ages of Man' soliloquy. These will be displayed from April to August with accompanying explanatory literature.

This exhibition has been conceptually approved by the PCC and the Diocese, and has already sparked the imagination of the academic world with the potential for accompanying books and a symposium. Stratford born artist Jonathan Waller has been commissioned to undertake this work. Jonathan's paintings have been shown at the Tate Gallery and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and as well as being a practising artist, he is a senior lecturer in Fine Art at Coventry University.

This is a very exciting project, and one that we hope will provide a major talking point, encouraging visits from those who would not normally come to Holy Trinity. Shakespeare is revered because of his ability to express the complexities of the human condition. Through this unique exhibition we can use Shakespeare's words to draw parallels with the ever present love of God which comforts and sustains us throughout our lives.

Revd Patrick Taylor



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SERVE Afghanistan

Dr Sarah Pickworth



Shura leader with an orphaned boy who has just received a goat.

In September 2015 I was invited to see the work SERVE Afghanistan is doing with a view to joining their team in January. Their work aims to express God's love and bring hope to the marginalized and in need through community development and empowering those with disabilities.

My first experience of working in Afghanistan dates back to 2001, when the Taliban controlled large parts of the country. More than a decade on, there have been huge strides forward, with the most noticeable being made in education for girls and midwifery care. Previously few girls were allowed to be educated, and virtually all deliveries were at home with unskilled, untrained birth attendants. It was little wonder

Afghanistan had the highest maternal death rate, and some of the highest infant death rates in the world.

Despite the progress, in many rural areas, and in the southeast where it remains insecure, access to education and to basic medical care remains out of the reach of most women.

Clothed in a long hot black coat reaching to the ankles and wrists, and a hijab covering my head and lower face to help me to blend in, I travelled in an unmarked car with Sabrina, an Afghan lady, out to a rural self help group for women. As we entered into the mud brick compound we took off our shoes at the entrance to the house and greeted every lady shaking their hands and greeting them with As-Salaam Alaikum (peace be unto you), and sat crossed legged with them on cushions, tightly packed around the edge of the room. We listened to the ladies talk.

Through the self help group women receive BLISS (basic life saving skills) training on danger signs in pregnancy and labor, and men are taught separately. It raises awareness of the risk of women bleeding in labor, and teaches simple practical skills such as how to resuscitate a newborn that doesn't breathe. Unless they also raise awareness in the men, women often die before they can get permission from a male relative to leave the house and get medical help.

Sabrina whisked us on along dusty mud roads to meet a group of women on a literacy course, which was being held in young local teacher's home. I was surprised to see girls and women from 12 to 29 years. I asked one of the older ladies why she was on the course. She, like so many girls, had been taken out of primary school by her father. With no woman teacher, and the difficulty of travelling to school she was not allowed to continue.

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Seven months into their course, the girls bubbled with excitement, happy to show us how they could read and write. One of the little girls chipped in to say she could now send her brother to the bazaar with a shopping list, others told me now they now would be able to find their way round the hospital and town.

Through a savings scheme, together with simple business training, women in the



Woman learning tailoring skills. She previously had no income for herself and her three children.

group were learning to start small income generation projects, some of which were already changing families' lives. Each group, a mixture of ladies including the disabled, identified the most vulnerable, and depending what the group wanted, and was most appropriate for their area, they would receive an animal or fruit trees or vegetable seeds and the whole group would learn the skills needed to achieve the project. One lady, the poorest from the group had received vegetable seeds. She told us that her husband, who had been out of work had got involved in the project and sold the vegetables they had grown. With this income it now made it possible for him to support his family. She laughed and said her life had changed after BLISS, when she learnt about family

planning, this was the first year she hadn't had a baby. In another area we met a Shura (community) leader, who told us of how the gift of a cow to a vulnerable family, 15 years ago had impacted their community. When each cow had a calf, each calf had been handed on to the next most vulnerable family identified by the community. Now their 100 household community had 50 cows, and the milk had not only supplied the families and improved their children's diet, but there was enough milk to bring in extra income selling cheese on the market.

The organization also works with blind, deaf and intellectually disabled children, very much a hidden group in Afghanistan. Much work is still being done even to educate teachers, let alone families and communities.

