

FEBRUARY

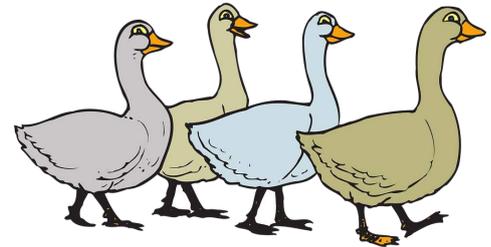
TRINITY TIMES

2018

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THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



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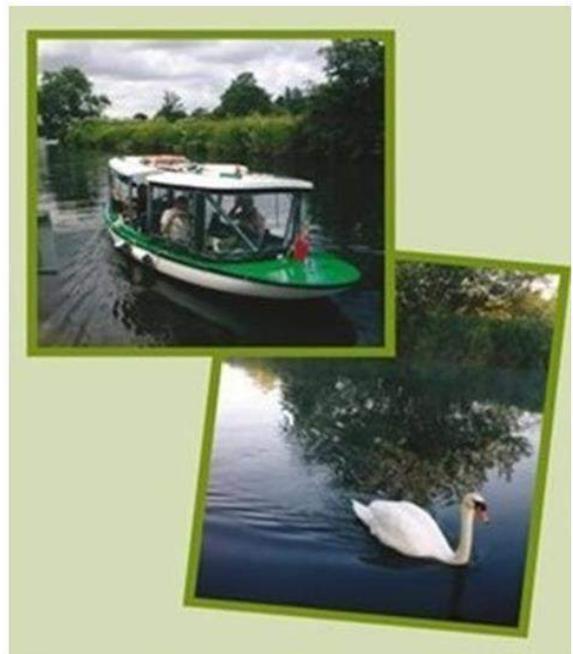
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM LODGE

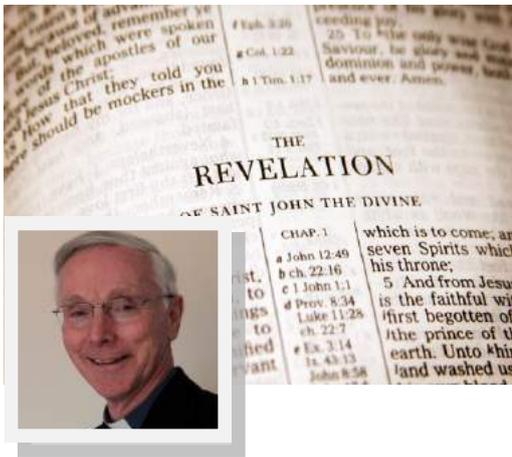
A Haven for Theatre Lovers
Artists & Writers
Holy Trinity Church
(Where Shakespeare is Buried)
RSC Theatres
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Steve Writes...



“ I tell you there is another and greater world outside...”

As we approach the season of Lent, we are once again presented with that period of entering, with Christ, into the Wilderness. The practices of fasting and the seeming austerity of Lent can be an opportunity to reflect on those things in our everyday lives that hold us back from fully embracing God's sacrificial love for us, and our ability to radiate the Good News of Jesus Christ out into the world.

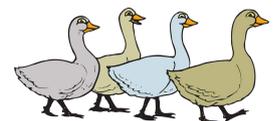
Yet, this opportunity isn't just an individualistic pursuit. As a Parish, we also have the opportunity as church congregations, to engage in reflection as to what God is calling us to do, and what might be holding us back in stepping up to that call. What might we need to let go of, or allow the Spirit to challenge and change, in order to be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ in Stratford-upon-Avon, Luddington and Clifford Chambers? Are we prepared to take those first steps into the wilderness and embrace the riskiness of following Christ in growing the Kingdom? Or do we just wish to stay within an established comfort zone that is easily within our control?



As we stand on the cusp of journeying with Jesus to the Cross, I offer a reflection from Søren Kierkegaard which illustrates the challenge that we face as we seek to grow the Kingdom.

