

TRINITY TIMES

NOVEMBER
2016

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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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Welcome To The November Issue



Photo: John Burgess



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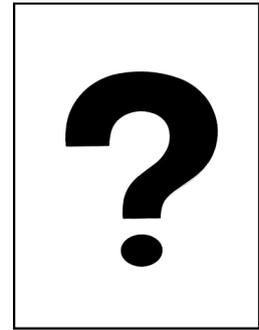
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Patrick Writes... The Chicken and the Egg

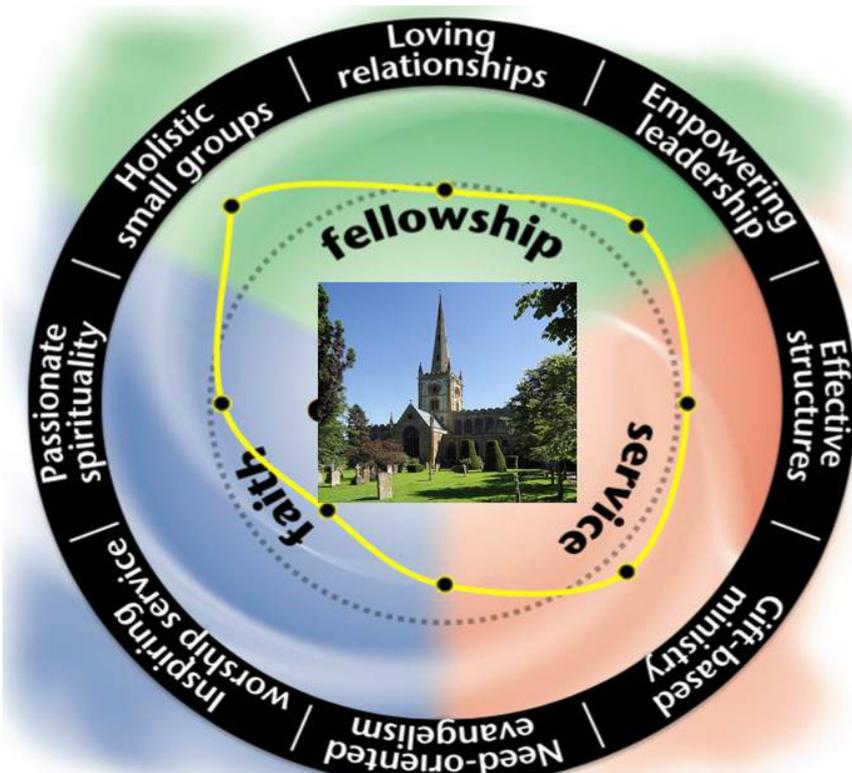


There is a story about a little girl who stood with her father watching a baby chick emerge from its egg. As it struggled she asked if she could help it break through. Her father told her she must leave it to break out without being rescued. He knew that the effort it was putting into breaking through the shell would provide it with the strength it needed to survive in its new form.

Most of us don't like having to struggle with challenging new circumstances. If we're honest we would rather things were left as they are, even if we know they could be better. The fear of change and of the unknown means that just carrying on as usual feels like our best option.

This has been something we've faced at Holy Trinity when we received the results of a survey based on the "eight essential qualities of a healthy church". It seems that what we value most is our fellowship with one another, especially in small groups, and this comes most naturally to us. However, what came out as being least natural is our *faith*, with both "Inspiring Worship" and "Passionate Spirituality" coming out as weaker areas.

In the diagram below, the dotted circle represents the score for an "average" church. The yellow line plots the results from Holy Trinity. Outside the dotted line means a strong score, inside means a weaker one.



It's tempting (especially for me as Vicar) to ignore this sort of feedback and say, "I'm not sure that's right, let's just carry on as we are". But whatever the weaknesses in the process of gathering the statistics, we need to grapple with this feedback and the challenge it presents. Like the chick struggling to break out of the egg, this will enable us to grow and develop as a healthy church as we move forwards.

Continued from previous page...

So what's next? The most important thing is that we continue to look towards fulfilling our vision of *lives changed through God's love*. We have already agreed that the way we should do this, our purpose, is *to play our part in worshipping God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming communities*. But where should our priorities lie? There is so much we could be doing, and are doing already, where do we start? Well, in response to the 8 Essential Qualities survey results, it's clear that we need to focus on nurturing faith. So the question I want to keep asking is, what can we do to nurture faith more effectively? What can you personally, or the group you are part of in the church, do to help faith grow? The PCC want to know your ideas, and will be considering them at their meeting in January. So expect this question to come up in meetings and discussions over the coming weeks: "what difference does it make to what we do, if we think about nurture?"

In Luke's gospel Jesus asks, "when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (18. 8). We are accountable to God and to one another for the state of our faith and the state of the church. Each of us has a part to play in responding to the Gospel by seeking to grow in our own faith, and helping others to grow in theirs. Faith is actually a gift from God, not something we create by our own efforts. Our task is simply to "put ourselves in the way" of God's grace so that, although it might be a struggle sometimes to break through, our faith and God's church will grow.

This is a summary of a presentation I gave at the Parish Eucharist on 16th October. The full slideshow can be seen on the Parish website.

Worship Notes



A New Service for Remembrance Sunday

This year we are going to trial a new service which we hope will make it easier for those who wish to make their Communion on this important day. As well as the usual 8am service, there will be a simple said Eucharist in the nave of Holy Trinity at 10am, lasting about 40 minutes. This will enable those who wish, to go onto the Garden of Remembrance for the Act of Remembrance which starts at 10.50am.

There will also be an act of Remembrance in the church at the same time. This is followed by the traditional Remembrance Sunday civic service back in the church. Due to access issues there will be no FAB on this day.

At 6pm there will be a special service of Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday.

At All Saints' there is a 9.15am Remembrance Sunday Eucharist and at St. Helen's a service at the war memorial, starting at 10.45am.

Pulpit swops

We are continuing the long-standing tradition of pulpit swops between the three Anglican churches in Stratford. On 20th November, the feast of Christ the King (and the last Sunday of the liturgical year) Patrick will be preaching at Shottery and the Vicar of Alveston, The Rev. Richard Williams, will be preaching at the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity.

27th November is the **First Sunday of Advent** and the 10am service is Food4thought where we continue our "Divine Summons" series. The theme on this first Sunday of the Church's year is "Called to be...Priests?! -considering our stance between God and the world." What me, a priest? Yes, all of us in one sense, some of us in a particular sense. The readings, 1 Peter 2: 9 and Revelation 1: 5-6 will proclaim the summons.

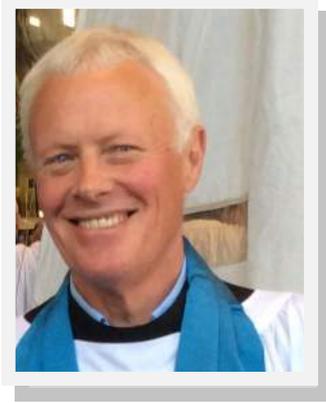
6pm is the **Advent Carol Service** followed by mulled wine!

Patrick

Is it Jason Kenny? No, it's Patrick. Training for Japan Olympics perhaps?



Photos: Nicki Chatterton



Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child

So ladies, if you are about to buy your latest pair of Christian Louboutin's or for that matter any make of shoes – then please don't throw the box away. It's the same for you Gentlemen; if you buy shoes, then again, save the box. Why? Well, once again we are taking part in Operation Christmas Child, the Samaritan's Purse charity project founded to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world. And we do this by filling a shoebox (or boxes) with gifts that are then sent to children across the world as an unconditional gift of love, based on need, regardless of their background or religion.

Now, hopefully some of you will have been at the 10am service on 16th October where, in typical Blue Peter fashion of "here's one I made earlier" I demonstrated what we are required to do to fill your shoebox. But in case you missed the service, here's what to do. Should you prefer to keep hold of your expensive shoe box, then on the stage in the Parish Hall, there are empty shoeboxes for you to collect – and fill. The essential leaflet (one per shoebox) of what to put in the shoebox can be collected from the table outside the door of the Parish Office. Please follow the instructions on the leaflet carefully, particularly making note of the DO NOT INCLUDE items and the details of the £3 donation. I should also be grateful if you would ensure that the lid to your shoebox is wrapped separately to the box itself.

OK, so you've filled and wrapped your shoebox, so now what do I do? Well, you can take your shoebox to the Parish Office for my collection or bring it to a church service and leave it in the crossing where, again, I will collect it. Ordinarily, we have one particular service where we bless the giving of shoeboxes but this year that Sunday falls on Remembrance Sunday (13th November) so we will not be doing that on this occasion. The FINAL date for handing in your shoebox is cease of play (1 pm) on Thursday 17th November at the Parish Office. No shoebox can be accepted after that date.

The Lord – our Servant Leader – has a heart for the poor; so should we. I pray that we unconditionally serve the poor across the world. The gift of a shoebox, filled through love and compassion with 'presents' for a child in need, backed up by your prayers for the child that will eventually receive the shoebox will bring joy to the child, and also to the Lord. It is a sign of hope – that we see lives changed through God's love.

