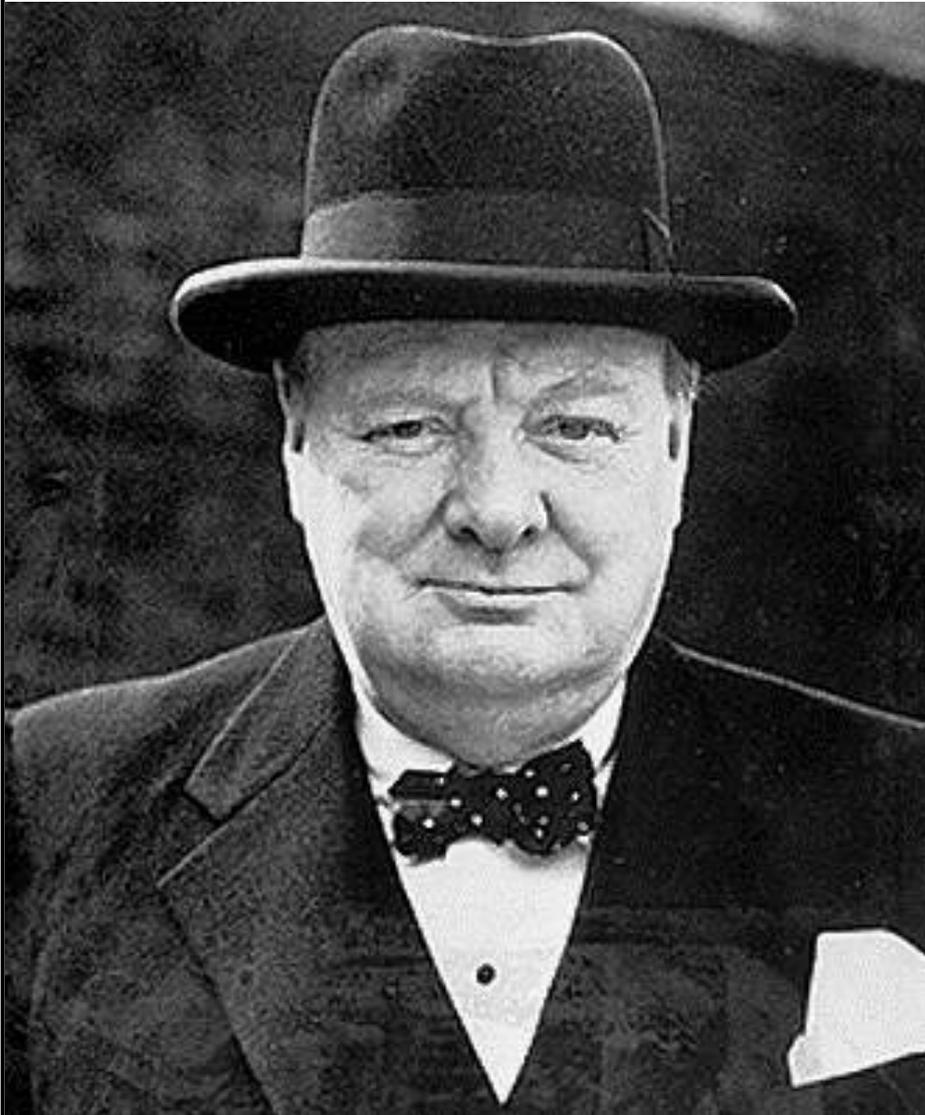


OCTOBER
2017

TRINITY TIMES

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Sir Winston Churchill? See Page 16



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Blessing of the School Bags Page 9

Editorial

Editor: Steve Newman

Assistant Editor: Hilary Newman

01789 296771

stevenewman.newman@gmail.com

Clergy: Revd Patrick Taylor

Features Editor: Judith Dorricott

PCC Representative: Ruth Poulten

TT online: <https://www.stratford-upon-avon.org>

Photography

John Burgess

Harry Lomax

Advertising

Steve & Hilary Newman

01789 296771 & 07817167627

stevenewman.newman@gmail.com

Subscription & Distribution

Doreen & Geoffrey Lees 01789 268667

Holy Trinity Team



Revd Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Curate



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister





Phil Harper Writes...

**A Light
In the Darkness**



As I write this piece, we have passed the autumnal equinox and the nights are now longer than the days. It is no coincidence that as a church we move, in the liturgical calendar, into seasons of light and darkness which continue into the New Year. Beginning with Allhallowtide, a triduum comprising of All Hallows Eve, All Hallows Day (All Saints Day) and All Souls Day.

But before we come to the remembrance of how different people served God in their lives and through example, we start with a trickier (excuse the pun) feast. All Hallows Eve, or to give it its more common name 'Halloween'. There is much debate about the growing holiday of Halloween. To some it's an opportunity for communities to come together, to talk to people in their neighbourhood they wouldn't normally speak to, for fun and parties. But for others it's a time of dread, those who are vulnerable feeling scared in their homes, insults and the destruction of property. I don't propose to resolve the debate, but by looking into the history of Halloween, we can begin to shine some light in the darkness.

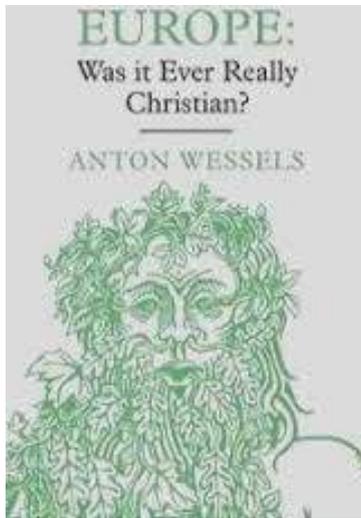
“ Could laughing at what is meant to scare us be the best way to strip it of its power?”

The ancient Celts celebrated a festival, at this time of year, called Samhain or 'summer's end', it was the start of their new year. It happened at the end of harvest and the beginning of winter as a celebration of the dead, when the plants themselves were dying. As part of the festival they would bring in the animals for the winter, the weaker ones were killed, eaten and their bones burnt on a big bonfire or 'bone fire'. The light from this common fire would be taken home in a carved out turnip to relight the lights at home. Spirit guardians would be carved on turnips and put at the door to keep away unfriendly spirits. Children would dress in disguises and play tricks on their elders. I'm sure you can begin to see the start of some current Halloween customs, even over two thousand years ago kids didn't always have respect for their elders.

With the spread of Christianity, people were reluctant to give up their ancient traditions that gave focus to the seasonal cycles and an opportunity for festivity in the midst of life's struggles. Christianity also recognised the importance of the themes of remembering the dead, family and community that Samhain contained. In 837AD Pope Gregory III moved All Saints Day from May to 1st November and eventually Allhallowtide was completed by adding All Souls Day on 2nd November.



Christians had their own ways of celebrating All Hallows Eve. They would light fires to guide the souls of the dead on their way. People would disguise themselves to avoid being recognised by a troubled soul departing. In the Middle Ages children would go from house to house to pray for the homeowners' deceased relatives in return for food.



There is a history of Christian festivals having their roots in pre-Christian beliefs. In Anton Wessels's book *Europe: Was it Ever Really Christian?*, he points out that in all places at all times the Christian faith has interacted with culture and the lived experience of people. The threads of paganism are still present in Christianity. The feast of Saint Nicholas, 6th December, was the day of the coming of Wodan, a god who would punish with a beating, or reward by leaving gifts in shoes left outside the door. The goddess Eastre, whose symbols were eggs, gave us our word Easter. It's also thought that the choice of 25th December for Christmas was to "fit in" with previous celebrations.

Having reflected on the history, the question is what to do in the present? There is no right or wrong answer. Like a lot of aspects of our faith it's about giving time to educating ourselves, taking on board different opinions and prayerfully reflecting on what is right between us and God.

For me personally, I think Halloween gives us a unique opportunity to explore fear and death from a Christian perspective. Christians can be wary of making light of dark matter, feeling it somehow gives the devil a foothold. But what if the opposite is true? Could laughing at what is meant to scare us be the best way to strip it of its power? We don't have to avoid darkness or death but, through the love, light and life that God brings in Jesus, we can face it head on with confidence. To follow the example of our Christian ancestors and interact with culture, not hide away from it.

On the 31st October we are holding a Pumpkin Party for families (more details later in the magazine). Perhaps you could engage with your trick or treaters? The Meaningful Chocolate Company (The ones who make the real Easter Egg) have produced the Meaningful Treat Pack, chocolates to give out that also come with a poster that has challenges using the themes of good winning over bad and light over darkness. Or in our own Trinity Church Shop we have some great glow in the dark crosses that could be an ideal gift.