"A certain flock of geese lived together in a barnyard with high walls around it. Because the corn was good, and the barnyard was secure, these geese would never take a risk. One day a philosopher goose came among them. He was a very good philosopher and every week they listened quietly and attentively to his learned discourses. 'My fellow travellers on the way of life,' he would say, 'can you seriously imagine that this barnyard, with great high walls around it, is all there is to existence? I tell you, there is another and a greater world outside, a world of which we are only dimly

aware. Our forefathers knew of this outside world. For did they not stretch their wings and fly across the trackless wastes of desert and ocean, of green valley and wooded hill? But alas, here we remain in this barnyard, our wings folded and tucked into our sides, as we are content to puddle in the mud, never lifting our eyes to the heavens which should be our home.



The geese thought this was very fine lecturing. 'How poetical,' they thought. 'How profoundly existential. What a flawless summary of the mystery of existence.' Often the philosopher spoke of the advantages of flight, calling on the geese to be what they were. After all, they had wings, he pointed out. What were wings for, but to fly with? Often he reflected on the beauty and the wonder of life outside the barnyard, and the freedom of the skies. And every week the geese were uplifted, inspired, moved by the philosopher's message. They hung on his every word. They devoted hours, weeks, months to a thoroughgoing analysis and critical evaluation of his doctrines. They produced learned treatises on the ethical and spiritual implications of flight. All this they did. But one thing they never did. They did not fly! For the corn was good, and the barnyard was secure."

As a parish, we have the wings. Are we prepared to take the risk to use them, and to fly?



Steve



Doreen Lees



Our dear friend Doreen Lees died on Thursday 11th January at Warwick Hospital, aged 96. She is, and will be, sorely missed by everyone at Holy Trinity and by many more throughout the town. She was twice Mayoress of Stratford-upon-Avon, with Geoffrey, and for many years was, again with Geoffrey, responsible for the subscription and distribution of *Trinity Times*.

Everyone at *Trinity Times* would like to express their heart felt love and condolences to Geoffrey and his family.

There will be a full appreciation of Doreen's life in the March edition of *Trinity Times*.

Steve & Hilary Newman
Editor & Assistant Editor

SUNDAY SERVICES

IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY February 4th Holy Trinity *The 2nd Sunday Before Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist —with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Centre-GoodNews@10—Talk Phil Harper

6.00pm Holy Trinity Choral—with Revd Steve Jarvis

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am Family Worship —Revd Kay Dyer

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am HC BCP—Preacher Revd Canon John Graty

SUNDAY February 11th Holy Trinity *The Sunday Next Before Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Eucharist —Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

10.00am Parish Centre FAB— with Phil Harper

6.00pm Holy Trinity Congregational Evensong—with Revd Kay Dyer

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am H C—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

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

SUNDAY February 18th Holy Trinity *The 1st Sunday of Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

10.00am Parish Centre FAB—with Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am HT@ Rosebird—with Revd Steve Jarvis

6.00pm Holy Trinity—**Open to God**

St. Helen's Clifford Chambers 9.15am—with Revd Graham Wilcox

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am—with Revd Jenny Rowland

SUNDAY February 25th Holy Trinity *The 2nd Sunday of Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion—with Revd Kay Dyer

10.00am Food4thought—with Revd kay Dyer

10.00am Parish Centre FAB—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

6.00pm Holy Trinity—HC BCP & Compline—with Revd. Patrick Taylor

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

All Saints' Luddington 9.15am—with Revd. Steve Jarvis



Patrick's Worship Notes For February...



Lent begins relatively early this year. It's a good opportunity to focus on our spiritual practices (e.g. your pattern of prayer, worship and bible study) and consider what needs more attention in our walk with God, so that we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each Thursday evening, in the weeks following Ash Wednesday, there is a service either of Holy Communion or Stations of the Cross, at 7.30pm. Why not make attending part of your discipleship through Lent this year? You are also welcome to join the Lent Course offered by Churches Together in Stratford and led by Andrew Dow (See page 30).