One more thing: in pairs my 4 grandchildren packed 2 shoeboxes and each pair included a photograph of themselves in the shoebox. We then prayed. My grandchildren placed their hands together, knelt in front of the shoeboxes and we prayed for the little boy and little girl who would receive the boxes. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Mike Milburn



Worship in November



SUNDAY November 6th Holy Trinity *3rd Sunday before Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Parish Eucharist— Revd. Patrick Taylor

Parish Centre—GoodNews@10, with Revd. Nicki Chatterton & Phil Harper

6.00pm Choral Evensong —with Revd. Graham Wilcox

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Tide Service with Choir

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

SUNDAY November 13th Holy Trinity **Remembrance Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

10.00am Short Said Eucharist— with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

11.00am Civic Service Preacher—**Revd. Patrick Taylor**

6.00pm Choral Evensong—Preacher Revd. Patrick Taylor

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—Phil Harper

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 10.45am Holy Communion—Revd. Canon John Graty

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

SUNDAY November 20th Holy Trinity *Sunday next before Advent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist - Preacher Richard Williams

6.00pm Choral —with Revd. Nicki Chatterton

9.30am Holy Trinity@Rosebird— with Phil Harper

Parish Centre 10.00 am—FAB

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

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

SUNDAY November 27th Holy Trinity *Advent Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion —Revd. Patrick Taylor

10.00am Food4thought—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Advent Carol Service—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

Parish Centre 10.00am FAB—with Phil Harper

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am—Trad HC with Revd. Jenny Rowland

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

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Patrick

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The full weekend cost per person will be:

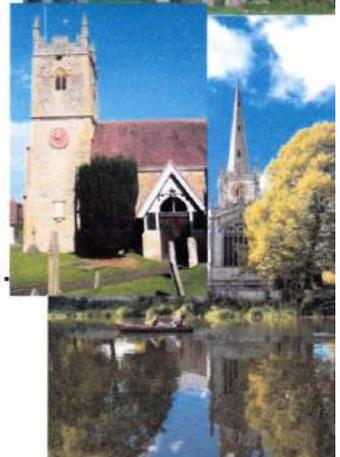
£ 160 per adult

£ 400 per family (2 adults + up to 2 children under 16) with full programme for children

Booking Forms are available at the back of church.

A deposit of £50 per person will be required at the time of booking to secure your place.

For further information, please contact:
hilnewman1945@gmail.com



Ringling for Remembrance Sunday

Jeanette Davey



Each year we ring for the morning's Civic Service on Remembrance Sunday: it is one of the church's most important ringing sessions of the year. The bells will be half-muffled as befits a sombre occasion, so you will hear them first ringing out loud, then followed by a quieter echo. This produces a haunting sound and is a very moving mark of respect for the deceased. Ringing will finish at 10.54am, to allow enough time for the service to begin in the Garden of Remembrance. The morning's ringing will be done by the

home team, currently hoping to comprise six or eight ringers.

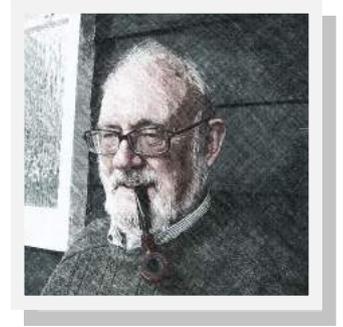
For evensong, there will be a quarter peal by ten ringers, of Grandsire Caters or Plain Bob Caters. This will be rung by an all ladies team, starting at about 4.45pm. The quarter peal will comprise around 55 minutes of non-stop ringing on all ten bells and will also be half-muffled. We will then continue to ring until 5.55pm, just before the start of the service. The ladies will dedicate their ringing 'To recognise the sacrifice made by women in the First World War' and, if the quarter peal is successfully achieved, it will be published in the ringers' magazine: The Ringing World.

These ten ringers are part of an all ladies team that rang a quarter peal together in October on 12 bells at Evesham. The team members will be from ten different churches, having travelled from Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. We also represent six decades in age, from teens to 60's. Our own church is represented by Jeanette Davey, our Deputy Tower Captain. We're very fortunate that we are able to have the team ring at our tower that evening. There's no guarantee of success, due to the level of difficulty; whether or not they are successful will only be known when they descend the tower after ringing and just before evensong.

If you'd like to learn to ring, whether male or female or aged in any of those six decades (or slightly younger), don't hesitate to contact me: jeanette.davey1@btinternet.com, phone 01789 299145 and leave a message, or speak to myself, Charles Wilson our Tower Captain, or any of the ringers. It would be good to see you.

Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World



**"Remember, remember the fifth of
November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot."**

It is ironic that this year, as the fireworks start, Trinity Players in their final performance of Rowan Williams' *Shakespeare* should "remember" a possible confrontation in about 1580 between a young Will Shakespeare and the Jesuit Edmund Campion, a man who was seen at the time as heading up the "plot" to overthrow the Protestant Queen Elizabeth, and thus preparing the way for the Guy Fawkes plotters 25 years later.

In the religious disputes of the late 16th century, both sides were caught between a rock and a hard place. Campion, in Williams' portrayal of him, does not at all wish to encourage disloyalty to his Queen. But the times meant that you had to choose between allegiance to the Pope and allegiance to the new Protestant Establishment. Both parties demanded total commitment, and their commitments were incompatible. It was a harsh political choice as well as a religious one. And that is why Campion had to die as a traitor.



It seems so meaningless to us today, in a country where we are free to believe what we wish and, by and large, to live as we wish. True, the Church of England is "by law established", and a Roman Catholic monarch is still legally impossible. But no political party would now survive if it tried to enforce a particular form of religion. Equally, though Christians have a vision for justice and morality in public life, they cannot enforce it through political authority - an alternative to the national State - in the way that the 16th century Papacy did.

Campion, in the play, respects his opponents because at least they are fighting for Truth, even if he sees their Truth as totally misguided. He would not have been happy with the easy going moral neutrality (as he would see it) of today's society. Perhaps he would have had more respect for today's political "extremists" of Right or Left who fight with such single-minded dedication for their own version of Truth - a sort of religion, even if it does not carry a religious label. Yet we only have to look at the Middle East to see what can result from such zeal.

Shakespeare/Shakeshafte represents a very different approach to Truth. As a budding poet and playwright, he hears a diversity of voices in his head, and asks questions of them all. This is a confrontation between the apparently dogmatic priest and the apparently agnostic poet. And neither side “wins”, though Shakespeare’s influence has lasted longer than Campion’s.

On the last Sunday in September this year, alongside other church services (not least the ever-delightful Harvest Festival at All Saints), Paul Edmondson once again presided over a Poetry Mass at the Guild Chapel. Quietly, with little publicity, he drew together a sizeable group of people (not all of them conventional believers) to celebrate, in the context of the Eucharist, the visions of Shakespeare and other poets which, diversely and often ambiguously, point to the mystery that we call God. I came out inwardly shouting “Yes!” – which I do not always do on a normal Sunday morning.

Perhaps what we need is less dogma (political and religious) and more poetry? Certainly, as Campion would argue, the search for true faith and true justice matters a great deal, and our convictions are important for the ordering of our lives. But God, who is ultimate Truth, is surely infinitely greater than all our “little systems” as Tennyson called them, and may more nearly be approached through the vision of the poets. And once we have experienced that, our religious and political beliefs are seen in a new context – dare one even say, a new heaven and a new earth.

Anthony



Shakeshafte

A new play by Rowan Williams

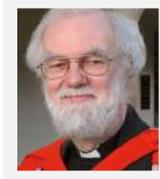
Thurs 3 November at 7.30pm
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The Judith Dorricott Interview



OUR MUSICAL FRIENDS

The Friends of the Music of Holy Trinity Church play an inspiring and uplifting part in the life of our church. A couple of weeks ago I had a chat with Jane Hornby, the current Chairman.



Judith: **How long have the Friends of the Music been going?**

Jane: The Friends started in 1983, set up by members of the choir and congregation keen to support the music of Holy Trinity Church. The aims of our Constitution are to encourage the church's choral tradition in services, provide social and financial assistance for the choir and music groups, to promote the art of music by organising concerts and recitals, and to finance the purchase of musical instruments for the church. That is quite a challenge, and involves a lot of fund-raising.

Judith: **And are you a registered charity?**

Jane: No, but we do have charitable status. Our committee consists of ten people drawn from the congregation and choir, including Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as Benedict Wilson and Stephen Dodsworth as ex-officio members.

Judith: **What type of projects do you support?**

Jane: Projects within the church are aimed at assisting choral and instrumental music. For example, the previous committee, under Ursula Russell's Chairmanship, provided the funds to buy a chamber organ and a grand piano, which cost a considerable sum of money and has been worth its weight in gold. The current committee bought an electric piano nearly three years ago for the Parish Centre and it is used in Open to God services, family services, and by Trinity Tots and Trinity Players. We've also given a donation towards the new sound system in the Parish Centre, and that's used by many different groups within the church.

We are currently supporting an Organ Relay Camera System to be installed in the church. The continuity within services is largely in the hands of the organist. The present lack of ready visibility to all areas of the church, including the chancel, is a real handicap and often requires people stationed in different positions to relay information to the organist. Having a camera system and screen would dramatically stop the reliance on guesswork and a mirror!

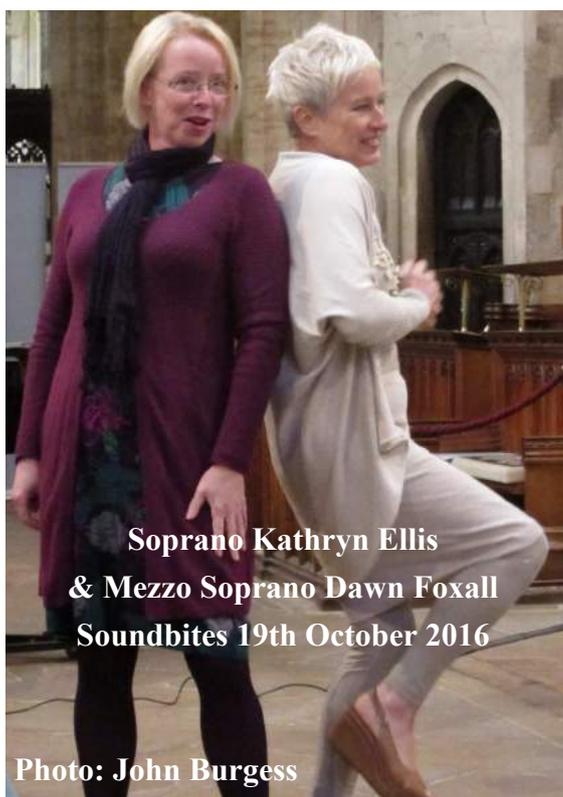
Judith: So, apart from those large purchases, what else do the Friends support?