Whatever you do on 31st October, I pray that it will be fun, peaceful and remind us all of the light of Christ shining out through the darkness.



Phil



Patrick Writes...

All Change for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity

There are certain things in parish life that any wise vicar will consider very carefully before agreeing to change. One of those is the times of services for important occasions in the public (as well as church) calendar. This year we shall see changes on two such occasions: Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve. Whether or not I've been a wise vicar in agreeing to these is something we shall have to wait and see!

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November

There has been a suggestion that we do away with a service in church and just hold the Act of Remembrance in the Garden, including the silence at 11am. However, we as the Parish Church, supported by the Town Council, felt strongly that there should still be a civic service in Holy Trinity, and so a new format has been agreed, as follows:

10.00am Remembrance Sunday Service, Holy Trinity Church

The Civic Party process from the Town Hall, led by the ATC band. The service will last approximately 35 minutes.

10.50am Act of Remembrance, Garden of Remembrance.

This will follow the usual format but be slightly extended, including some parts of the former service in church (the Act of Commitment and singing the National Anthem)

11.15am approx The Civic party return to the Town Hall and the Royal British Legion retire to the RBL Club. **Members of the public will be invited for refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards.** This is a good opportunity for us to offer hospitality to people from the town.

Christmas Eve

For a number of years now we have had to turn away significant numbers of people from the Carol service because the church is full. This is clearly not a satisfactory situation. The Big Nativity was also too late for families with very young children, so from this year there will be a new pattern, with the addition of a congregational carol service for all ages. **Note also the start of Midnight Mass has been brought forward to 11pm** to make this more accessible for those not wishing to lose too much sleep, and to help ease the pressure on those back in church early the next morning! The new pattern is as follows:

- 3.00 pm** *A Service of Lessons and Carols*
(not suitable for very young children)
- 5.00 pm** *The Big Nativity*
- 6.30 pm** *Carol for All*
- 11.00 pm** *Midnight Mass*

Please note services at All Saints' and St. Helen's will continue to follow the usual pattern for Remembrance and Christmas.



Patrick



WORSHIP

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

SUNDAY October 1st Holy Trinity *16th Sunday after Trinity*

8.00am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd. Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd. Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Choral Evensong - Preacher: Revd. Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Centre-GoodNews@10—Talk Revd. Steve Jarvis

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers

9.15am Family Worship, **Harvest**—Revd. Diane Patterson

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

SUNDAY October 8th Holy Trinity *17th Sunday after Trinity*

Parish Away Weekend

8.00am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd. Paul Edmondson

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd. Paul Edmondson

6.00pm Congregational Evensong— with Revd. Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Centre—No Service

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers—No Service

All Saints' Luddington—No Service

SUNDAY October 15th Holy Trinity *18th Sunday After Trinity*

Harvest at Holy Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd. Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd. Kay Dyer

6.00pm Choral Evensong—with Revd. Graham Wilcox

10.00am Parish Centre- FAB

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers

9.15am Morning Worship—Revd. Jenny Rowland

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—Revd. Steve Jarvis

SUNDAY October 22nd Holy Trinity *19th Sunday After Trinity*

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd. Patrick Taylor

10.00am Food4thought—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

6.00pm –HC BCP & Compline—with Revd. Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Centre- FAB—Revd Kay Dyer

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers

9.15am Holy Communion Trad—Revd. Diane Patterson

All Saints' Luddington—11.00am— Holy Communion—Revd. Canon John Graty

SUNDAY October 29th Holy Trinity *Last Sunday After Trinity*

Reformation Commemoration

8.00am Holy Communion—Revd. Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd. Steve Jarvis

6.00pm Open to God—with Revd. Kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Centre—FAB—with Phil Harper

St Helen's & All Saints' - No Services



Phil's Keeping The Light's Shining



September was a busy month for our work with Children, Youth and Families. Beginning with our special GoodNews@10 service to bless school and work bags. As part of the service we made bead crosses to attach to our bags, reminding us of God journeying with us on our new adventures.

The following week we had an All-Age service in church to which we invited the families of those who had been christened over the last two years. My microwave enjoyed its trip to church to make a chocolate cake in a mug as part of the talk, helping to remember the important qualities of a godparent or anyone supporting someone on their journey of faith. The church full of lit candles was for me, a wonderful symbol of how much light we all bring to our communities, and the great work done by our Christening teams.

Trinity Tots has returned from its summer break. We're now having themes for every few weeks, beginning with water. There was a lot of fun had with the water activity, although by the second week we had unfortunately broken the mop with overuse! Trinity Tots meets every Thursday during term time in the Parish Centre 1:30-3:00, the cost is £1 for the first adult and child, and then 50p for any extra child or adult.

During October, we're looking forward to our Church Weekend Away with 21 children joining us. I'm afraid there won't be a F.A.B. (Faith at Breakfast) service on the Sunday of 8th October as all the leaders are at the Weekend Away.

On 31st October we've a Pumpkin Party in the Parish Centre 4:30-6:30 for all families. With crafts, games, food and the story of Patch the Pumpkin, who goes on an exciting journey sharing the light of God's love around his community. Children are invited to wear something orange or white as part of our party; if you wish you can carve a pumpkin with a heart or another positive symbol, to bring with you. To help with catering it would be useful to know if you're planning to come (phil@stratford-upon-avon.org). Parents are asked to stay with their children and join in with the event. There is no charge, but there will be a bowl for donations on the night. For the more senior members of our church family, who might feel they are too old for this party (heaven forbid!), I wondered if some people would be willing to add to our number of pumpkins carved with hearts, or positive symbols, by doing some yourself and passing them onto me?

Looking ahead, on December 10th at 4pm we're having a Christingle service in church, supporting the work of the Children's Society. Before the service we've got to make the Christingles, which will be happening on the morning of Saturday 9th December - any help will be appreciated. More details in next month's magazine, but please put the dates in your diary.

Phil

Autumn Themed Sermon Series

The Eucharist – How going to Church can change your life.



This autumn at Holy Trinity Church, we will be trialling a new-to-us format for delivering sermons. In place of the standard sermon practice of focusing on the readings for the day, we will be having an over-arching teaching theme which will be explored over the course of 6 weeks.

In light of the on-going reflections entered into by the Worship Review Group, the theme for this first series is **The Eucharist: How going to church can change your life**. This series is built on the explorations the Worship Review Group are having in establishing Values and Vision for developing and leading passionate worship, as part of the 8 Essential Qualities for Healthy Churches.

Worship is about God, and for our benefit. Worship is the process whereby we focus on corporately re-telling, and re-enacting God's story, until it becomes our own individual story. Through being part of a worshipping community we can then carry, with confidence and conviction, the reality that *Jesus is Lord* into every corner of our lives, and our community. In the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon, with All Saints, Luddington, and St Helen's, Clifford Chambers, our main vehicle, through which we communicate God's story, is The Eucharist. This is where God's story is retold through Word and Sacrament.

The series begins on the 1st October, and each week will consider aspects of the Eucharistic liturgy (why we do what we do and its importance), and the practical spiritual discipline we can take from it to apply to our everyday discipleship:

1st October 2017 The Gathering

15th October 2017 The Thanksgiving (Harvest)

22nd October 2017 The Confession & Absolution

29th October 2017 The Ministry of the Word—Commemoration of the Reformation

19th November The Elements—Jesus as the living presence through Bread & Wine

26th November The Blessing & Dismissal (Christ the King)

Revd. Steve Jarvis



Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World

“ We can't turn the world upside down on our own.”

Recently one of our most venerable church members, Joy Leslie Gibson, became something of a celebrity, featuring not only in the *Herald* but in the *Times* and *Telegraph* and on radio and TV. She may well be the oldest person in the country to gain a postgraduate degree (not her first either). And, as she pointed out, she did not go to university as a teenager because of the war years. Which clearly did not do her any harm, as she caught up later by distance learning through the Open University.

Passing exams and getting to university has become a national obsession, and more and more viciously competitive. This summer, we had not only the usual crop of tragic mental illnesses and suicides, but also industrial-scale cheating by staff at two major public schools, and even pupils kicked out of school at the beginning of their final year because their anticipated grades would not be good enough and would pull the schools down the league table. As someone who once played a leading role in exams policy in this country, I cannot help feeling that we have gone exam-mad.

No doubt competition is a fact of life. No doubt people have to be tested and selected for the demands of higher education and the jobs to which it leads. But how crazy have we gone? It is all of a piece with the huge increase in inequality over recent years, in which the pay of the bosses pulls further and further ahead of that of the ordinary people on whom our economy and our society depend.

St Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 had a vision of the Church as the Body of Christ, setting an example of how people of different talents can live together in community. We all belong together, he says, and those who are the least naturally favoured are the ones which actually ought to have the greatest honour. That might suggest that nurses, care workers and suchlike, even street-sweepers, ought to be paid more than bosses, rather than less. The world turned upside down? Yes – but it would certainly have an effect on this vicious competition for top university places and top jobs.



Photo: John Robertson www.jr-photos.com



We can't turn the world upside down on our own. Going back to my last column, I recognise that it is in some ways a tougher world out there for young people than it ever was for us. We can't tell them not to bother at all about exams and competition. But there may be ways in which we can reduce the pressure. Working towards better relative pay for those less privileged is certainly one way. But the example of people like Joy – even though she was born in a world so different in many ways – is still relevant. There may not be quite as many second chances today as there were for her, and we need to improve them. Again returning to an earlier column, our systems of further and adult education are in great need of defending and developing, if others are to have the opportunities that Joy had.

Honouring people's gifts, great or small, must be a priority within the Church if we are to set an example to the rest of society. Some of our members may look like "successes" in worldly terms, others like "failures". Being a success is great (we can tell our children this) but being an apparent failure, at one stage in your life, may be OK too. Who knows what is to come? Look at Joy. And what was the greatest apparent failure ever? The Crucifixion.

There will be an interview with Joy Leslie Gibson in the November edition of Trinity Times.



Photo: Harry Lomax

Pupils of the Willows School who were recently admitted to the Holy Trinity Choir as Willows Scholars

There will be a feature about the Willows Scholars in the Christmas edition of Trinity Times

The Bird of Prey Theatre Company
and
Trinity Players
present



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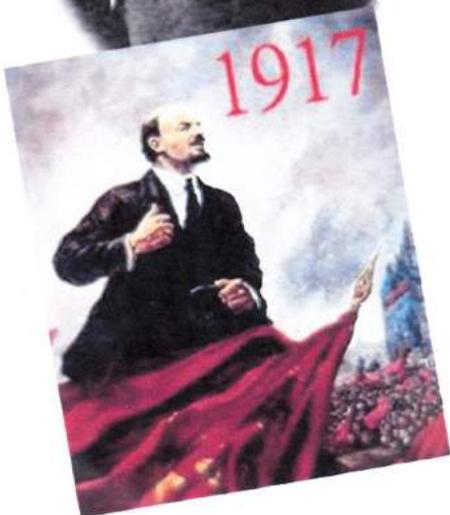
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Welcome Roger

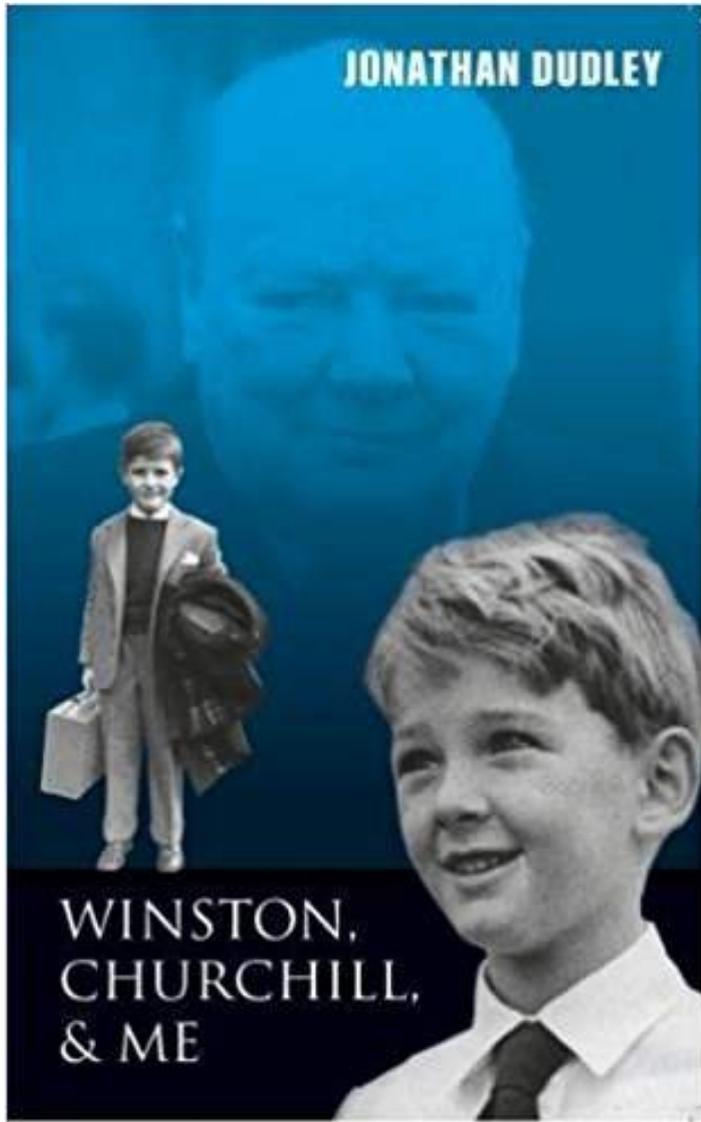
The latest addition to the Holy Trinity family is Roger, the rescue Greyhound, happily settling in with the Revd. Patrick Taylor's family



How to Eat Glorious Grouse!

The Memoirs of a Boy visiting Chartwell

Sir Winston Churchill's Home



Judith Dorricott

Interviews

Jonathan Dudley



"Welcome, welcome" says Jonathan Dudley warmly as I arrive at the doorstep of his charming house in Stratford, to talk about his book **"Winston, Churchill and Me"**.

Jonathan, a long-standing member of Holy Trinity Church, has written a fascinating memoir of life just after World War II, and of his two visits to Sir Winston Churchill's house.



He tells me how he came to write this book. "Two of my grandchildren, Dora and Reka, live in Hungary and I wanted them to know a little about my background, which is completely different from anything they have ever known" he says. "I also have a granddaughter Eva, in England, so I wrote this memoir for the three of them. Then a friend read it and persuaded me to have it published."

So, why was Jonathan invited to Chartwell? And did he meet the great man himself?

The story begins during the war, when Jonathan lived happily in Hampshire with his parents and younger brother Robert. But tragedy struck the family in April 1945 when the boys' father was killed in his tank in Germany by a sniper's bullet. Jonathan can still picture the motorcyclist arriving with the fateful yellow envelope.

While he went to school in London, the family spent holidays with his grandparents in their beautiful home in Hampshire. Jonathan has happy memories of exploring the grounds there, although during the process of grieving for his father, he developed a bad stammer - more of which later.

In 1949, when Jonathan shared a desk with another eight year-old at his prep school, he was surprised when the boy asked him to stay at his grandparents' house during the summer holidays. The surprise was because he didn't really consider his desk-mate Winston a close friend. Winston didn't enjoy sport and didn't even play football - Jonathan's favourite game. The Dudley family explained, with excitement, that this was the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill, our greatly-admired wartime Prime Minister, so Jonathan was given endless advice on dress and etiquette for every occasion.

In August 1949, he was dispatched to Chartwell, where young Winston was staying with Sir Winston and Lady Churchill (at the time they were untitled). His happy memories of Clementine Churchill was that she was warm and gracious to everyone and "appeared to have oodles of time for all".

Life at Chartwell was precise with a nerve-wracking formal luncheon at 12.45 each day. Jonathan had his first taste of tomato juice, figs and caviar, (real post-war delicacies). To him, Sir Winston seemed to wear just three outfits: the boiler suit and velvet slippers he wore at family luncheons, a formal set of pin-striped trousers, black jacket and bow-tie, and a wonderful black velvet smoking jacket for evenings.



Written over sixty years later, the book, with its many photographs, has a disarming honesty and we can empathise with the boy's confusion over the adult world he observed. Jonathan depicts family life in the post-war period with clarity, and remembers being puzzled by the rigid codes of conduct. As he grows older in the story, his conscience starts pricking him and he becomes uncomfortably aware of the strict class system within British society.

Jonathan himself read English at Cambridge University, and initially worked for Columbia Pictures and the BBC, before moving to Stoke-on-Trent as a theatre director. He helped set up the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, and subsequently become a Drama Lecturer in Alsager. After a Master's Degree in Organisational Studies in Leeds, he moved to the University of Wolverhampton where he specialised in the professional development of lecturers. In between these posts, Jonathan wondered about putting himself in the hands of God and entering the priesthood, and he spent some years in France thinking about this mission.