Ash Wednesday 14th February

We receive the sign of the Cross in ash as a reminder of our dependence on God's Grace and the need for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Said Eucharist at the Guild Chapel at 10.00am
Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity 7.30pm

Holy Communion during Lent at Holy Trinity
Thursdays at 7.30pm 22nd February & the 1st and 15th of
March

Stations of the Cross - 8th and 22nd of March

Stations of the Cross is a very special and reflective service in which we consider the relevance to us of each stage in the experience of Jesus from being condemned to death to being laid in the tomb. If you've never been before, why not try it this year?

Our Prayer Ministry Team

Offers personal prayer for anyone who asks for it (either for yourself or someone known to you) every Sunday during the distribution of Communion at the 10.00am Parish Eucharist, in St. Peter's Chapel, or in the Beckett Chapel when it's Food4thought on 25th February.



Over 2,700 Attended Christmas Services at Holy Trinity

Christmas may seem well and truly behind us now, but I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make sure all our Christmas services went so well. We welcomed over 2,700 people (2,509 adults, 198 Children) to our services across Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A wonderful achievement! The new service pattern seemed to work well, with space for everyone at the 3pm Lessons and Carols, (overcrowding at this service was one of the main reasons for the change). Special thanks to our Vergers, Church Wardens, Sidespeople and of course the Choir, Organists and Director of Music. Thanks be to God!

Welcome to our new Operations Manager



Andy Winter joined us at the start of January, having worked previously as Chief Executive of Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA. Andy's role includes responsibility for the paid staff in the church, shop and Parish Centre as well as the many operational aspects of the parish. It's great to have him on the team and he will be formally commissioned for his new role at the Parish Eucharist on the 18th February. There will be an interview with Andy in the March issue of *Trinity Times*.

Photo: © Andy Winter



Holy Trinity
also welcomes a new
Assistant Minister
The Venerable Brian Russell.
We wish Brian and his wife Pam
all happiness.

Patrick



A Personal Tribute to Rohan Stewart-MacDonald

Jane Hornby

In 2014, while I was Chairman of The Friends of the Music, I was aware that we had a new member of the Choir at Holy Trinity.

Having organised the travel and food arrangements for the Choir's visit to Chester Cathedral in the July, I found myself sitting next to Rohan's mother on the coach and it was through her that I met Rohan. As part of our church community, Rohan started to become a shining light in his own modest, quiet way. A gifted musician, his performances at Soundbites were superb.

When my five-year tenure at The Friends of the Music came to an end in January 2017, Rohan agreed to take over. We had many meetings before and after the AGM as he wanted to know what was involved down to the last detail. We still continued to meet in the following months and I shall miss his sense of humour, enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the task in hand. My last meeting with Rohan was held on the day before he died. He wanted to discuss the arrangements for the Friends' AGM and he told me about future concerts and Soundbites he had planned.

It amazed me that Rohan could perform at Soundbites, help serve the refreshments, and give a 'welcome' and a 'thank you' at the recital – a man of many gifts! I shall always remember that last meeting. I was very honoured to be asked to give the reading at Rohan's vigil service in the chancel just before his funeral. I hope the following words from that reading will give us all some comfort as we remember Rohan and his contribution to the music of Holy Trinity.

'let light shine out of darkness'.



On Saturday 20th January there was a very moving memorial service for Rohan Horace Stewart-MacDonald that included some lovely opening words by his mother Linn, some wonderful interludes by the choir, Leonard Cohen's poem 'The Dance to the End of Love', read by Tim Raistrick, and an emotional tribute by Rohan's Godmother, Marguerite Lawson Reid, part of which is printed below:

I first met Rohan shortly after his birth. It was also the first time that I met his mother Linn and his grandmother Isobel. I was introduced by a mutual friend. Rohan screamed during most of the evening, he suffered from colic, and at the time I little realised that this screaming baby would become such an important and significant person in my life.

As Linn has already mentioned, Rohan was surrounded by musical people. His father Ossie is a talented musician, who Rohan respected enormously. His grandmother Isobel, a key person in his life, trained as an opera singer. His grandfather Stewart, amongst other things, such as playing international bridge and being a keen member of an Hawaiian music group, taught piano. When Rohan was about two and a half, we can recall him standing outside his grandfather's music room saying 'He keeps getting it wrong, he keeps getting it wrong!', when one of Stewart's pupils was struggling with a piece of music. He was always an extraordinarily articulate child and I can remember a friend commenting on Rohan's third birthday, that he was sure Rohan would become a politician. As a small child, he loved going out for morning coffee and his Noddy books were incredibly special to him.