Jane: One of our main aims is to provide financial support in the form of scholarships for up to six young choristers and organists per year. This scholarship scheme was initiated by Benedict and has proved a great success. Our scholars must be over the age of 15 and be in full-time education. Each scholar receives the annual sum of £500 to contribute towards music lessons and other expenses associated with their musical education. Of course we, as a congregation, benefit enormously by having some wonderful choristers and organists in our church. The slight downside is that these talented young people leave us as they continue with their further education, with many of them pursuing music degrees. However, we are thrilled that in our own small way we have helped them to achieve their goals.

Judith: Do you have any other calls for financial support?

Jane: This year saw the choir's trip to Canada of course. The choir did lots of fund-raising themselves, but The Friends of the Music gave them a donation towards this tour. We also offer financial assistance for the choir's social outings.

Judith: That sounds like a lot of money to raise! How do you do it?



Soprano Kathryn Ellis
& Mezzo Soprano Dawn Foxall
Soundbites 19th October 2016

Photo: John Burgess

Jane: Again, we have to thank Benedict for his ideas and enthusiasm. When he arrived here three years ago, Benedict initiated the popular Soundbites recitals on Wednesday lunchtimes. We have heard an amazing range of talents, not only local musicians and singers but performers from further afield. We've listened to young performers from Germany, America and even Swaziland, and our Soundbites recitals have included classical, modern, folk music and jazz. So it's a really varied programme and we want the recitals to appeal to a cross-section of society. The recitals are free but donations can be given. We managed to raise £9,200 income from Soundbites before expenses in 2015. Benedict organises the performers and music and there is a hard-working team of helpers who provide light refreshments at the recitals. We attract between thirty to a hundred people into the church each Wednesday. Our audiences consist of many regular attendees as well as visitors who are often amazed by the quality of the recitals, and tell us that their visit to the church has been enhanced by their experience.

See page 26 for November Soundbites

Continued from previous page

Jane: Yes, we run various concerts throughout the year. In 2015 we hosted the Alcester Male Voice Choir, and we have introduced the annual River Serenade concerts over the last two years. These are run at the same time as the Stratford River Festival (with its wonderful fireworks) and are proving really popular. Some people, we've learnt, travel for miles to attend the River Serenade each July.

We also run concerts in collaboration with The Croft School every other year, and these are very well-attended. It is wonderful to see such a variety of young talent blossoming.

Judith: **All this fund-raising and event organising is really impressive. Do you enjoy it?**

Jane: Yes, I love it, and I am lucky to have great encouragement from the Friends' committee, our Vicar, Patrick, and Director of Music, Benedict, as well as Assistant Director of Music, Stephen. Over the years, the committee has had some valuable support from earlier Directors of Music such as Peter Summers, Andrew Jones, Andrew Henderson, and Clive Letchford. I am nearing the end of my five-year term of office, and I am grateful for all the encouragement and help from everyone, but especially the Friends' members, and the many members of the congregation who assist us. The Friends of the Music is in good shape, and I know it will continue to provide support and encouragement to the choir and musicians within our church to produce wonderful music for everyone to enjoy.

Judith



This module explores how God's invitation to Praise and Lament through music is an invitation to journey to a place of healing. Expect to find connections between music and the Psalms, to be challenged to listen to new styles, discuss your musical tastes, and to hear some great tunes!

Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:30pm, 9th November - 7th December

Holy Trinity Stratford, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG

To register, please go to:

www.dioceseofcoventry.org/BCDMregister



The Remembering Tree is returning to Stratford upon Avon. You may have seen over the past 3 years, a tree being wrapped up warm for the winter months in the centre of town. This was the work of your local international children's charity GAGA UK (registered charity number 1092028).

GAGA UK have been yarn bombing since they were inspired by a project they support in South Africa. They raise both funds and awareness for their work supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa. The Remembering Tree last year raised over £2,000 for GAGA UK; funds which had a huge impact on those in Africa.

The Remembering Tree brings together the community of Stratford and beyond. The tree gives people space and time to reflect and celebrate all the colours of life.

If you would like to help create the tree, please send crocheted or knitted squares of any colours (size 8" / 20cm square), to Sarah Hodgson at 50 Cygnet Court, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 9NW. If you would like to volunteer with GAGA and assist with the tree, please email sarah@gaga-uk.org. To donate and celebrate a name, please email sarah@gaga-uk.org or visit www.gaga-uk.org. Businesses and individuals alike are invited to donate.

The Remembering Tree will go up on 20th November and stay until January.

Click & Chatter



Do you enjoy knitting or other handicrafts? Would you like to join with others, doing the same thing? Come to the Parish Lounge, Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre, Old Town, on the 3rd Friday of each month, except December, between 2.15pm and 3.45pm. In May and November there is a Bring & Share lunch so the meetings begin at 1.00pm. **Next Meeting November 18th—Bring and Share Lunch!**

For more information contact **Andrea Blood on 01789 266825,**
or **Gillian Nunn on 01789 415830**



Benedict Wilson

Holy Trinity's Director of Music



MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday 6th – the Third Sunday before Advent

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Whitbourn *Give us the wings of faith*
Voluntary: Buxtehude *Fugue in C (alla gigue)*

HOAN 409 64 374ii
 HOAN 457 MP 1072

6pm Congregational Evensong

362 357 431
 Psalm 40

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Sunday

11am Remembrance Day Civic Service

Motet: Aston *So they gave their bodies*
Voluntary: Bach *Fugue in E flat BWV 552ii*

See special order of service

6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Fauré *Pie Jesu*
Responses: Ayleward; Stone; Naylor
Canticles: Noble *in b*
Anthem: Fauré *Libera me*
Motet: Fauré *Offertoire*
Voluntary: Walton *Crown Imperial*

417 499 492
 Psalm 97

Sunday 20th – Christ the King

10am Parish Eucharist

Motet: Stainer *O King and desire of all nations*
Voluntary: Bach *Pièce d'orgue*

345 HOAN 337 338
 HOAN 658 HOAN 67
 HOAN 104

6pm Choral Evensong

Introit: Stainer *O King and desire of all nations*
Responses: Ayleward; Stone; Naylor
Canticles: Stanford *in C*
Anthem: Wesley *Lead me, Lord*
Voluntary: Buxtehude *Praeludium in G*

388 449 252
 Psalm 72.1-7

Sunday 27th – Advent Sunday

10am Food4thought

9 15 3 HOAN 494 16
 11
 186 137 342 436

5.30pm Advent Organ Recital

6pm The Advent Carol Service

Special order of service

scan

SENIOR CITIZENS ACTION NETWORK



The UK's population is changing. Data from the Office of National Statistics states that by 2037 almost a quarter of the population in the UK will be aged 65+, a significant increase from 17% in 2012. People are also living longer than ever before. By 2037, three times as many people will live to at least 90 years of age compared with today.

This change will bring both challenges and opportunities for central and local government as well as communities, with impacts on a wide range of services. With local government funding decreasing year on year there is more emphasis on communities looking after themselves and identifying appropriate help independently.

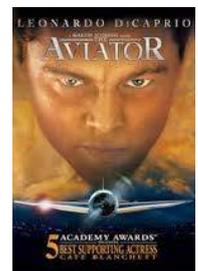
Being aware of what support is available, whether it is provided through local authority, voluntary sector or faith organisations, becomes more important as people age. Engaging in social activities and feeling part of a community is vital to a sense of wellbeing.

The Stratford Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) group offers the chance for older people to come together socially while also providing information on local support services. Members can raise issues which SCAN can help resolve directly by providing information, signposting to the most appropriate support or taking the issue up as a campaign. SCAN is a way for older people to keep informed, maintain social connections and be part of their local community and where necessary press Local Authorities and the NHS for action. Meetings take place in the Methodist Church hall on a bimonthly basis. The next meeting is on Monday 5th December which will be the last of 2016 and is traditionally a more light hearted meeting with a social focus. This year we will be entertained by 'Gloria Sunset' a vintage singer, taking us through songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s. For further information please contact **Peter Burgess** (pandjburgess@waitrose.com; 01789 299 549).

Film Night

November's Film Night choice is Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio & Cate Blanchett

Sunday 20th November 7.30pm Parish Centre Lounge



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Phil Harper's Page

"It's a wonderful way to begin..."



Sign up! Sign up! To have the Holy Family, or the Wise Men, stay with you for a couple of nights during Advent.



Don't panic, you won't be invaded by donkeys, camels and a pregnant lady! Holy Trinity prepares for Christmas with the travels through Advent of the knitted Holy Family to Bethlehem and the Three Wise Men following the star!

They need places to stay and this year they'll be staying for at least 2 nights at their chosen family, giving you an opportunity to engage with the things they travel with. Their journey begins on Advent Sunday (27th November) and ends at our "Big Nativity" on Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome to share in the travels, not just those with children! If you feel you have room and would like them to stay **sign up at a Sunday Service, or use the forms at the back of church during the week.**

**Good News@10 Christingle Service Sun 4th December
10:00am**

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Join us for a special Good News@10 as we celebrate Christingle and support the work of the Children's Society. It's a wonderful way to begin Christmas preparations with this fun, and lively service - and all children get a free Christingle. Share in that wonderful moment in the service, when all the Christingles are lit, the lights are out, and we sing together. We'll be serving breakfast from 9:30am. Why not join us for a croissant and a drink.

For more info contact me, Phil Harper—Children & Families Minister, on 07791005696, or email: phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

You're all welcome!