While at Wolverhampton, he met Paula Bartley, an academic lecturer in women's history, to whom he is happily married. His previous marriage was long over and, in retrospect, he feels that "his theatre life and his marriage were not compatible". Paula has published many historical biographies including one on Emmeline Pankhurst, and her latest book "Queen Victoria" has had excellent reviews. Paula based much of her work on the letters and journals that Queen Victoria wrote throughout her reign and these throw a great deal of light on the Queen's complex and contradictory character. Paula is in the midst of writing a new book about women in power in the 20th century.



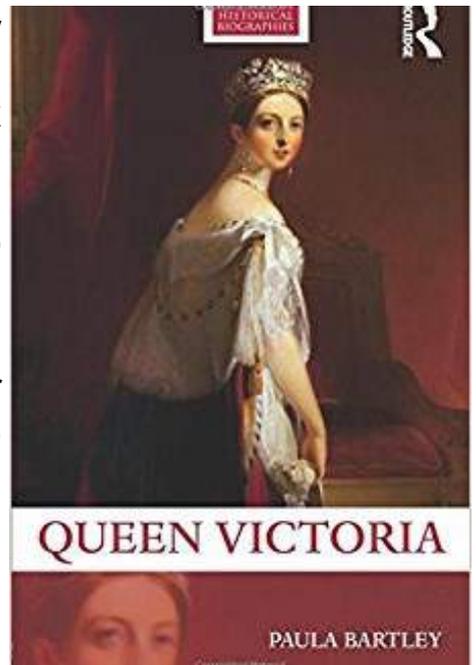
"Their planned
six months in Hungary
somehow turned
into
eight years..."



Jonathan and Paula lived in Leamington Spa for many years, but once retired, they decided to visit his son Edmund in Hungary for a short time. Their planned six months in Hungary somehow turned into eight years, as they learned Hungarian, became involved in local society, and helped look after their two granddaughters. But nostalgia for England called them home and they chose Stratford-upon-Avon.

When they first attended Holy Trinity Church, our Welcome Team, and in particular Andrea Blood, was there to greet them and make them feel at home, and Jonathan soon became part of the Welcome Team itself. Jonathan and Paula usually attend evensong, and he particularly enjoys the services in the Guild Chapel on Wednesday mornings.

We are fortunate that Jonathan chose to write "Winston, Churchill and Me" for his granddaughters, as it is an unforgettable and nostalgic memoir of halcyon days for a little boy after the rigours of the second World War.



Jonathan's book "Winston, Churchill and Me" is available in paperback from all good bookshops and Amazon.





Photo: Harry Lomax

The Installation of the New

And finally cushions for the Clergy stalls with the theme of ministry; Baptism with a portrayal of running water, and the text “New Creation” Bread and Blood of Holy Communion and the text “New Covenant”. For the Priest’s seat we settled on an image of the Coventry Cross of Nails and the text “Called as Servant and Shepherd” and then “Word of Life” and an image of an open bible and the text “Lamp to my Feet”.

Will Hawkes—Designer



I have been asked to make many things in my time but to stitch padded perches for clergy posteriors is probably one of the most notable! It's been a pleasure. Long may they last!

Hazel Brazier

It was good to hear we had to pick up our sewing needles again to stitch cushions for the clergy seats: the designs are so beautiful; and it is a great team to work with.

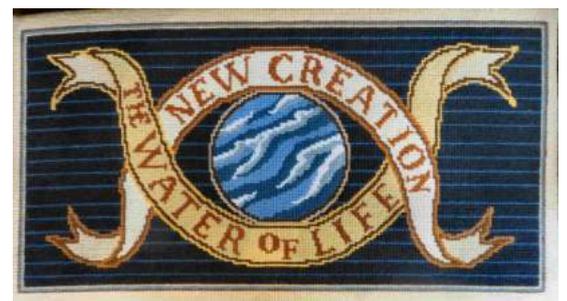
Gay Gott

One, two, three, four, no hang on, should that be just three stitches, oh help, better check it with the pervious row.

Hester Hawkes

I have thoroughly enjoyed completing a cushion for the choir stalls and now one for the Clergy seats. I felt very rewarded at seeing the end product, despite complaining of sore fingers! A real labour of love.

Margaret Edwards



Photos: John Burgess



Cushions for the Clergy Seats

The installation of the new cushions for the clergy seats in the Nave is the final step in a journey that began for me some 40 years ago.

First came the design and making of the kneelers: an epic undertaking involving some 30 different designs based on the words of the Benedicite.

The choir cushions came next in 2010 to provide a lasting legacy for the anniversary of 800 years of a church on the site: words and music from Psalm 150 to celebrate the power of music in our worship.

Skeins of wool ,precise template ,and a piece of blank canvas. What a start! I have enjoyed being part of the team helping to complete a set of cushions for Holy Trinity. *Liz Johnson*

I believe we have sewn a lasting friendship into these beautiful cushions.

Tina Allen



I am delighted to see the completed cushions in place in the choir stalls. Initial discussions began in 2008 and stitching (not knitting) began in 2009. The choir cushions in two phases were completed in 2012. The clergy cushions have taken two years to complete and I think we can all agree how splendid is the final effect. I wish to thank everyone who took part, including the volunteers from Stratford Decorative and Fine Art Society.



Stella Webley - Project Leader

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PCC Report

Tuesday 19 September 2017

There'll be a new schedule for services on Christmas Eve this year, after PCC unanimously agreed to the change following an extended period of consultation with the congregation and wider Parish community.

Parish Eucharist if Sunday

3.00pm A Service of Lessons and Carols

(not suitable for very young children)

5.00pm The Big Nativity

6.30pm Carols for All

11.00pm Midnight Mass

The Reverend Patrick Taylor was pleased with the outcome; "We hope that this revised format will enable as many people as possible to attend Holy Trinity to celebrate Christmas, and reduce the overcrowding challenges we've experienced in recent years."

Vision, Purpose, Goals

The Worship Review Group reported on a vision to develop the current worship in the Parish Centre.

Patrick said, "We need to ensure that the quality in the Parish Centre is the same as in the main Church building. The service was originally set up for families, but it's clear that it has moved beyond that. We need to develop the service with the needs of families in mind, but differentiate in style no matter what the age. I think the vision is best described as informal in the Parish Centre and formal in the Church building. Personally I really don't mind the style of service - the important thing is that it's done well!"

A planning team is to be created to take this proposal forward and all those interested in supporting this, should speak to Phil Harper.

The Worship Review Group also identified a desire for more teaching in series of sermons. Patrick said, "Many people have never been taught about why we have ritual and symbolism, and there is a great richness of meaning that we should explore together. Therefore, the clergy have been tasked with providing an explanation and we have planned to do this up until Advent.

"We can see the need to go back to basics and link it to personal spiritual disciplines and it's important that we nurture everyone's personal journey of faith. With that in mind, there will be a co-ordinated approach with FAB and discussion groups after services as well."



News in Brief

PCC agreed a faculty to build the £40K 'Servery' at the back of the Church.

PCC also agreed to apply for a faculty to replace the roof the Bier House. It's Grade 2 listed and Holy Trinity has a responsibility to maintain the building. It is currently used for storage.

Staffing has been reviewed with the departure of Linda McDermott and there will now be a full time Operations Manager role.

A bag checking policy has been introduced in the Church building for safety reasons. Vergers will be carrying out spot checks from time to time.

Following a trial period, it has been decided to return the 'feathered' pew's back to their original formation. However, members of the PCC expressed a desire to consider in the future new seating which would enable different formats to work better.

Mike Warrillow was unanimously elected as the second Holy Trinity Foundation Governor (alongside the Vicar) for The Willows Church of England School.



Tony Bentall has been formally co-opted on to the PCC.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th November.



Compiled by Ruth Poulten
& Revd. Patrick Taylor



"Glad You Asked"

A new course, tackling all sorts of questions people ask about life and the Christian faith. Led by the Revd. Kay Dyer on Thursdays, October 5th, 12th, 26th, November 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th.

7.30—9.00pm Parish Centre. Contact 01789 266316

St. Helen's News

Angela Wyman



Sadly the garden party at Clifford Manor, that we had looked forward to with so much anticipation, had to be cancelled by our kind hosts for personal reasons.