Soon however, the driving force became wanting to learn the piano and Stewart, his grandfather, began to teach him. When he was eight years of age, a music teacher at school suggested to Linn that she ask the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music at Cobham to assess his musical ability. He was immediately offered a place. But, he found it difficult to be away from home at such a young age and following a bout of glandular fever, Linn decided that it would be better if he returned home.

There followed a brief period when Rohan attended the Rudolph Steiner school in Gloucester, where they were living at the time. It was here that Rohan met his life-long friend Karl Durr-Sorenson who will play the clarinet at this memorial service. Karl's parents, Finn and Margaret, became close friends of the family and they too are here today. The boys' friendship at this relatively young age was incredibly important to them both and later when Rohan attended the Purcell School in Harrow, Karl joined him there. They always enjoyed performing together and more recently played duets at Linn's birthday party. It was a delight to see the way they communicated with each other during these duets.



A move to Stratford-upon-Avon when Rohan was nine years of age meant that further thought was given to his musical education. Isobel, approached James Walker, composer and musician, to ask if he would consider accepting Rohan as a pupil. After an interview in which, I believe, this nine-year old asked some searching questions, James Walker agreed to teach Rohan. This relationship was one of the most important in Rohan's life. James was a perfect role model at a time when Rohan needed this, and his encouragement and belief in his pupil's musical ability helped Rohan to develop into the musician that he became. Jo Walker, James's widow is here today.

During this time Isobel home-schooled Rohan and he always appreciated that he was given the opportunity to focus on his first love, music. However, he subsequently accepted a place at the Purcell School of Music in Harrow. I remember attending some wonderful concerts with my late husband, John. Rohan made a splendid and somewhat unforgettable Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* and thoroughly enjoyed playing in a trio with Claire and Ardie, whilst there. It was with enormous pleasure that he invited us to hear the trio play once again, whilst he was at Cambridge.

Rohan's love of learning, encouraged by his mother, grandmother, father and stepmother Judy, meant that he obtained a place at Cambridge and a choral scholarship with what appeared to be incredible ease. He remained there for seventeen years teaching under-graduates and post-graduates. His doctoral research, entitled *Towards a New Ontology of Musical Classicism*, led to his first book, the first of many, *New Perspectives on the Keyboard, Sonatas of Muzio Clementi*. Linn's great friends, Lol and Angela kindly sponsored Rohan's PhD and they too are here today. Rohan is recognised as a respected academic in fields such as 18th and 19th century British music, both in this country and abroad. Over the years he developed a stimulating relationship with his Italian music colleagues and was regularly asked to present at conferences there.

Rohan was my beloved Godson, but not in the traditional sense. He decided when he was about twelve years of age that he wanted to adopt me as his Godmother. I always tried to listen, advise and encourage him at every stage in his life. He rewarded me in so many ways. He always remembered special occasions, sent postcards from the many conferences and choir tours that he took part in and often wrote letting me know what he was doing and what plans he had. Thank you notes were written in his meticulous style and there were several Cambridge dinners to which we were invited. More recently he arranged the music for my late husband's funeral and played Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C minor, Opus 13, the Pathétique.

It is with a feeling of disbelief that I stand here today. Many of us will never fully recover from Rohan's shocking and untimely death. This is a tragedy that should not have happened. But Rohan was named after the Riders of Rohan from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, a book his mother Linn found inspirational. The Riders of Rohan were men who fought for the forces of good, against the forces of evil. Rohan would now want us to be strong, to use our talents creatively and to continue to love and enjoy music in his memory.



**Marguerite's address was followed by a new poem written
and read by**

Ronnie Mulryne

Rohan at the Keyboard

Crescendo, decrescendo
The flow and ebb
Of rich-veined sound
Colonises nave and chancel,
Soars through the vast roof vault,
Curls around the organ case
And settles satisfied upon
The great cross-sanctified high altar.