NIGEL'S NINETEEN YEARS

Judith Dorricott

Services this November will be strange for many members of our congregation who are used to seeing Nigel Penn perform a variety of jobs around the church. Nigel has just retired from Holy Trinity Church after nearly two decades of dedicated service and he will be much missed for his organisational skills and competence. Nigel will also be missed at the chancel desk where his warmth and friendliness towards everyone, especially foreign visitors, is well known. We will not lose the Penns from church however, as we will see Nigel and Cathie during services, enjoying a well-earned rest.

Nigel told me his story...

“



Photo: Harry Lomax

I was born in 1940 and looking back, times were hard! Our home was a cottage in Wellesbourne with no electricity or running water - the water supply came from a shared pump. Everything was cooked on a single living room fire and at eight years old, I used to come downstairs, light the fire and make the tea, while at night my two sisters and I went to bed by candlelight. Luckily

a local farmer used to drop off a rabbit or two, which my mother would skin and cook.

My parents had separated but my father was a devout member of the Plymouth Brethren. At weekends I spent time with him and my grandparents and I gained a great knowledge of the Bible from him.

In 1952, I started working at a local greengrocers on Saturdays. I earned 7/6 a day (about 38 pence), and when I had saved up enough I bought myself a bicycle. I left school at 15 and signed up for a five-year apprenticeship to train as a carpenter and joiner. I remember that the starting pay was £2 for a forty-four hour week. Once I had completed my course, I started working for Flowers Brewery in Birmingham and I met Cathie through her brother, who also worked there.

We married in June 1966 so have just celebrated our Golden Wedding.

Our first home was an old cottage near Cheltenham which cost us £1100, and which we renovated ourselves, before moving to our present house on the Ridgeway in Stratford. I started training as a Timber Surveyor, and worked in this profession for twenty-five years. My job included surveying properties in the Cotswolds and around Gloucestershire, as well as dozens of churches in that area. My great claim to fame is that I often drove over 100 miles a day but I never had a speeding fine!



Photo: James Willetts

During this time Cathie and I were blessed with our daughter Helen, whom we adopted through the Church of England Children's Society. Helen is married to Barry with two teenage boys, and she is a Learning Mentor at a school in Worcestershire. A few years later our son Matthew was born. Matthew always had a great interest in music, and was a member of the choir here and a proficient organist. Matthew is married to Caroline, with a daughter Lucy, and he is Deputy Head of a Primary School in Solihull.

I've also enjoyed working with other vergers such as Dick Brook, Phil Hart, Jon Ormrod, John Cheal, Pauline Day and now Paul Harris. The days can be long though as on Sundays we start at 6.30 setting up communion, and finishing around 7.30 at night.

Cathie and I have travelled far and wide, including China, Panama and Alaska and we have enjoyed every moment of it. I am also interested in ancestry and have traced the Penn family tree back to 1720. My other hobbies are gardening, photography and especially collecting lithops, which are succulent plants, often called living stones. I have over 2000 lithops and would be happy to show them to anyone interested.

”



As many of you will know, with Nigel's retirement, David White has now taken over the position of Verger.

David has been a summer verger all this year.

We wish him all success.

St Peter's – A Place of Prayer and Healing

'It is more blessed to give than to receive'

The people of Holy Trinity have been wonderfully generous in supporting St Peter's Appeal. I'm writing on behalf of the Friends to thank all of you who have contributed to the transformation of the Chapel into a beautiful and tranquil space, already playing its part in the worshipping life of the Parish.

There have been gifts from individuals to purchase the lovely – and comfortable – pews. A lectern styled in the same fashion as the Dennis Spiller altar will be with us very soon; curtaining to match the gold Canterbury fabric in the Becket Chapel will follow. Other furnishing has been provided and monuments have been cleaned. Work on conserving the extraordinary monument to Richard Hill (a colleague of William Shakespeare's father John) begins during November. Asbestos has been removed. The former clergy vestry has been re-located to the new Church extension and the screen that surrounded it has been straightened and pushed back almost to the south gable wall. A beautiful chandelier, matching chandeliers in the Choir vestry and the crossing, has been installed. The great American window is now fully revealed. For much of the planning of all this we may be grateful to our Church architect Stephen Oliver and our Fabric Warden, Mike Warrillow.

When we began we were faced with raising £70,000 or thereabouts. In addition to the three pews donated by members of the congregation, we've been promised funds for a fourth from a fund administered by Bishop Christopher. The Leche Trust has given us a grant for work on the Hill tomb. The rest of the funding has come from the astonishing generosity of individuals and groups. It would be wrong not to mention the Hospitality Teas group who have given very substantial sums by way of donating cakes and, more important, their time and skill over a long period; Trinity Players have given the proceeds of their *Twelfth Night*, and *Shakeshafte* is to come this month; a Flower and Herb Festival has been held as has a Valuation Day; a Wine Tasting is imminent; annual Plant Sales have taken place. We are hugely grateful for the very valuable legacies we've received. Three loans, from individuals outside the congregation are now being repaid and have allowed us to cope with cash flow problems.

Eithne (my wife) tells me she read Trinity Tots a few days ago a story-with-a-moral: the Elephant who never forgets – to say thanks. I hope you'll all accept the thanks in this note. And forgive me if your contribution has not been specifically mentioned. The great joy of the Appeal has been the almost universal response of you all. Thank you!

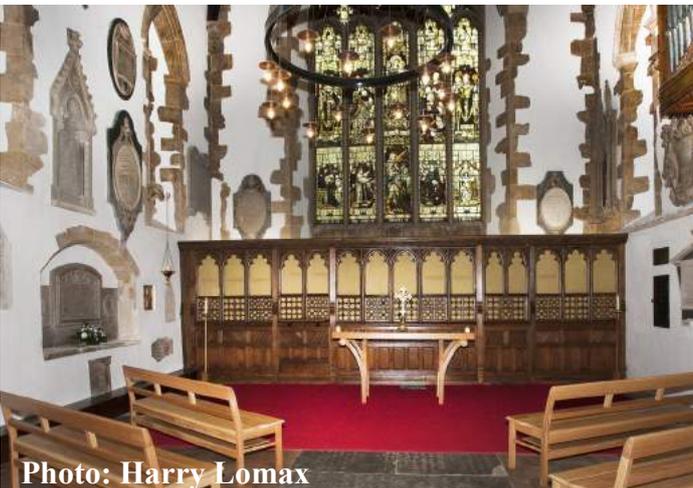


Photo: Harry Lomax

And now we have to face up to phase 2: which means finding large sums, from outside Holy Trinity and perhaps within, to repair the exterior of the Chapel's south gable. Have faith!

Ronnie Mulryne

Chairman, Friends of Shakespeare's Church



The Church of England's Children's Society

Paul Lageu Writes...



This year's box opening for Holy Trinity's Children's Society Box Holders is on Saturday 12th November, in the Parish Centre, between 10am and 12noon.

House boxes are a crucial part of the Children's Society fundraising activities. If anyone would like a box, or would like any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me (01789 298302 or paulageu@hotmail.co.uk).

The Children's Society plays an essential role in supporting and helping to protect vulnerable children. For example, The Society has recently launched its Seen & Heard e-learning module (www.seenandheard.org.uk). All NHS staff will see this video and online training to help them identify and deal with children who have been subject to sexual abuse or exploitation.

The Children's Society works directly with individual children e.g. all children who run away from home are offered confidential one-to-one meetings, to discuss their issues, so that appropriate support can be given. The Children's Society also campaigns nationally e.g. The Seriously Awkward Campaign, which lobbied Parliament to improve the legal protection for vulnerable teenagers in the 16-18 age group.

For full details of the Society's activities see their latest Impact Report at: http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016_impact-report_mkt054a.pdf

Many of you will remember that in early February, Aboude & Maya, two young Syrian refugees who have been helped by The Children's Society, came to Holy Trinity to talk about their experiences. Roseann Thompson, Regional Fundraising Manager for The Children's Society, has sent this update on how they are getting on in their new lives:

'Aboude moved into a flat with his brother and they are moving again soon. He missed the opportunity of starting university this year as he was too late with the application and needs to take an exam first, so he is now enrolling with college to do a course that will help him with his university application ready for next year. He is planning to study engineering. Aboude's father is now in Turkey and, whilst his mother is still in Syria, she hopes to join her husband in Turkey in the very near future.



Continued from previous page

I have worked with Maya a lot and she is now a volunteer speaker with The Children's Society. She has completed her speaker induction and training and has been involved with a number of talks, and her first one of her own will be September 11th at a church in Solihull. Maya took her GCSEs but wasn't pleased with her results. She is determined to continue with her dreams though. She will re-sit her English exam in November to try and get a better mark. Remember – Maya has only been in England for one year! She is still doing her BTEC course in engineering level 3. Over the school holidays she and her family have travelled to many cities in the UK and she tried fish and chips in all of them – her favourite were those in Stratford upon Avon. She also really loved Bournemouth as it was a really nice place with very friendly people. Maya returned to an old hobby of hers – playing the guitar. She is improving at it and has started to play good melodies. Maya is searching for universities but still not sure what to go for; she is unsure whether to go into aerospace engineering or biomedical engineering! Oh, and she is also learning to drive, in her own words, Miss Engineer needs a car to go to college!

Paul



Compassion Direct UK



A huge thank you to everyone who joined in knitting items for the refugee work of Compassion Direct UK. The response has been great, and 9 blankets, 74 hats, 39 scarves, 13 pairs of gloves, 9 jumpers, 16 cardigans, tights, a child's jumper and trouser set, a jacket and various hygiene items (see above photograph) have been delivered to the charity.

If anyone wishes to continue supporting CDUK directly please look for leaflets on the notice board in church, or ask me for one. Again, many thanks for your work and generosity.