A boy who had previously hidden in the bathroom when anyone suggested school, was now reading and writing and doing well. Now he had a hope and a future.

Afghanistan is very unstable at the moment, even during this brief visit Kundus was attacked, and people were being evacuated from Faizabad, where fighting had come close to the city, and they now face the aftermath of an earthquake. Thank you for your prayers, please would you continue to keep the people of Afghanistan in your thoughts and prayers.



Blind girl learning braille in a home school

Dr Sarah Pickworth is planning to go and work with SERVE Afghanistan in January 2016 as a volunteer for 2 years, and would be very grateful for your prayers and support. sarahpickworth@hotmail.com

LIME TREE VILLAGE

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Lime Tree Village is one of the region's longest established age-exclusive developments, tucked away in mature parkland close to Dunchurch, near Rugby.

Properties are built around the magnificent Edwardian mansion – Cawston House – which is at the centre of village life. It offers country-club style facilities including restaurant, bar, library, function room, snooker room and outdoor croquet/putting lawn and boules area.

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Call **01372 383950/01788 211799** or visit **www.limetreevillage.co.uk**

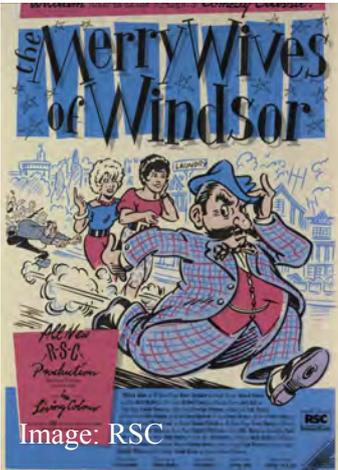
The Religious Characters in Shakespeare's Plays

Part 4: " 'Tis no matter. Ne'er a fantastical knave of them all shall flout me out of my calling."



Tony Boyd-Williams

During Shakespeare's lifetime, the twelve days of Christmas were certainly observed and included a good deal of entertainment. Masques and plays at the Royal court were popular and on occasions contained a certain amount of satire. The latter tradition is observed today in pantomime (oh yes it is !!) especially when there are jokes at the expense of politicians and TV personalities. In keeping with the inclusion of satirical humour in such entertainments, this article covering the months of December/January will deal with some of Shakespeare's clerics whose inclusion in the plays concerned usually results in a good deal of mirth and merriment during performances.



Referring back to an earlier article, the comic parsons concerned are Sir Nathaniel the curate in *Love's Labour's Lost*, plus the vicars Sir Hugh Evans in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Sir Oliver Martext in *As You Like It*. As ever, these clerics have a dramatic importance and not merely because they have the title "Sir" as this was in Elizabethan times the accepted title for clergy.

Sir Nathaniel may only have about 60 lines but he is the equivalent of the "straight man" in the comic double act with the pompous schoolmaster Holofernes. In their first scene they pour scorn on the local constable Dull. When Holofernes exclaims :

"O thou monster Ignorance. How deformed does thou look !"

Sir Nathaniel remarks:

"..he hath never fed of the dainties that are bred in a book. He hath not eat paper, as it were. He hath not drunk ink. His intellect is not replenished, he is only an animal, only sensible in the duller parts".

Such comments are seemingly said out of pity, but the splendid humour from the scenes including the parson and the schoolmaster results from the fact they converse in a very over the top way without realizing that they themselves appear foolish and incomprehensible. In their following scene when they are wined and dined well, their enthusiastic exchanges in Latin cause the young page Moth to quietly confide to the clown Costard:

"They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps".

The language of Sir Hugh Evans in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* gives rise to much humour on account of his Welsh accent which contrasts with the French accent of Dr Caius, and again Shakespeare pairs these characters as a droll double act. However, Sir Hugh has the most lines (over 200) and indeed Shakespeare gives him more than any other of his clerical characters save for Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*. So why is Sir Hugh so important ?

Various critics have various theories. Two will suffice here. One is that when the play was first staged in 1597, Wales was reputed to be a place where Roman Catholic priests were given sanctuary from persecution and so to be tactful, as it were, Shakespeare created a Welsh parson who is of the Protestant faith. Another suggestion is that there was at least one Welsh actor in Shakespeare's company and so a good sized part was especially written for him. Either way, it is significant that the character of Sir Hugh was extremely popular with London audiences in the late sixteenth century and when the play was first published, the title read *The Merry Wives of Windsor and Sir Hugh the Welch Knight*.