The figure at the keyboard
Tenses and relaxes
Attuned to sound
That pulses effortlessly from
Fingers educated by a thousand
Hours of quest,
To release accustomed harmony
From stave-bound durance
To freedom in attentive ears.

Archbishop John de Stratford listens from his shrine
Where Thomas Becket deputises;
The empty Lord Mayor's tomb seems once more
Tenanted, while sibling Cloptons briefly cease their
Childish babble to absorb the pianistic harmony;
E'en William Shakespeare, aloof within his altar rails,
Hearkens from distant monument and nods
Muttering 'the man that hath no music in himself ...'
Drumming idle fingers on a pendent cushion.



The figure at the keyboard turns his gaze within,
Lost in encompassing cadenza —
As recently he walked in harmless Stratford
Unconscious of time-signature or coda —
Until a *new* reality dawned
And *new* and richer music burst upon him,
Celestial harmony that flooded senses
Now tuned to hear a
Resurrection unison.



After Ronnie's Poem

The Revd Patrick Taylor

addressed the Congregation



On Wednesday evening, Rohan's coffin was brought into this church and laid to rest overnight in the chancel.

At the start of that short but moving funeral vigil service the Chamber Choir sang music by Purcell, from his setting of the Funeral Sentences "Thou knowest, Lord the secrets of our hearts".

Only God can know what was on Rohan's heart and what his thoughts were in the moments before his death. But God also knows what's on our hearts as we come to this service today: our shock and disbelief at losing someone so special, the questions - the why? the how? our guilt, perhaps also our frustration, plans for the future which will no longer come to fruition, lost opportunities, wasted talent.

Another of the funeral sentences Purcell set to music begins: "In the midst of life, we are in death".

It reminds me of the opening line of the Cole Porter song, performed most famously by Ella Fitzgerald:

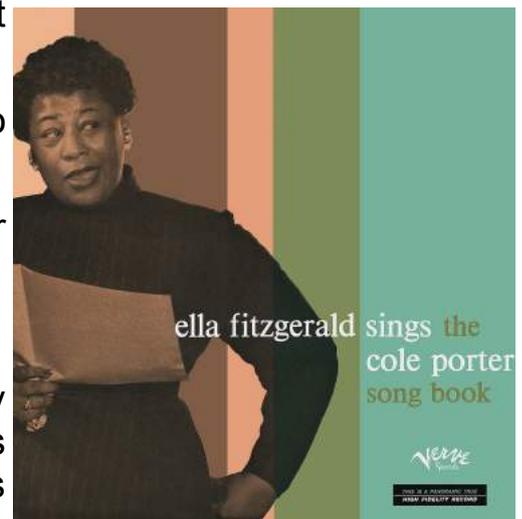
'Every time we say goodbye, I die a little'.

Whenever we do or say something that takes away from someone else, or hurts them; whenever hurt is done to us, we all die a little. Losing Rohan means that all our lives have had something taken away from them.

Our culture today tries very hard to ignore, or cover up, the fact that from a relatively young age our bodies are on a journey of gradual atrophy towards our own death: for example, it's when we're in our twenties that we begin to lose brain cells.

But to acknowledge that death is present in the midst of life, doesn't mean that life is meaningless or futile.

Cole Porter may have cleverly incorporated a change of key in his song to accompany the words: "how strange the change from major to minor", but our lives do not have to be understood in terms of an inevitable shift from the bright major key of life lived to the full, to a sad minor of emptiness of death.



We may die a little when we are hurt or betrayed, but whenever there is forgiveness or reconciliation death is transformed into a richer experience of life. Whenever we love or know ourselves to be loved we live a little, a little more, a little more richly.

Like Ella Fitzgerald, who can hear a lark somewhere begin to sing, because there's an air of spring about the promise of new life.

Of course death can never be undone, no matter how much we recall and give thanks for Rohan, no matter how much we try to live a little, he will not be with us again in this life in the same way.