Andrea Blood 01789 266825



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Saturday 12th November

10am—12 Noon

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Soundbites for November

Wednesday 2nd

Stephen Dodsworth—Organ

Wednesday 9th

Kevin Cahill—Classical Guitar

Wednesday 16th

Charles Mathews—Organ

Wednesday 23rd

**Musicians from King Edward VI
School**

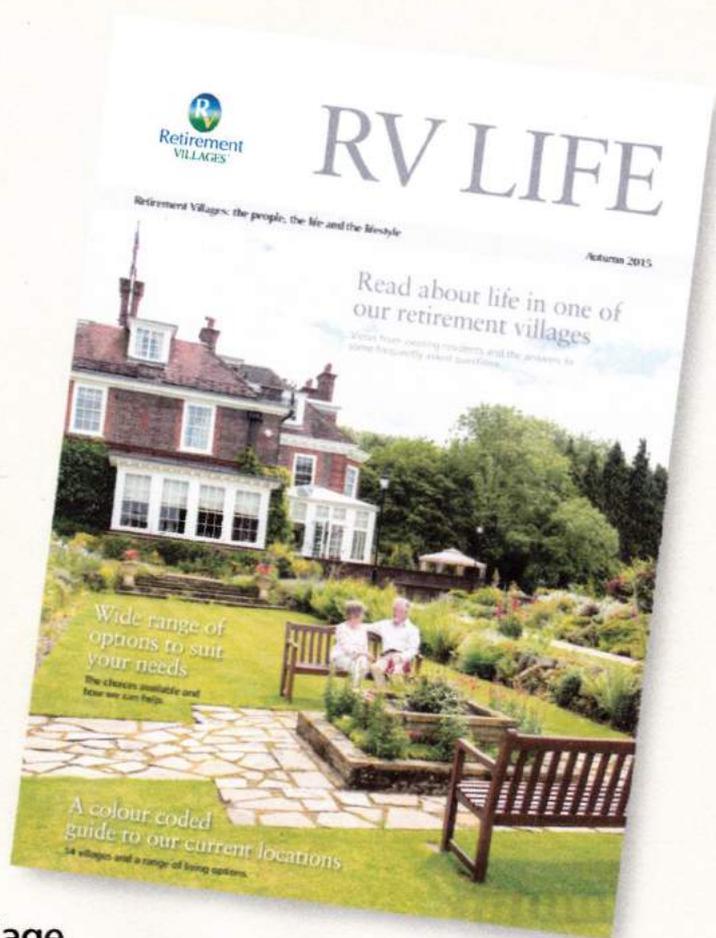
Wednesday 30th

Clive Letchford—Tenor

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HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton



Because of bell ringing practice at Holy Trinity in the 1970s, there were no performances on Tuesdays at the RSC's original studio theatre, The Other Place. The noise of the bells echoed around the theatre, which was made of corrugated iron. It was also important not to use the toilets during a show as you could hear the flush inside

the auditorium.

RSC

Hybrid Air Vehicles have denied a report that their airship test flight had been a failure. The flight went really well, they said, and the only issue was when it landed.
BBC Website

A Refuge Action sign seen at the Bell Baxter High School: "In the event of fire, this refuge provides fire and smoke protection for approximately ten minutes. The evacuation plan in operation within these premises ensures that assistance will arrive at this point within eleven minutes."
Radio 4's News Quiz

Headline spotted in the Shropshire Star newspaper: "Stench from Shropshire Biogas site blamed on new employee".

A bank manager my wife worked for dictated a letter about the death of a customer who had died intestate. It came back from the typing pool as "died in Tesco's".

Letter to The Times



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system

You know you're ugly when it comes to a group picture and they hand you the camera.

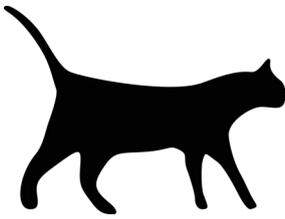
I changed my password to "incorrect". So whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say "Your password is incorrect".

There are two rules for success: 1) Don't tell all you know.

So I was getting into my car and this bloke says to me: "Can you give me a lift?" I said: "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it."
Tim Vine

Chopsticks are one of the reasons the Chinese never invented custard.





“TRUTH WILL OUT...”

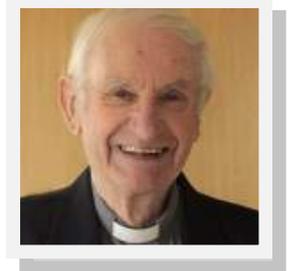
We were dressed and ready to go out for a dinner and theatre evening. We turned the answering machine on, covered the parrot and put the cat out in the back yard. We phoned for a taxi and requested a cab.

The taxi arrived and we opened the front door to leave the house. As we walked out of the door the cat we had put out in the yard scooted back into the house. We didn't want the cat shut in the house because she always tries to get at the parrot. My wife walked on out to the taxi while I went back inside to get the cat.

The cat ran upstairs with me in hot pursuit. Waiting in the cab my wife didn't want the driver to know that the house would be empty for the night, so she explained to the taxi driver that I would be out soon. 'He's just gone upstairs to see my mother is OK,' she said.

A few minutes later I got into the cab. 'Sorry I took so long,' I said, as we drove away. 'I found her hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out. She tried to take off, so I grabbed her by the neck. Then I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked, so I hauled her downstairs and threw her out into the back yard.'

The silence in the taxi was profound.



Found under the sofa by David Ellis



The Stratford Concert Band 2016 Christmas Concert Saturday 3rd December - 7:30pm

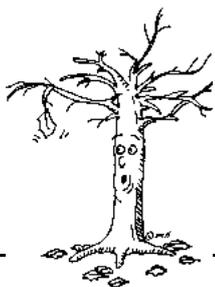
Stratford Arts House, 14 Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6LU

Stratford's local wind band, led by musical director Jon Earle, presents their popular Christmas concert. The band will play a selection of seasonal music as well as tunes from shows and films including “**How to Train Your Dragon**”, “**A Disneyland Celebration**” and “**A Miracle on 34th Street**”. A delight for all ages.

Tickets are £8 (under 16s free) in advance from the ArtsHouse Box Office 01789 207100, online at <http://stratfordartshouse.co.uk/> or on the door.

Website: www.stratfordconcertband.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stratfordconcertband.org.uk>



All Saints' Luddington

Jane Beeley Writes...



LUDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AUTUMN WINTER 2016

We are looking forward to a busy season with some fun events for all the family.

There is only 1 table left for Tim & Jane's popular Quiz on Saturday 12th November.

This year Mark Hughes is running a **Christmas Quiz** on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm.

The usual fish and chip supper will be replaced with hot turkey & stuffing rolls, followed by mince pies – BYO drinks.

We have a new Quiz in 2017 on Saturday 14th January, kindly provided and run by Janet & Clive Kempton. Do join us for some brain teasing questions and the usual fish and chip supper, which is always welcome on a cold January evening!

Please ring Sue Brayshay on 01789 750674 to book a table for any of the Quizzes.

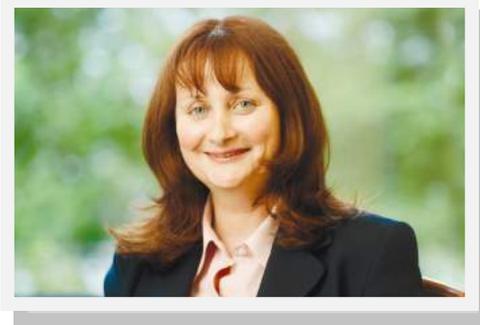
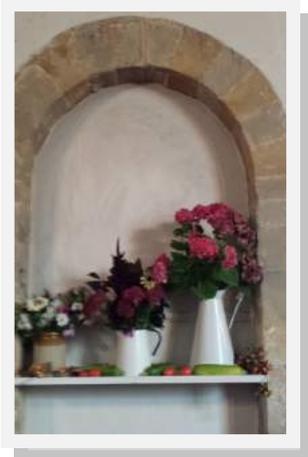
We have plenty of forthcoming films.

**A thriller on Saturday 26th November. The December film will be a Christmas matinee for all the family on Saturday 10th December at 2.30
Mince pies will be included!**

Watch the village A-frame for information or join the Film Club to receive regular e-mailed updates and full details. New members are always welcome.

St Helen's Clifford Chambers

Pauline Newbury



Photos: Pauline Newbury

Harvest Festival at St. Helen's, with the traditional Birthday Cake



Ed Mulryne's Page will be back in December's *Trinity Times*

Antiques Prove a Cash Boost for St Peter's

Pat Pilton



Loved ones, forgotten ones, sentimental ones and even a few valuable ones were among more than 100 objects that found their way to Holy Trinity for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church Antiques Valuation Day on October 3.

Each item brought along cost £3 to be valued by experts Simon Davies and Sarah Lewis from JS Fine Art in Banbury. And whilst nobody went home a millionaire, there were a few pleasant surprises for those who had brought objects along. Among them a ring and bracelet

both valued in thousands and an enamelled brooch thought to be Russian and worth £2,000 to £3,000.

Vases, maps, jewellery, paintings, porcelain figures, treasured childhood dolls, chairs, antiquarian books and even a Felix the cat got the magnifying glass treatment. "It was a nice steady trickle of people and we had some interesting things to look at," said Simon, who doubted that anyone had come along expecting to auction off a family treasure. "Many items simply have a sentimental value", he said. "And you can't put a value on that."

The successful event raised just over £500 towards the ongoing restoration of St. Peter's Chapel. A sum boosted by the sale of tea and cakes provided by The Hospitality Teas group and much enjoyed as people waited their turn in the queue.