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In this splendid Elizabethan farce, Shakespeare is poking gentle fun at his own age and towns like Windsor (or did he have Stratford in mind ?) would have had parson/schoolmasters who had a special status in the community. Even though Falstaff makes fun of Sir Hugh's accent saying he "... makes fritters of English", the Welsh parson is portrayed as popular, a good teacher and someone who is an essential participant in the last scene of the play, showing the successful outcome of the final plot which humbles Shakespeare's immortal fat knight. The Welsh parson also gives Falstaff sound pastoral advice, Welsh pronunciation notwithstanding!

"Serve Got and leave your desires".

By way of contrast to his Welsh counterpart's 200 or so lines, Sir Oliver Martext is given only four. Even so, the part is a real gem for a character actor and Stratford has seen him played as drunk or doddering, forgetful, high on drugs or as a fundamentalist fanatic! His brief appearance enables (a) the delay in the plot for jester Touchstone and goatherd Audrey to get married and (b) pungent clerical satire through the words of the gloomy philosopher Jaques:

"Get you to church, and have a good priest who can tell you what marriage is: this fellow will be join you together as they join wainscot..."

By the first performance of *As You Like It* in 1599, the English Reformation had resulted in a considerable shortage of Church of England clergy owing to the fact that many priests of the Roman Catholic Church would not serve in the new church and moreover, there were no training courses for new clergy! Country parsons were reputed to be both unaware of what was required for pastoral services and illiterate. As a result, they became the butt of jokes and satire. No wonder that Jaques therefore sees this "...vicar of the next village" as a complete and utter bumpkin.

Even so, Shakespeare gives Sir Oliver the last word as witness the quote for the title of this article. Whatever people may say, he will be true to his calling.

Joking apart, this continuing season of Advent with Christmas (all twelve days!) and Epiphany to follow, is beautifully summed up by another religious character. The next article will consider the dramatic importance of Shakespeare's friars and nuns, but let one of the latter, the Abbess Emilia in *The Comedy of Errors* sum up God's intervention in his world by way of the Incarnation:

"...joy with me...such festivity".



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All Saints' News

Jane Beeley Writes...



The next event in Luddington is a Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of the church and the Children's Society on Wednesday 2nd December in the Village Hall from 10.30—12.30. There will be cakes and various stalls with attractive Christmas presents for sale, as well as a visit from Father Christmas.

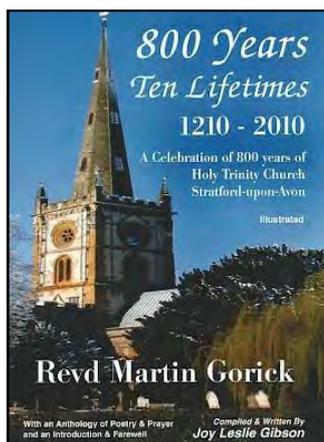
Then, on Saturday the 5th of December there will be a Children's Christmas Film Show (Elf) at 4pm. Free admission, with refreshments on sale.

On Sunday 13th December there will be a candle-lit Christingle Service at 3.45 p.m. at which our new "magic flame" candles will be "lit" for the first time.

The Carol Service with the choir from Holy Trinity will be held on Sunday, 20th December. Please join us for this lovely service when the church will be bedecked with holly and ivy and a handsome Christmas tree.

The Village Fund have organised "Carols on the Green" on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm (for a prompt 7:45pm start) on the village green with the Shipston Town Band to sing carols (fuelled by mulled wine). It is normally over by 8:30pm. Everyone is invited to come and join in this now traditional start to Christmas.

There will be a service at All Saints' on Christmas Day at 9.15 a.m. but there will be no service at All Saints on Sunday 27th December.



Martin Gorick's book is now available from Trinity Times for £5. All proceeds to St Peter's Chapel Appeal.