Following the death of Jesus, the resurrection wasn't a case of turning the clock back to things being how they were before Good Friday. What happened was that the power of love transformed death. So there was new life, new hope, seen in Jesus who still carried the scars of what had gone before. Many of us will carry our own scars of what we've been through since hearing the news of Rohan's death.

Yet the invitation to new life is here, today, represented by our Easter candle.

That's why St. Paul wrote, as we heard just now, *'We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.'*

**Every time we show compassion, we live a little;
every time we are kind and gentle,
we live a little bit more.
every time we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ
and respond by receiving
the bread and wine of Holy Communion,
as Rohan did every week in this church,
we live a little;
every time we love,
we live a little bit more
as we were created to do.
And every time we make music
whether to praise our creator or give pleasure to others,
we shall live a little more fully,
and honour Rohan's legacy and memory.**

**So thanks be to God for Rohan.
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.**

Amen



**Just before Kathryn Ellis's beautiful rendition of
Schubert's**

Du bist die Ruh

(‘You are rest and peace)

**Holy Trinity's Director of Music Benedict Wilson
said ‘a few words’ that we reprint below, words that
sum up Rohan so wonderfully well...**

It was a blazingly hot day in Lincoln in summer 2015 and almost all those singing as part of Holy Trinity Choir's residency over the weekend were dressed appropriately: t-shirts and shorts. To get to the Cathedral from the train station, you might have to walk up Steep Hill; I am sure you will not be surprised to hear that Steep Hill is indeed steep. A 14% gradient in fact. Towards the top of the hill, out of the extraordinarily sunny haze appeared someone who, at first glance, seemed to have come directly from 1920s Egypt having just explored the Valley of the Kings. Complete with a linen three-piece suit, a matching trilby hat and a shirt with detachable collar, I was half expecting this gentleman to pull out of his leather bag various ancient artefacts that he had recently discovered. But no, he continued to march (or to the rest of us sprint, for this was his customary optimal walking speed) to the top of the hill with absolutely no need even to catch his breath. He extracted from his case not objects from antiquity, but instead a well-laminated and weather-proof tour pack, with every other word highlighted in a multitude of inks: only the person responsible for this creation would be able to decipher its enigmatic, complex, yet vividly colourful, meaning.

I know each of us here has at least one story about Rohan that, upon reflection, always brings a smile to our face. Since Rohan moved back to Stratford in 2014, I have had the absolute privilege of working closely with him, and, as a result, have even more funny stories to share. I also had the immense good fortune of being supervised by Rohan at university – no task was ever too big for Rohan to assist with; a trait he carried to Stratford, and I have no doubt he brought to all the various facets of his life. At university, I particularly remember that he was my only supervisor in my first year who offered tea and biscuits; and he was also the only supervisor to whom you could say something such as ‘I love the way William Byrd uses jazz harmony in his choral anthems’ and be met not with a reply such as ‘what a stupid suggestion, you silly boy’, but rather ‘well, that's a very unusual and interesting perception’ (I apologise for the accent...). With the combination of both biscuits and being made to feel that you weren't stupid, you could never not have a smile on your face in Rohan's presence – he put you at ease, and, in short, made you feel happy.



For nothing was ever too great for Rohan: his help in arranging the residency to Manchester Cathedral only last summer and the choir's forthcoming tour to Holland – I've never met anyone who's as adept at spreadsheets as Rohan; all the incredible work he did for the Friends of the Music, both before and after he became Chairman; his invaluable support and encouragement in recruiting and subsequently training new trebles; his amazing flexibility at singing any part on request (though not necessarily singing them all at the same time); and his regular performing as a soloist and accompanist, always demonstrating his incredible and virtuosic talent in the most unpretentious and understated of ways. And all this describes simply the tip of the iceberg of what Rohan did at just Holy Trinity; not to mention everything he did for Stratford Chamber Choir, and the countless organisations with which he was involved in the UK and beyond. And how could I fail to mention Rohan's cracking companionship: again, you simply had no choice but to smile when Rohan was with you.