Consequently we arranged a get-together with a glass of wine in church on the Sunday after, as a means of telling people who hadn't been able to get to the garden party, what Friends of St Helen's Church was all about, and how to become a supporter. But it all felt a bit like a damp squib compared with the Garden Party. I have to say we were hugely comforted by the presence of members of the Holy Trinity congregation who have been noticeable in the support they've given us

APPLE DAY AT CLIFFORD

The newly-formed Friends of St Helen's Church will have a stand at Clifford Apple Day on Saturday 7th October. Come and find out how you can help us raise funds to keep our village church open and in good repair. At the same time take the opportunity of buying fresh and tasty home-made jams and pickles. Cider, hot-dogs, cakes, music and interesting stalls from 12.30pm till 4.00pm. Information on Friends of St Helens is available on www.stratford-upon-avon.org/friends-of-shakespeares-church.

PROMISES AUCTION

Friends of St Helen's Church have their first major fund-raising event on Saturday 28th October. This is a Grand Promises Auction in the Jubilee Hall at 7,30pm for 8. Do come along and see Clifford resident and well-known TV auctioneer Christopher Ironmonger in action. Already we have 60 tempting offers of "promises": you could buy a useful lift to Heathrow, a fantastic dinner party for six or a guided tour round Christchurch, Oxford to see where Lewis Carrol wrote *Alice in Wonderland* and the Great Hall which inspired Hogwarts in Harry Potter. And your guide?... **Archdeacon of Oxford, the Venerable Martin Gorick, no less!**

There's a lovely framed watercolour of Holy Trinity by David Woulf in the Promises Auction which is now on show in Holy Trinity. Should you not be able to get along on the night, the catalogue of lots will be available the week before.

Take a look on the Friends of St Helen's website at <http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/friends-of-shakespeares-church> for the contact to send in your bid.



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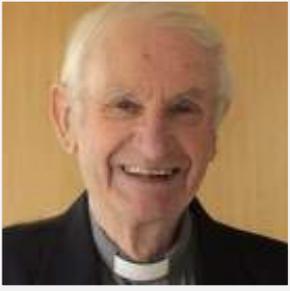


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SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS



Revd. David Ellis

“ Cast your bread upon the waters...”

During my years of National Service in Hong Kong I came to love the place. My friendship with the army chaplain led me to confirmation in the garrison chapel. One Sunday afternoon he took me for a ride in his car into the New Territories north of Kowloon which, until modern developments, was mainly a rice-growing area. He stopped the car while we watched a man of the Hakka tribe punting his flat-bottomed boat across a paddy field, every now and again flinging something from his arm. ‘There you are,’ said my friend and guide, ‘he’s casting bread upon the waters’. He explained to me that such is the origin of the familiar proverb from Ecclesiastes 11.1 ‘Cast your bread upon the waters and you will find it after many days.’ The seed would sink into the mud and as the waters subsided the rice shoots would begin to appear. We still apply that proverb to various situations where something wonderful grows from acts of faith as in the parables of Jesus.

My army barracks on Hong Kong Island was situated next door to Wanchai, the city’s most notorious slum area. Whenever my mates and I ventured out in the evening it meant picking our way through countless refugees from China, bedded down on the streets. Every day at dawn a lorry would collect the dead.

Bishop R. O. Hall persuaded the priest of a Buddhist temple in Wanchai to rent him a back room where he started a small Christian children’s club. I so much wanted to help, but my lack of knowledge of the language and the culture meant that the best I could do was to teach English to a class of refugees two nights a week in a college at North Point. My commanding officer was kind in scheduling my guard duties to allow for this and my students quickly became loveable friends.

Such was my passion for Hong Kong that following ordination and a curacy in Liverpool I returned to the Far East with my wife Barbara and Julie, our little girl of 18 months, to be chaplain of the Diocesan Boys School. By then Bishop Hall’s children’s club in Wanchai had captured the imagination of ‘Save the Children’ and had grown into a school and welfare centre catering for 3,000 children, taught daily in three shifts. It was known as ‘St James’ Settlement’. With members of the Diocesan Boys School Christian Union now keen to help me over the barriers of language and culture, we were able to offer help with those poor children every Saturday.



One of my helpers was Michael K. C. Lai. He was a student in my 6th form English Literature class. Apart from teaching English I also engaged those young men once a week in discussing 'Applied Christianity'. Michael went on to study social science at the university and from there he gained a post as warden of St Christopher's Home for orphaned children at Taipo in the New Territories and through the years we kept in touch. We left Hong Kong in 1969 and by the time we returned in 1996, for me to take charge of Christ Church, Kowloon, for three months, to give the vicar a rest, Michael had become the Director of St James' Settlement, Wanchai.



With more abundant help from overseas it had now become an eleven storey building on the site of that old Buddhist temple with welfare service units stretching out all over Hong Kong, employing in total a staff of 800, a miracle indeed!

With China adopting a more open stance to the west came a request from the teeming city of Guangzhou (formerly Canton) for a replica of St James' Settlement to be built there. Michael Lai was commissioned to train the staff to run it and in 1998, following the handover of the former British colony to China when we did another long summer stint at Christ Church, we went to Guangzhou to watch the presentation of graduation certificates.

To walk the streets of Wanchai today, with its towering blocks of business and banking which speak of a one-time unimaginable prosperity, can only make me wonder at the providence of God and his amazing ways of answering prayer, so often indirect and unforeseeable. Michael in retirement remains the Archbishop's chief advisor on social welfare.

David

Prayer Ministry Prayer Day 5th October 2017

In October the Parish Prayer Diary, used by many in the parish to assist in their prayers, will have been produced for 25 years. To mark this and to draw attention to all aspects of prayer ministry within the church, there will be a display in St. Peter's Chapel on Thursday, 5th October. Please come along and learn more about this important work in and for the parish. Please take the time to pray for it too.

Andrea Blood—Lay Chaplain

Revd. Kay Dyer—Curate

A FOND FAREWELL TO LINDA

Judith Dorricott



How will Holy Trinity Parish Office manage without Linda MacDermott? Although Linda has only been our Parish Manager for two years, her warmth and friendliness, coupled with her business experience, will make her sorely missed.

Linda left in the middle of September for ordination training and some of her work-load is being split between Sue Holt and Helen Holland our new Parish Administrators, who previously job-shared as Parish Secretaries. There will be a new Parish Assistant for the front desk and eventually an Operations Manager, who will be an experienced strategic manager. Holy Trinity is a busy centre, with around fifteen staff members, plus many volunteers, parishioners, and tourists, needing help and information. Linda has been particularly praised for her 'team-building' efforts and says she really enjoys encouraging staff to work together.

Linda has always been a church-goer, even thinking about ordination as a teenager, but at that time women were not allowed to be ordained! She had a happy childhood in County Durham and the Isle of Man, and on leaving school, worked for a Christian Conference Centre in Knaresborough. She is married to Paul, and they lived in Leamington Spa where Linda worked first for the Law Society as a staff trainer, and then as a teacher, specialising in employability skills for adults. Before coming to Holy Trinity Church, she also worked with Warwickshire County Council as a staff trainer.

As well as holding down responsible jobs, Linda managed to fit in studying for a teaching diploma, a degree in educational practice and a post-graduate qualification in information management and workplace coaching. Where did she find the time?

Paul, Linda's husband, retired as a Chartered Librarian and now is a manager and guide for Great Rail Journeys. Linda tells me that he is hugely supportive of her, and she couldn't contemplate ordination without his support. Many of us will know Joanna, their daughter, who is one of the Sunday Vergers at Holy Trinity. Joanna also works at St. Paul's Church in Warwick as a Community and Church Worker and her husband Michael plays music for the church. Linda and Paul's little grandson Thomas is certainly used to being in church!



Although Linda had never mentioned the possibility of ordination, both Steve Bate and Rachel Saum realised her calling and encouraged her. A Lay Person's Course in Cuddesdon and Vocations evenings at the Diocese were such positive experiences that they confirmed her calling.

Linda is now at Ripon College, Cuddesdon in Oxfordshire, where she will stay for part of each week over the next two years. She expects to be ordained as Deacon in July 2019, and then be offered a curacy for three or four years. When back in Leamington Spa with Paul, she will worship at All Saints Church, Emscote and attend evensong at St. Mary's Church in Warwick. One of the bonuses of Ripon College Cuddesdon is that she will be a full-time student there - all her previous qualifications have been taken while she was working full-time, so Linda is thrilled that she will have plenty of time to read and study theology.

Linda has been thinking about training for the ministry for about twenty years now, and she is really looking forward to the future. She tells me "If God is nudging you to do something, don't ignore it... investigate it!". Although it will be a big change in their family life, Linda is sure that she can leave the future up to God.

I asked Linda what she would miss at Holy Trinity Church. The answer was immediate: "our lovely congregation as well as the staff, the leadership team and especially Patrick's support".