Vice Chair of the Friends Jo Walker, who organised the day, said: "There really was very little down time for the experts. It was just a steady flow of people arriving with fascinating objects of all shapes and sizes. It was a lovely atmosphere and everyone seemed to enjoy what was a very worthwhile fundraiser."

"A big thank you Simon, Sarah and JS Fine Art, who provided the services of their specialists for free, and to Lillian Hopkins and her team of volunteers who kept the tea and cake coming."

The mystery object people were asked to identify on the day was a knitting sheath and the value of the obelisk £725. Closest to the answer was Diane Edwards who wins a prize



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Trinity Ladies Fellowship



Unfortunately Anne Morris could not be with us for our October meeting due to a fall. We welcomed Mrs Jenny Farrell, Head Fund Raiser for the Community, and Mrs Lila Morgan JP Chairperson of the Hospital League of Friends, both of these ladies came to tell us what is happening at our new Cancer and Eye hospital.

20 years ago our old hospital closed which left a void in the facilities available in Stratford. Mrs Mary McBain and others worked tirelessly to amend this situation. 6 years ago Warwickshire NHS Trust said it would consider the facilities in Stratford and 3 years ago agreed to spend 22 million to build a new hospital for us. Mrs Lila Morgan spoke first telling us about the League of Friends and how they have been raising 1 million pounds to provide the extra's to make our hospital a first class facility.

The Warwickshire NHS Trust said that they would pay for the building and basic infrastructure if the Friends would raise 1 million to provide such things as chemotherapy chairs, children's furniture for the eye unit and many other items to make the hospital comfortable for those who use it. Mrs Jenny Farrell showed us an artists impression of the new hospital and explained that it is a three story building with the ground floor being a Well Being Centre, this centre will cover many conditions such as dementia, depression etc.

The first floor will be the Eye Unit for the treatment of macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma with a dedicated Ophthalmology Theatre. The top floor is the Cancer unit with a Chemotherapy Suite for treatment of various cancers along with a supporting Cancer Clinic which will provide diagnosis and ongoing treatment. Both ladies told us about the fantastic support they have had from the community in fund raising and to date they have raised £816,000. To further the funds they are holding a Christmas Fayre at the hospital on 26th November. Trinity Ladies raised £179.80 last March and the committee decided at a recent meeting to send another £50 from our annual donations to charity.



The new hospital is due to open in June 2017, this will be the first phase, further additions will be added in the future.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 16th November when a new Committee will be appointed, and on December 16th we will be holding our Carol Service. We would love to see you if you are able to come to our meetings.

Gina Lodge



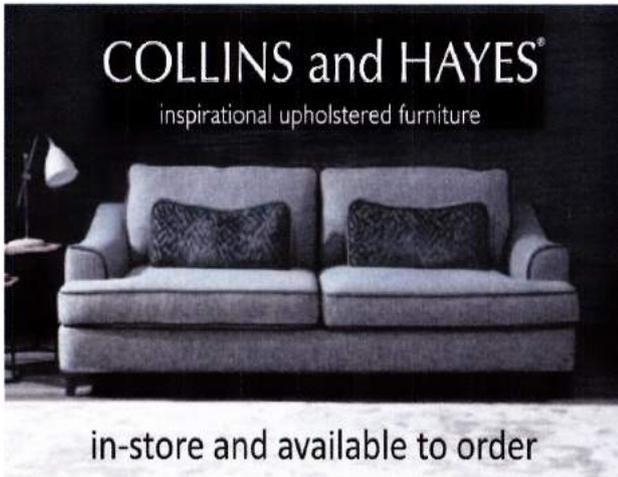
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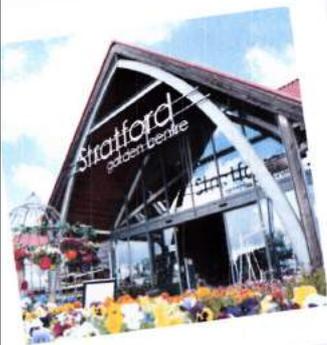
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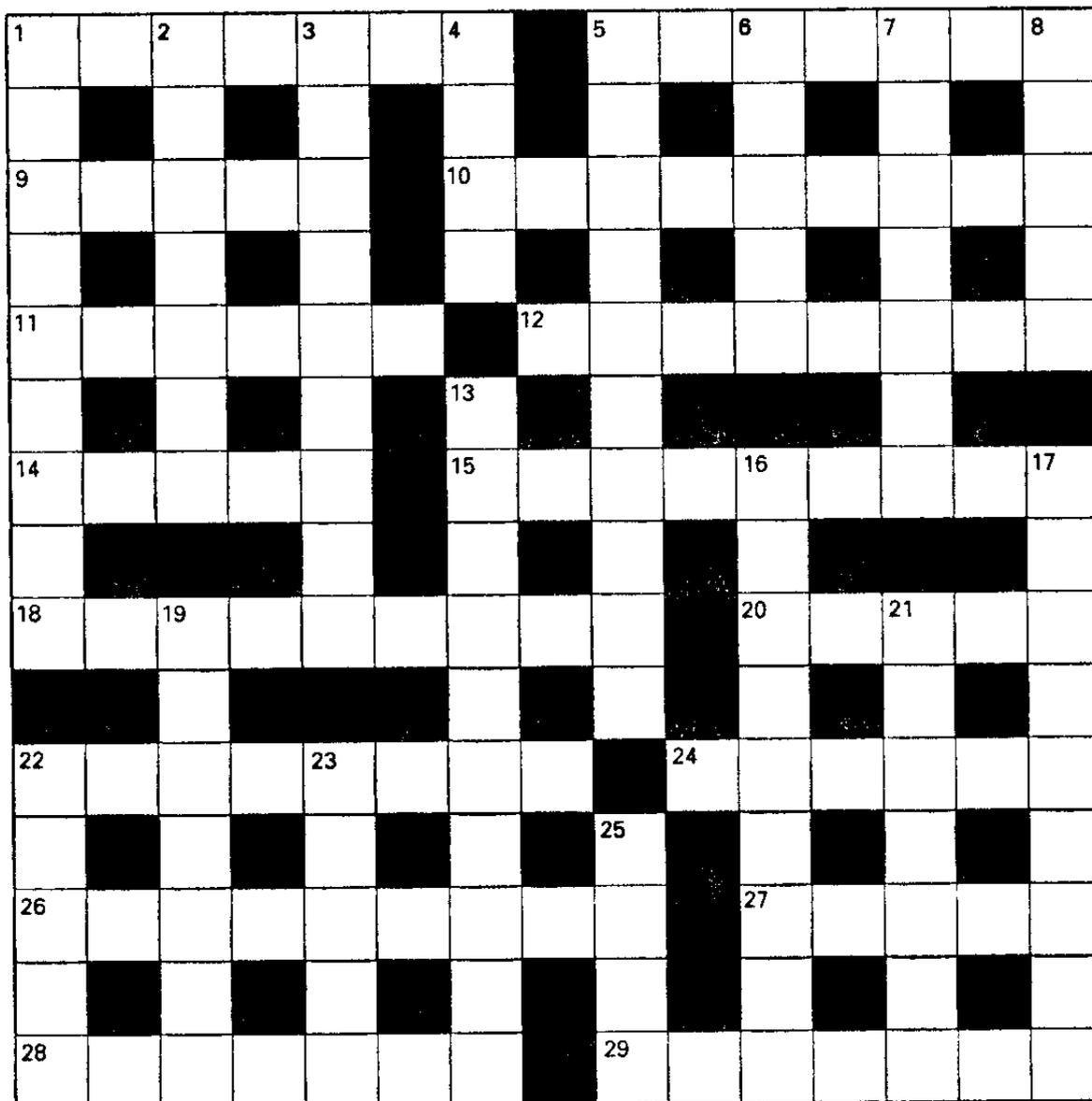


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Directions: Less than 3 miles outside Stratford upon Avon on the B4632 Campden Road towards Long Marston Airfield.

All Saints' Tide Crossword



ACROSS 1* 4th century Roman scholar priest (7) 5 Coffin carriers (7) 9 Short cross-line, finishing the stroke of a letter (5) 10* 3rd century Bishop of Alexandria (9) 11 Sit upon (6) 12 Prompt (8)

14* 7th century Bishop of Lindisfarne (5) 15* First Archbishop of Canterbury (9) 18 One who expounds scripture (9) 20 Noisy fight (5) 22 Initiations (8) 24 Requesting (6) 26* 13th century Hungarian Queen (9) 27 Saint pictures (5) 28 Entreaties (7) 29 Hazards (7)

DOWN 1 Partner vicar (9) 2* 12th century Abbot of Clairvaux (7) 3 Sacrifices (9) 4 Aims (4)

5 Rolls with grilled beef (10) 6 Upper room (5) 7 Catalysts (7) 8 Rope-making grass (5) 13 Blind beggar (10) 16* Roman martyr shot by arrows (9) 17 Praises in speech (9) 19 Red pepper (7) 21 Fat as Friar Tuck (7) 22 Computer sound (5) 23 Likeness (5) 25* 7th Century Bishop of Lichfield (4)

Calling all volunteers!



The Guild Chapel

The Guild Chapel is one of Stratford-upon-Avon's most important buildings, with a history dating back to the 13th century and long associations with the Shakespeare family. The Chapel houses some of the finest medieval wall paintings in all of Europe, covered up under the supervision of Shakespeare's father in the 16th century and discovered hundreds of years later. A major campaign to conserve and showcase these paintings is currently underway, led by Stratford Town Trust, custodian of the Guild Chapel and backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Chapel remains open - free to visitors - throughout and we need volunteers to welcome those visitors and help tell the story of Stratford's best-kept secret.