Some of the music chosen for today's service you might at first think as rather odd and even inappropriate. The Polish Dances that my sister and I played at the start were definitely not destined for airing at sombre occasions: but they were most fitting for 70th birthday parties when slightly too many bottles of wine had been drunk by everyone present. Rohan played the lower part, and being the ever-accommodating sport, still let me persuade him that I should do the pedalling, despite this role in most circumstances going to the bottom player. But I hope, notwithstanding the early hour in the morning, that everyone in our dedicated yet modest audience had a smile on their faces – Rohan and I certainly did!

And I hope the remaining music in this afternoon's service will also bring a smile to your faces, as you remember those occasions you spent with Rohan. Whether it's a smile of joy, amusement, or even a sad smile of sorrow (to coin a Rohanism, that would be a smorgasbord of smiles) every musical item has been chosen that we in Stratford have shared with Rohan in some way or another. Music ran through Rohan's veins (well, I suppose to be accurate, a mixture of music and 17th-century surgical procedures...). But despite Rohan's enormously vast knowledge of composers' dates, repertoire, musical genres and theories, and not to mention his own stunning ability as a keyboard player, Rohan still took immeasurable pleasure when performing in whatever capacity, no matter how big or small his part was, in bringing a smile to the faces of those also taking part or listening. For that was one of Rohan's most special and unique gifts - bringing a smile and joy to everyone.

Rohan Horace Stewart-MacDonald 1975—2017





Phil Writes... "Trois French Hens..."

Before looking ahead to the exciting things coming up, I'd like to begin by looking back. Thank you to everyone who braved the snow and came to our Christingle Service in mid-December. On the Sunday morning, as the snow fell, we were considering cancelling the service, but thankfully we didn't. We trusted in the Stratfordians resilience and weren't disappointed, it also meant I wasn't left with 130 unused Christingles! My Mum had offered me the recipe for Christingle marmalade in case no-one came. If you didn't manage to make it to the service, put