Judith

Helen & Sue Promoted to Parish Administrators

Following Linda's departure Sue Holt and Helen Holland have been promoted to Parish Administrators. They will be based in the inner office.

A new Parish Assistant is being recruited to deal with all front desk enquiries.

In due course a new post of Operations Manager will be created, and he or she will be responsible for all the office and church staff.



There will be an interview with Helen and Sue in the November issue of Trinity Times.

Congratulations to you both



Professor Ronnie Mulryne Retires as Chair of The Friends of Shakespeare's Church



Where next for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church? That was the question Professor Ronnie Mulryne posed when he assumed the mantle of Chairman almost five years ago. And it's a question Holy Trinity needs to address again as the time has come for Ronnie to stand down.

When approached by the then Vicar and Friends' President, Martin Gorick, to fill the challenging post, Ronnie acknowledged that he had big shoes to fill. Under the guidance of first Dr Philip Cheshire and then Sir Brian Follett, in its first ten years as a charity the Friends had raised a staggering £1.1m towards the continued preservation, restoration and beautification of our church.

Urgent repairs to the chancel roof and parapet had stopped water from pouring in; the landmark tower, golden orb and spire (in danger of falling into the church) had been expertly restored and the twelve huge North Clerestory windows cleaned, re-leaded and repaired. Skilful cleaning and conservation work had transformed the Clopton Chapel and much of the church's stained glass restored to its former glory.

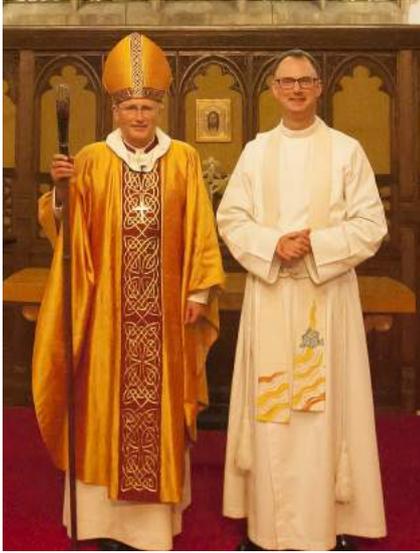
Phase One successfully completed. "An extraordinary achievement", said Ronnie at the time. "Yet there is still much to do before we can feel confident of being counted good stewards of our wonderful inheritance".

Not surprisingly, the Professor Emeritus of Warwick University, distinguished Shakespeare and Renaissance scholar and church deacon, focused trustees' attention on the historic, sacred and significant areas of the church. The Shakespeare ledger stones in front of the High Altar and the bust of the poet himself had undergone alteration and fallen into disrepair. The Combe and Balsall monuments were in need of conservation whilst the Becket Chapel—founded in 1331—looked nondescript. Projects all happily now successfully undertaken.

But it was Ronnie's vision for a transformed St. Peter's Chapel that will mark out his tenure of office. In the Friends' newsletter in 2013, Ronnie wrote: "St. Peter's Chapel has become cramped since the installation of a clergy vestry, and other developments have obscured the transept's beauty and the visibility of the American window. In tandem with the PCC's South Side development, I believe we should attempt to restore and enhance this potentially beautiful and sacred space."

It was another leap of faith for the Friends. Some £70,000 needed to be raised in quick time if the opportunity was to be seized to undertake the work in conjunction with the South Side extension. When the builders moved in, the Friends were still some way short of the target figure. In addition to the structural work, a new altar, lectern, pews and lighting needed to be purchased and the Richard Hill tomb and other ancient monuments restored.





Thanks to imaginative fund-raising events, the generosity of congregation and Friends, legacies, gifts and support of church groups like Trinity Players and Hospitality Teas, St Peter's was completed on schedule. Today it is the much-used "lovely, tranquil and sacred space" that Ronnie envisaged. "A place of prayer, a place of healing," as Bishop Christopher said at the service of re-dedication.

Yes, Ronnie's vision, but he would be first to acknowledge that St. Peter's—and other transforming projects during the past five years—could not have happened without the creativity of church architect Stephen Oliver, the valued input and support of Mike

Warrillow, as Chair of the Buildings Team, and the Vicar and fellow trustees.

Looking back over his stewardship, Ronnie will have fond memories, too, of last year's fund-raising dinner with Rowan Williams—leading to Trinity Players' performances of the former Archbishop's play *Shakeshafte*; the Friends' republication of an 1894 tale, *Skulduggery*, since reprinted several times; the 2014 Taste of History lectures giving new insight into the heritage of our church and, not least, his securing of the beautiful Reich curtains that now enhance both the Becket and St. Peter's chapels.

To paraphrase Wren: *If you seek the Friends' achievements, look around you!*

So What next? The reality is that the constant use of Holy Trinity as a vibrant place of worship and an international visitor attraction takes its toll. There will be no shortage of challenges for the new Chair, who is now being sought. Most pressing being the raising of £100,000 needed for urgent repairs to the South Transept where the external wall is leaning and threatening to fall.

Last word to Ronnie: "It's been a great pleasure and privilege to work with very many church members over the last five years, and to share their prayerful concern for our wonderful Church building. I'm certain that everyone connected with Holy Trinity—especially those who have supported the Friends by joining as members—will want us to go on to even greater enhancements of our beautiful place of worship over the coming five years—and beyond."

If you would like to join the Friends and help ensure that Holy Trinity is preserved for future generations, you will find application forms at the back of church. Or, for further information, go to www.shakespeareschurch.org.

Pat Pilton

"SEASON OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS"



Judith Dorricott

This month, on Sunday 15th October we celebrate Harvest Festival, as the congregation of Holy Trinity Church has for many centuries. All Saints' in Luddington and St. Helen's in Clifford Chambers have Harvest Festival services too. But what do we know about earlier traditions? And have our expectations changed nowadays?

Good harvests have been celebrated in the autumn since pagan times, and these communal festivities have always included food and drink, music and dancing.

There are innumerable mentions of harvests in the Bible. Moses exhorts men to rejoice with their families, their neighbours, the bereaved and 'the stranger within thy gates' with the words "*Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine*" (Deuteronomy 16:15).

In the New Testament, Matthew tells the crowds that "*The harvest truly is plentiful*" (Matthew 9:37), reminding us that, for his contemporaries, a good or bad harvest could be a matter of life or death.

However, harvest festivals in earlier times were mainly organised by farming communities, so let's fast-forward to the 19th century.



Religious harvest celebrations were uncommon until 1843, when Revd. Robert Hawker, a Vicar in Morwenstow, Cornwall, invited all his parish to a special harvest thanksgiving service in his church at the end of the summer. This new service quickly became popular in south-west England and soon spread to the rest of the country.

An extraordinary custom existed in Devon during the 19th century, called "crying the neck". A harvester would weave the last stalks of corn into a harvest manikin bound with ribbons, and would lift it above the crowd of labourers, who all cried "the neck, the neck". Eventually the corn manikin was caught by a young harvester, who would run at full speed towards the

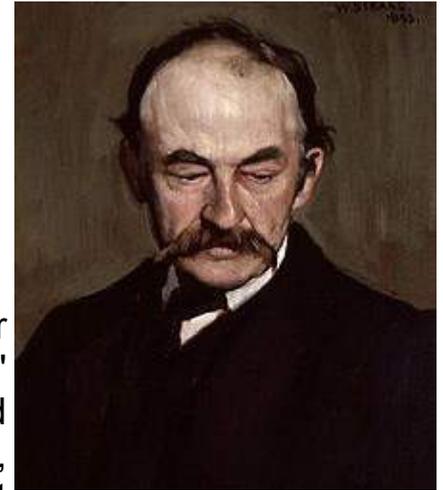
farm. A milkmaid would be waiting for him there and would try to douse him with water, but if she failed, he was allowed to kiss her!

Of course, after the last load of corn was safely stored, Harvest Home would be celebrated. The prettiest girl rode on top of a wagon, pulled by garlanded horses, towards a big barn, where the farmer would provide a feast with games, music and dancing. We still see corn dollies (or corn babies) nowadays, and these are reminiscent of the corn manikins woven to bring good luck in the following year's harvest.



The importance of acknowledging the harvest was reflected in all aspects of Victorian culture. Poets in the Romantic Movement paid homage to harvest-time, with John Keats saying in his poem "To Autumn"

*To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core:
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel;"*



Fans of Thomas Hardy's novels (and films) will remember the haunting scene from "Far from the Madding Crowd" when, after the harvest, the villagers turn to food and drink. They enjoy the revelries, and eventually fall asleep, inebriated, on the floor of the barn, and only the stalwart Gabriel Oak remembers that the hay-ricks have not been covered. With a severe storm brewing, he spends the night alone on top of the ricks, trying to cover them with tarpaulins before they are destroyed - he knows this would be the ruin of his beloved mistress Bathsheba. The importance of an abundant harvest, contrasting with the threat of financial ruin, are powerfully depicted here by Hardy.