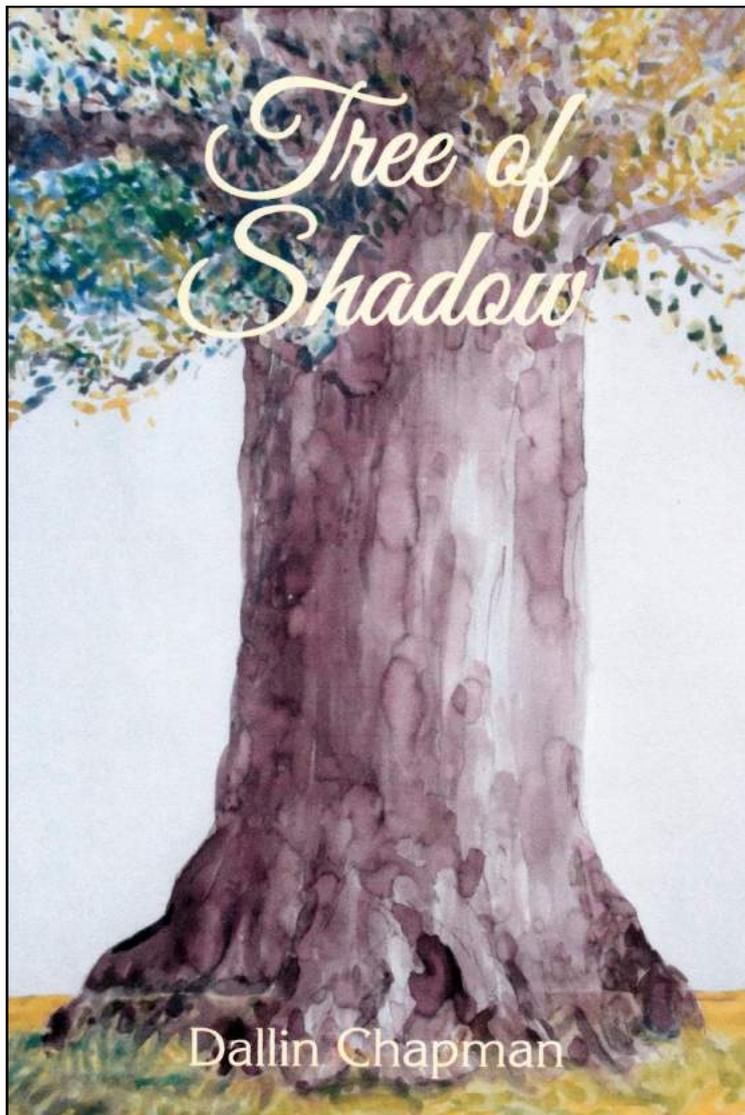
Working in pairs, full training will be given and even 2 or 3 hours a week would make a big difference. It's a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in history, meet people from all over the world and be part of something truly exciting.

For more information please contact: Owen Edmunds, Volunteer Coordinator
owen.edmunds@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk | 01789 207111
www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk/guildchapel

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust is a registered charity (number 1088521)



The serialisation of Freda Kitcher's Book *A Parson and his Parish*, will continue in December's Trinity Times



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Church Shop

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

When? First Tuesday of every
month. 7.30 pm

Where? The Lounge, Parish Centre
What do we do? Pray together,
silently, for 30 mins, after a short
introduction.

What happens? That's up to God.
We try to pay attention.

Then what? We share what we want
to, have a hot drink, and finish by
9pm.

What does it feel like? Powerful.
Connected. Deep. Important....
Please join us if this interests you.
Everyone is welcome.

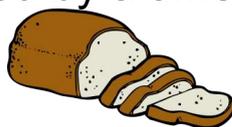
Contact Jenny Rowland

01789 415548



Prayer Breakfast

An opportunity to get together over
breakfast and pray for the parish.
Breakfast at 8am followed by a time
of Prayer



3 Rowan Close
Contact Andrea Blood
For further details
01789 266825

From the October Registers...

October 23rd Sophia Charlotte Smith and
Henry Thomas Smith



Baptisms

October 7th Christopher Lloyd and Andrea Preece
Henry Bird and Emma Glass-Malins
October 15th Christopher Turner and Sarah Harvey



Weddings

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SOLUTION TO ALL SAINTS' TIDE CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Ambrose 5 Hearses 9 Serif 10 Demetrius 11 Chairs 12 Punctual 14 Aidan

15 Augustine 18 Expositor 20 Brawl 22 Baptisms 24 Asking 26 Elizabeth 27 Icons
28 Prayers 29 Dangers

DOWN 1 Associate 2 Bernard 3 Offerings 4 Ends 5 Hamburgers 6 Attic 7 Stimuli 8 Sisal

13 Bartimaeus 16 Sebastian 17 Eulogises 19 Paprika 21 Adipose 22 Bleep 23 Image

25 Chad

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A Beautiful Retreat

Hilary Newman

Early in October, on one of those unexpectedly warm, sunny days, I was asked to imagine that I was at The Last Supper – in what capacity; who else is there; what is happening; what can I see; what do I want to ask/tell Jesus; how do I feel? At the House of Bread in Shipston, I was with other members of Bridgetown, Avenue Road and Trinity Mead home groups who had come together for a morning of retreat. There was lots of room, both inside and out, for quiet contemplation, so to take advantage of the precious October warmth of the sun, I sat at a table on the terrace to try to imagine being in such a privileged place. Suddenly I knew who I was...

“I’m a rookie journalist sent by the Jerusalem Tribune to a Passover party being given by a celebrity and his friends. I’ve been instructed by my editor to find out as much gossip as I can about this man – we need a scoop! How can I get near to the house? It’s surrounded by security guards, and there are crowds of people outside. I check my purse, I think I may just have enough money to bribe one of the guards, so I sidle up to one who looks slightly less formidable than the others, put on my most captivating smile and I slip some money into his hand and beg to be allowed in. To my astonishment, he waves me through.

Once inside, I look around for this celebrity everyone’s talking about, but initially can’t see him for all the friends and travelling companions attending the party. Eventually I see him and he’s looking directly at me, and I have never felt so guilty or tongue-tied in my life when he walks over and starts to chat like a long-lost friend.

When dinner is announced, this man takes his place in the centre of the top table with his close friends around him and the rest of us grabbing a seat wherever we can. As at all celebrity events, we are served by beautiful waitresses, but unlike at other celebrity events, this one speaks to them kindly, with none of the usual arrogance; he’s just treating them as though they too are honoured guests.

Towards the end of the meal, he asks for a bottle of wine and more bread. The room falls silent, such is the presence of this young man. We think he’s going to propose a toast, but why also ask for bread? He fills a glass with the wine and, giving thanks, passes it round the guests on his table and asks them all to drink from the glass and pretend that it is his blood, which he will give for the forgiveness of sins – wow, how can anyone, especially a celebrity, forgive sins? He then picks up the bread and breaks it into small pieces and, passing it round, again tells them to eat it as if it were his body, which he will also soon give for them. Now I’m gobsmacked and thinking here’s my scoop; my career’s made!

As I’m dashing out to submit my scoop, completely forgetting the questions I was going to ask, this magnetic man follows me out, smiling enough to melt even the hardest of hearts and asks me what I’m going to write about. How did he know?

Did I write my story? No, I left that to others because, at that moment, I knew that the only story I wanted to tell was of this wonderful man whose words, whose kindness, whose generosity, whose actions, whose radiance changed my life forever – not what my editor was after!

I'm sure there were as many different versions as there were people at the House of Bread that morning, but I found the task of imagining myself in a biblical story a very useful way of making Jesus a living presence in my life and would highly recommend a retreat as a way of focussing on Him and what he means to us personally.