Modern Church Liberal Faith In A Changing World



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Shakespeare, the Theatre
and Theology Today

11 July 2016 (arrive for 1.00pm lunch)

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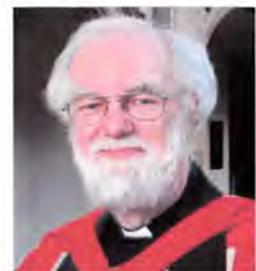
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For more information contact Anthony Woollard
On 01789 204923

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Private Lives by Noel Coward

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th April @ 7.30pm

Daisy Pulls it Off by Denise Deegan

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th July @ 7.30pm

Further details will appear on www.secondthoughts.org.uk nearer to the performance dates, including information on how to buy advance tickets, which are available two to three months before performance dates.

The Bear Pit Hotline—01789 403416

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RSC Box Office Mon-Sat 10am—8pm

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CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Can you Solve these Christmas Carol Clues?

- 1 Decorate the corridors
- 2 Jubilation to the celestial globe
- 3 Absence of sound before 6.00 a.m.
- 4 Equus Africanus asinus minor
- 5 Just listen to that angel
- 6 Miss H. Hock meets Dame I. Compton-Burnett DBE
- 7 Us grown-up princes
- 8 Was the original one for Edmunds or for Gallagher
- 9 As ovine night-nurses plied their craft
- 10 Distorted hot beef helm after tiny urban settlement
- 11 Adebayor twice called to play for England?
- 12 Observe despite Christmas seasonal precipitation
- 13 Delivered at 00.00 with transparent ease
- 14 Absent in a trough
- 15 Summon every last believer
- 16 A unique time in the regal Beckham's urbanity
- 17 Celestial beings originating in the heavens
- 18 Trouble at the top, happily?
- 19 Methinks I observed a trio of vessels
- 20 Theos Chr arranged to light your way to Bethlehem



Answers on page 28

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

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Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org; Tel: 01789 266316

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

Clergy & Ministry Team

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
Reader	Mike Milburn	01789 262264



Assistant Ministers (Hon)	The Revd Neville Beamer	01789 263435
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow, 01789 417852	The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266453
The Revd Margaret Sweet, 01789 297395	The Revd Jenny Rowland	1789 415548
The Revd Canon John Graty, 01789 298856	The Revd Graham Wilcox, 01789 551759	

Director of Music - Benedict Wilson, 01789 266316

Head Verger - Paul Harris 266316

Vergers - Nigel Penn 01789 266316

Parish Manager - Linda MacDermott - 266316

Parish Secretary - Pauline Day 266316

Bookkeeper - Wendy Steinheimer - 266316

Retail Assistant—Heather White (Temp)

Gift Shop - Rob Craven

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 Communions The Revd Nicki Chatterton

07769 871237

Stewardship Officer Chris Kennedy

01789 299785

Trinity Players Ursula Russell

01789 204923

Trinity Tots Val & Steve Bate

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Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator Gillian Nunn

01789 415830

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Amen



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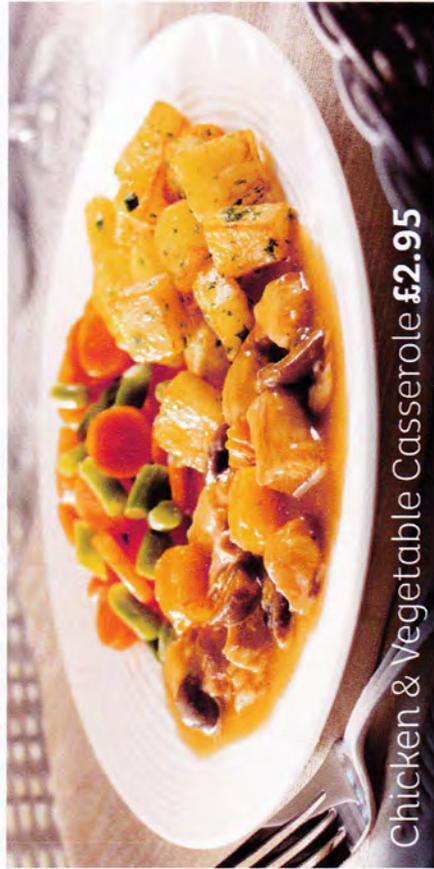
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