Some of our most popular harvest hymns were written in the 19th century. Who can forget "*We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand*" or "*Come you thankful people come, Raise the song of harvest home, All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin*". Every member of our three congregations will have his or her favourite harvest hymn and we all hope that our personal choice will be sung!

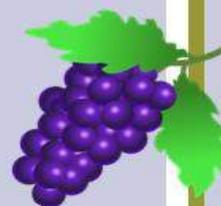
We are lucky at Holy Trinity Church as our energetic band of volunteer flower ladies spend many hours decorating the church before the Harvest Festival Services. As well as wonderful arrangements of dahlias, chrysanthemums and Michaelmas daisies, we can admire windowsills full of fruit and vegetables and baskets of produce, which will be distributed to the poor, the elderly and others in need through the Stratford Food Bank.

The 21st century brings new challenges to our more secular society. Children who live in urban areas are less aware of the seasons, of farming traditions and cycles, and of their importance in food production - recent surveys have shown that many inner-city children have little idea of where their food comes from.

However, schools try to raise awareness of poverty both at home and in the developing world, so children may have a better vision of global problems rather than local ones. World news has recently shown us pictures of the devastation wrought by torrential rain in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, where families have lost their livestock and their rice crops in the flooded fields. There will be little to celebrate in southern Asia this year.

So, as we sing our favourite hymns, and admire the glorious flower arrangements, we are reminded, as our ancestors have done for two thousand years before us, of the importance of the harvest both to us locally, and to all mankind.

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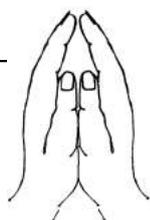
Hazel Tattersall

Wine Educator & Award Winning Writer

hazeltattersall@gmail.com



Wines at Home



Contemplative Prayer Group

This group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre Lounge for a time of silent prayer, followed by a time to talk. Plus refreshments.

Everyone is welcome

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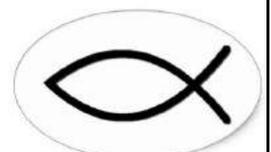
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Trinity Ladies

Revd. Diane Patterson

" It was so interesting to hear the stories..."

We had a lovely afternoon on 20th September and were delighted to welcome some new people - we do hope you liked us and will come again! We had a 'show and tell' session of items 'OF SENTIMENTAL VALUE'. Eight or nine of the members brought something and told the group what made it valuable to them. Items varied enormously! A toy cat that had been a lifelong exam mascot; a WW11 medal won by a father; a photograph of the owner as a baby with her mother; a gold bangle passed through the generations; a 21st birthday locket with a photo inside; a carving by a husband of a much-loved dog; a wooden vase from a sister in Australia; albums of messages sent home by a son travelling abroad; and not least a bible given to a boy from Holy Trinity Sunday School, who was killed in WWI, aged 18, and many more items, too numerous to mention. It was so interesting to hear the stories that went with the objects and one lady said we should have a repeat for the people who had been too shy to bring something!

We then had a raffle and ended the afternoon with tea and cake.

Our next meeting is on 18th October at 2pm in the Parish Centre when we look forward to welcoming David Howe who is coming to talk about 'LAUGHTER - THE BEST MEDICINE'. We look forward to another lovely afternoon - as always, visitors and new members are very welcome to join us. See you all then.

Diane

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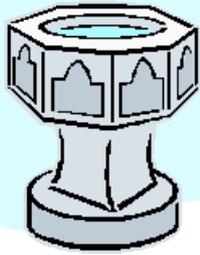
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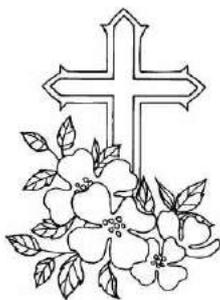
- 3rd Leonardo Bear Johnson (*Clifford Chambers*)
- 10th *Harper Amelia Guarino*
Harry James Aaron Billingsley
- 24th *Elsie-May Iris Monkton*
Jake John Handy

Baptisms

- 1st Alexander Ernst Doncses and Tara Jane
Holloway-Bird
Christopher Kevin Healy and Laura Ann Hunter
- 2nd Steven Clifford Smith and Laura Jane Dibb
Michael Peter Denton and Julie-Suzanne Sian Mei
Young
- 9th Daniel James McMillan and Charlotte Marie
Gallacher
Steven Hollis and Karen Lisa Palmer
- 16th Jonathan Edward Joseph Worthy and Lauren
Clare Bearman
Thomas Fleming and Clementine Poppy Knowles
- 23rd Samuel Joseph George Morgan and Laura Nicola
Parkin
Gregory James Scott and Georgina Sarah Emily
Reames



Weddings



Funerals

- 8th David Phillips
- 18th Otto Valens (*Oakley Wood*)
- 19th Tony Heathcote
- 20th David Deeley
- 21st David Winwood (*Oakley Wood*)
- 25th Peggy Edkins (*Oakley Wood*)



HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

At my local Asda recently I noticed they were selling what they called “newspaper’s”. As an ex-teacher I put on my grammar police helmet and proceeded to the Asda website to confront this issue. Apparently I can phone on Saturday’s (sic) or Sunday’s (sic) at certain times. I had to have a sit-down. I was feeling sick.

Letter to the i newspaper

Notice spotted in a branch of Oxfam: Would the person who took the ladder yesterday please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.



The Daily Telegraph has introduced a mood board to try to improve the morale of journalists. The board reads: “On our best days the Telegraph is...” and asks readers to fill in the rest. So far contributions include “published”, “tolerable” and “the toilets work.”

The Times

Job advert for a recruitment agency: “Ballet Island is seeking a flexible candidate for the post of general manager.”



The verger was on hand to support the vicar’s resolution to keep sermons down to not a second longer than 20 minutes

ONE-LINERS

The pick of Edinburgh Fringe 2017

I went to a Pretenders concert. It was a tribute act. *Tim Vine*

PC World ... you’ve got to watch what you say in there
Seymour Mace

I once took to the stage as Hamlet, which really annoyed the rest of the cast of Mamma Mia. *Thunderbards*

I like to think the guy who invented the umbrella was going to call it “brella”. But he hesitated!
Andy Field

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

I asked my three year old grandson James the name of his new baby brother, and he said: “He’s called Tiswun.” I replied: “I don’t think so. I think his name is Stuart.” James looked very serious, then added: “No, I know his name is Tiswun. When we got out of the car Mummy said to Daddy — ‘You take James and I’ll take Tiswun.’”