If any other group within the church would like to write about aspects of their worship or work, we would love to hear from you for a future edition of Trinity Times.

~~~~~

Hilary

## Refugees Arriving in Stratford

Tricia Hall-Matthews

Mike Milburn and I are part of a steering group - an offshoot of Christians Together in Stratford - which meets to discuss how we might support and help with Stratford on Avon District Council's plan to resettle Syrian families in the town.



The council have identified two houses available for renting from the private sector (so there is no competition with local people needing social housing) and is negotiating with landlords. More housing will be needed later and the council is looking for further properties. They will furnish and equip the properties to a specified standard and donations of furniture, clothes etc are NOT required from the public.

They are working on the provision of befriending, language teaching, medical support, including mental health needs, schooling, transport and other needs, and are hoping to use the expertise of the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre to advise on and co-ordinate these. Volunteers may be needed later to help with some of these things but at the moment the main need is for awareness and support. The RSC is offering help with this, and the local Amnesty International group is organising a writing competition in Stratford secondary schools - and possibly primary schools' top years - on the topic "In Search of Safety".

The refugee families have now been selected but details are not yet public, so their specific needs are not known. They are all Syrians fleeing from the atrocious civil war in their home country and are at present living in camps in Turkey. They will be very traumatised by their terrible experiences. On arrival they will be transported from Birmingham Airport to their new houses, where the basic requirements for making a home will be provided. They will receive money for their day-to-day expenses. There will be no room for luxuries, however, and one way in which we might help could be to create a fund for help with emergencies or one-off expenses to fill in gaps in provision.

If anyone would like to offer help when the Syrians arrive, there is a survey on <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ppKCSY3>. I hope members of our Church will be among those giving the message "Welcome Here in Stratford"



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# Contemplative Prayer Group

## Mother Julian of Norwich

*“Her fourteenth century world was as filled with aggression...as ours is today...”*



The Contemplative Prayer group has been enjoying in recent meetings praying with passages from the writings of Mother Julian of Norwich, and this theme will be continued in the next 2 meetings, on November 1st and December 6th, at 7.30 in the Lounge at the Parish Centre.

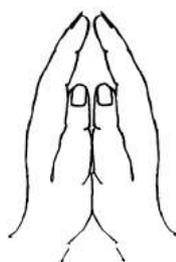
Mother Julian was born in Norwich in 1342 and educated by nuns, although probably not to the extent of learning Latin. During a life-threatening illness in her early 30s she had a series of very deep and vivid prayer experiences which she called her “shewings” (showings). following this she lived a solitary life in a cell attached to St Julian’s Church in Norwich, from which she probably took her name. She meditated deeply on her religious experiences and is said to have had contact with many people who came to talk with her through a window in her cell. She lived well into the fifteenth century.

After 20 years she wrote “The Revelations of Divine Love” recording her visions and their meaning. It was the first book known to have been written by a woman in the English language. Her message is focussed entirely on how much we are loved AS WE ARE by God, whom she writes of as both Father and Mother. I find this quite remarkable in the light of what we understand as the patriarchal and punitive attitudes of the church at that time. Her understanding of the world is utterly holistic.

Her writing was unknown for years, but came to light again during the 20th century, and has inspired many people with its simplicity and transparent wisdom.

Her fourteenth century world was as filled with aggression, insecurity and change as ours is today, and her words have much to say to us.

Tricia Hall-Matthews



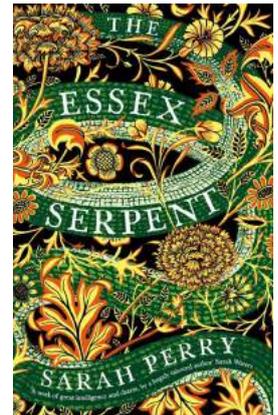
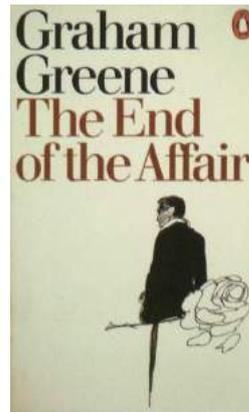
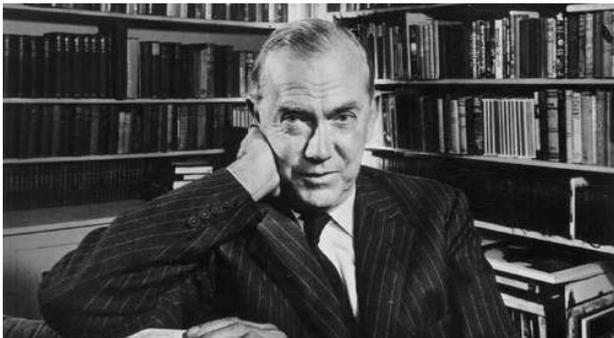
# Novel Theology



In November Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair*.

In December Sarah Perry's *The Essex Serpent*.

The group normally meets on the first Thursday of each month. Please contact Anthony on 01789 204923 for more info.



19 October 2016



Dear Rev Taylor

On behalf of the Trustees and volunteers of Stratford Foodbank, I should like to thank Holy Trinity parishioners who generously contributed towards your Harvest collection with an impressive 152.70 kg. I notice from the donations book that there were also 3 bags and nappies brought into the centre.

The kindness of your members ensures that our shelves are never empty and it is only by such generosity that the Foodbank is able to help those in need by providing them with emergency food. You are making a real difference in the community.

Thank you & Best wishes

Caroline Sampson  
Secretary & Trustee

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# Mike Baker



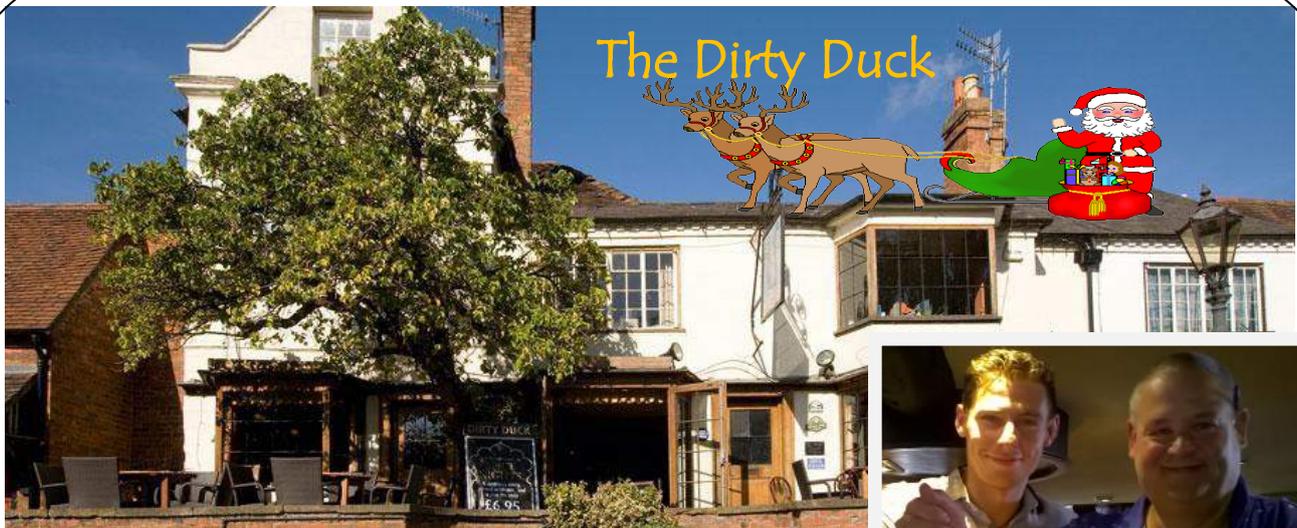
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# Parish Contacts:

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

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              | Position to be filled     |              |
| Curate                       | The Revd Nicki Chatterton | 07769871237  |
| Reader                       | Mike Milburn              | 01789 262264 |
| Children & Families Minister | Phil Harper               | 01789 266316 |



## **Assistant Ministers (Hon)**

|                            |              |                          |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| The Revd Canon Andrew Dow  | 01789 417852 | The Revd Neville Beamer  | 01789 263435 |
| The Revd Margaret Sweet    | 01789 297395 | The Revd Diane Patterson | 01789 266453 |
| The Revd Canon John Graty, | 01789 298856 | The Revd Jenny Rowland   | 1789 415548  |
|                            |              | The Revd Graham Wilcox,  | 01789 551759 |

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

***Head Verger*** - Paul Harris 266316

***Vergers*** - David White & Sarah Moore

***Parish Manager*** - Linda MacDermott - 266316

***Parish Secretaries*** - Sue Holt; Helen Holland

***Bookkeeper*** - Wendy Steinheimer - 266316

***Gift Shop*** - Heather White - 268484

## ***Church Wardens***

Hilda Craig - 01789 551234

Lynne Bunker - 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*** - Nicki Chatterton 01789 266316 ***Bell Ringers*** - Charles Wilson - 01789 295467

***Bereavement Support Team*** Gina Lodge 01789 204850

***Safeguarding Officer*** Mike Warrillow 01789 298928

***Trinity Ladies*** - Ann Morris - 01789 266226

***Electoral Roll Officer*** Tim Raistrick 01789 509885

***Friends of the Music*** Jane Hornby 01789 263966

***Friends of Shakespeare's Church***—Ronnie Mulryne 01789 205774

***Holy Trinity in the Community*** Mike Milburn 01789 262264

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

***PCC Secretary*** Miriam Dow 01789 417852

***PCC Treasurer*** Anthony Woollard 01789 204923

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

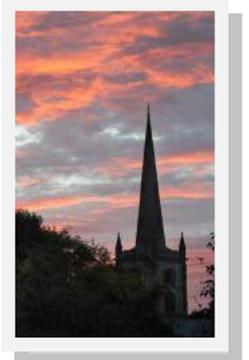
***Stewardship Officer*** Chris Kennedy 01789 299785

***Trinity Players*** Ursula Russell 01789 204923

***Trinity Tots*** Phil Harper 01789 266316

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

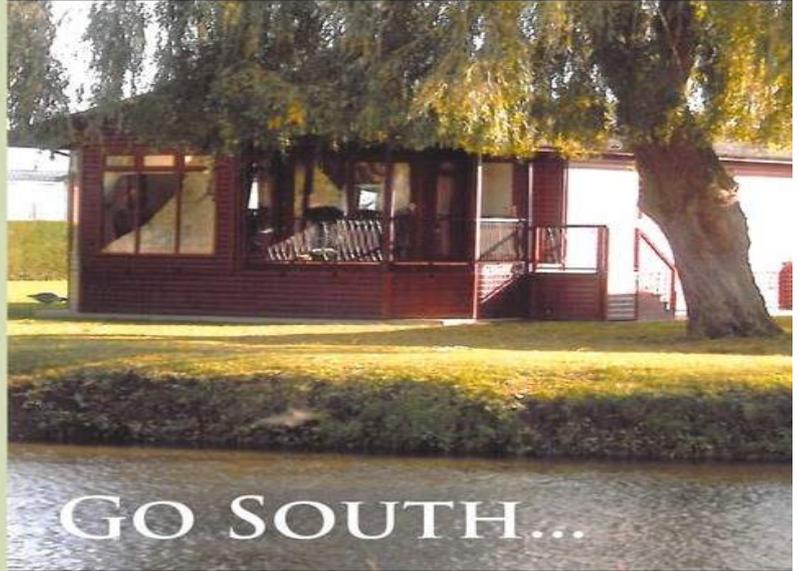
***Welcome Team***— Helen Warrillow 01789 298928





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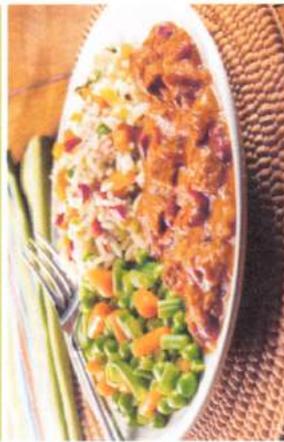
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