Letter to the Daily Mail

WISE

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow

WORDS

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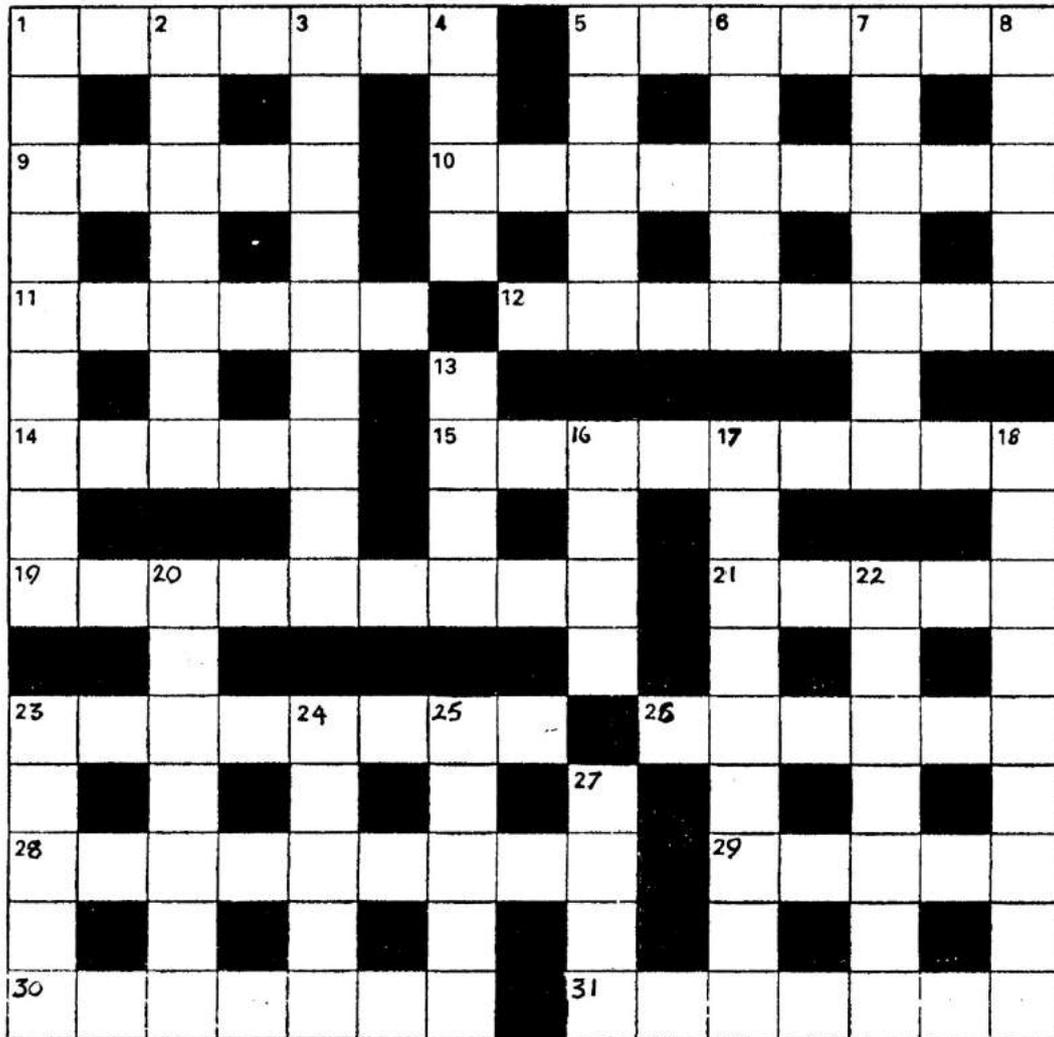
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A Crossword of Hidden Contact People



CLUES ACROSS

1 Sorrowful sound for St Peter (7) *5 Bossman (7) 9 Necessities (5) 10 Surprise (9) *11 Trinity Players Director (6) 12 Copies (8) *14 Associated with 5 across (5) 15 The robin's nickname (9) 18 Garden snippers (9) *21 Trinity Ladies Chairperson (5) 25 Rummaged (8) *26 Lay Chaplains Leader (6) 28 Hypersensitive reactions (9) 29 Stay (5) 30 Holds off (7) 31 Choral pieces of music (7)

CLUES DOWN

1 Victories (9) 2 Belabour (7) 3 Out of cash (9) 4 Happy (4) 5 Biblical song (5) 6 Washington bird sound (5) 7 Inactivity (7) 8 Flying toys (5) 13 Pakistani language (4) 16 From which we come (4) 17 Unwanted (9) 18 Youths (9) *20 Bell-ringers Captain (7) 22 Flying company (7) 23 One step (5) *24 Stewardship Officer (5) 25 Doors (5) 27 Continent (4)

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Saturday 21st October

10am—12 Noon

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Novel Theology

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months is as follows

~

October 5th—The Essex Serpent—Sarah Perry

November 2nd—The Seven Sisters—Margaret

Drabble

~

For more information contact

Anthony Woollard

01789 204923

Trinity Players

Invite you to another

Saturday Live in the Lounge

28th October 2017 at 7.30pm Parish Centre Lounge

One of our occasional evenings when you can relax with friends
over a glass of wine. And listen to words, music and song
performed by the Players.

Join us and add your own contribution



SOLUTION TO HIDDEN CONTACTS CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Crowing 5 Patrick 9 Needs 10 Amazement 11 Ursula 12 Imitates 14 Steve 15
Redbreast 20 Secateurs 21 Diane 25 Searched 26 Andrea 28 Allergies 29 Abide 30 Resists
31 Anthems

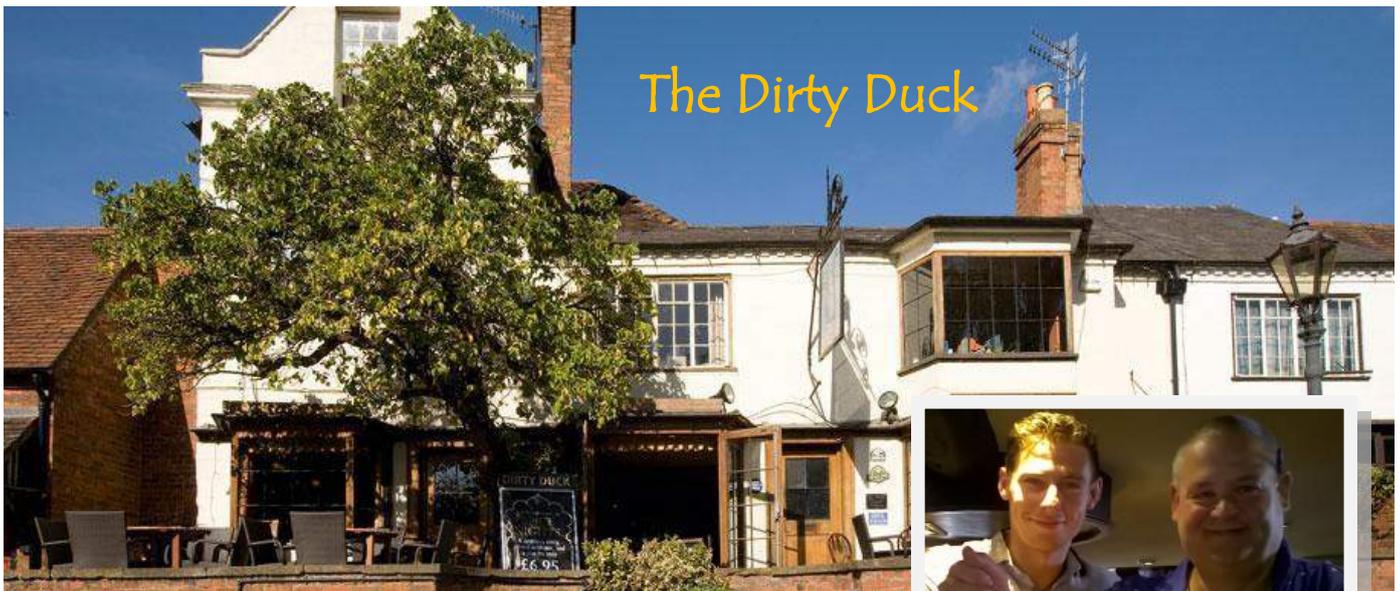
DOWN 1 Conquests 2 Overuse 3 Insolvent 4 Glad 5 Psalm 6 Tweet 7 Inertia 8 Kites 13 Urdu
16 Dust 17 Redundant 18 Teenagers 20 Charles 22 Airline 23 Stair 24 Chris 25 Exits 27 Asia

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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	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 266316
Curate	The Revd Kay Dyer	01789 266316
Reader	Mike Milburn	01789 262264
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	01789 266316



Director of Music—Benedict Wilson 01789 266316

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Neville Beamer 01789 263435	The Revd Diane Patterson 01789 266453
The Revd Margaret Sweet 01789 297395	The Revd Jenny Rowland 01789 415548
The Revd Canon John Graty 01789 298856	The Revd Graham Wilcox, 01789 551759
The Revd John Hall-Matthews 01789 414182	The Revd. Canon Andrew Dow 01789 417852

Head Verger: Paul Harris 01789 266316; ***Vergers:*** David White, Sarah Moore, Joanna Pinnington

Parish Secretaries - Sue Holt; Helen Holland 01789 266316

Bookkeeper - Wendy Steinheimer - 266316

Gift Shop - Heather White - 01789 264598

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 - Phil Harper 01789 266316

Bell Ringers - Charles Wilson - 01789 295467

Bereavement Support Team Gina Lodge

01789 204850

Safeguarding Officer Lynne Bunker

01789 298928

Trinity Ladies - Revd Diane Patterson 01789 266453

Electoral Roll Officer Tim Raistrick

01789 509885

Friends of Shakespeare's Church—Ronnie Mulryne 01789 205774

Holy Trinity in the Community Steve Jarvis

01789 266316

Lay Chaplains & Parish Prayer Diary

Andrea Blood 01789 266825

PCC Secretary

Miriam Dow

01789 417852

PCC Treasurer

Anthony Woollard

01789 204923

Friends of the Music Rohan Stewart-MacDonald

07876 798654

Home Communion Steve Jarvis

01789 266316

Stewardship Officer Chris Kennedy

01789 299785

Trinity Players Ursula Russell

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