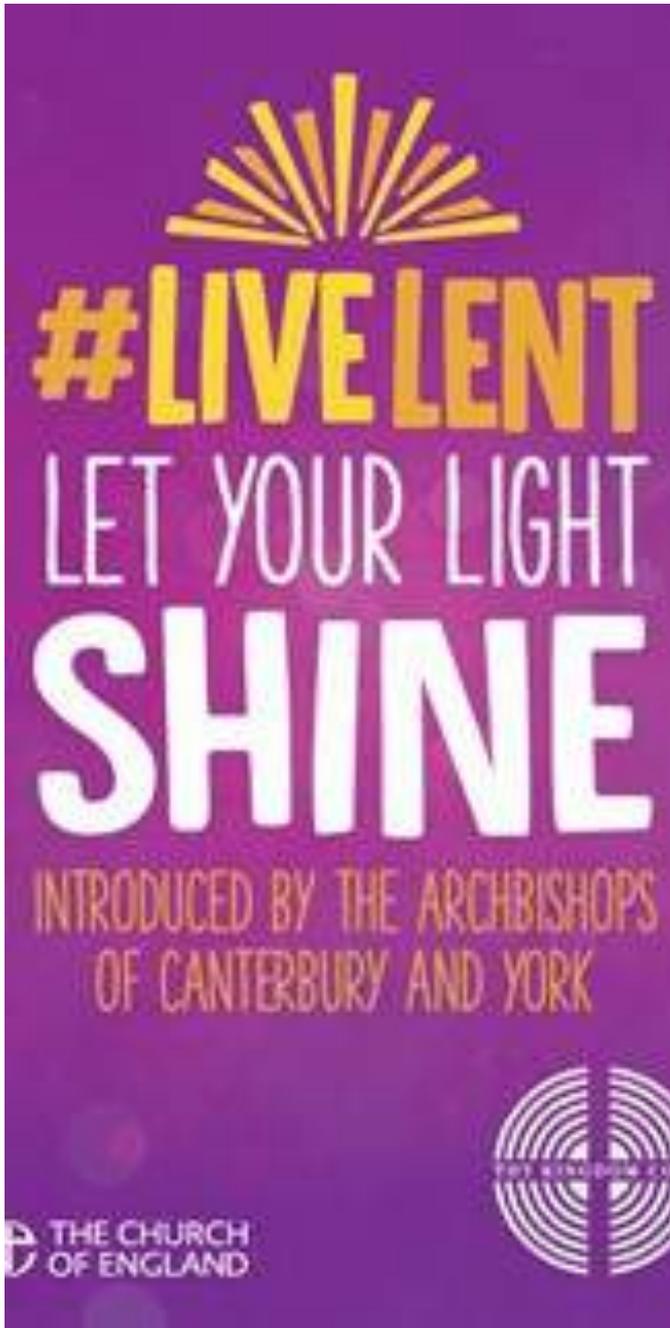


the date in your brand-new diary, for this years Christingle—**Sun 9th Dec at 4pm.** It was amazing to see Holy Trinity lit only by the candles that the children were holding, and there was a very special feeling to it all. As an added bonus, at the service we raised £298.90 for the Children Society and have since raised an additional £58 through the returned collection candles. (It's still not too late to return your collection candle to the Church Office). Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

Over the Christmas period, it was great to welcome so many people to Holy Trinity church. We had lots of fun at the Big Nativity, retelling the Christmas story with children dressed as different characters processing around the church, although we were lacking a Joseph, but we did have a very brave reindeer stand in. We also used the crib figures to build up the nativity scene at the front. I am currently sourcing an angel to add to our crib scene, so hopefully I won't be caught out again this year when going to add the angel to the Crib scene and discovering we didn't have one. On Christmas Day morning it was wonderful to worship together as one Church family, united on a very special day. My Porg is still in pride of place at home, even if my Star Wars Christmas Tree is now down. If you're wondering what I'm on about, visit our church Facebook page and search for "Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon".

Our Christmas celebrations continued into the New Year with our Epiphany Party. A truly All Age event and the rendition of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* with each table having a particular day to mime and sing will stay with me for a long time, especially those poor "Geese a-laying" and the "Trois French Hens". If you missed it this year, hopefully we'll have another Epiphany Party next year.

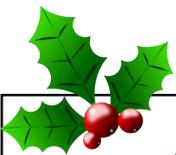




As always the Church quickly moves from Christmas to Lent. The Church of England has put together a resource for Advent and beyond called **#GodWithUs**, offering reflections by email, text or through a booklet you can buy. They are also doing something similar for Lent called **#LiveLent – Let your light shine**. For each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day there is a short reading, a pause for reflection and prayer, and an idea for a simple action that will enable the light of Jesus to shine through our everyday lives. There is a booklet with all the reflections in and it's available from our Church Shop. Or, if you prefer, you can receive the daily reflections by texting Lent to 88802 or following The Church of England on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, where they will be posted daily.

We are planning to prepare our third group of children to receive Communion before Confirmation, or First Communion. It's for children aged about 7 years and upwards and once they have been admitted they can begin to receive the bread and wine during Communion. If you think that your child may be interested in taking part, please contact me (phil@stratford-upon-avon.org) or just have a word with me.

Phil



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The total amount collected from the Christmas Card Amnesty, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services was **£7,038.00**.

Each of the three nominated charities—the British Red Cross, Bar Ephraim School, and St Basil's— has received a third of this amount.

Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

The Holy Trinity in the Community Team

scan

SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK



Are you looking forward to a long and healthy retirement? Have you been retired for some time? Do you think about your future health, housing and finances?

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.

Below is the programme of meetings for the next six months, which shows the diversity of topics and information

Monday 5 February – Annual General Meeting followed by Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service talking about fire safety in the home.

Monday 9 April – Home Environment Assessment & Response Team

Monday 8 May – Stratford Neighbourhood Plan – what does this really mean for Stratford Town?

Monday 6 August – How to keep a healthy heart and spot the signs of heart problems.

For more information on SCAN please contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 or email marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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WHO WAS SAINT VALENTINE?



Judith Dorricott

As a romantic teenager, I remember visiting the grave of St Valentine in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, on the Via Flaminia in Rome. But recently, in Dublin, I came across Whitefriars Street Church, where his remains are also reputed to be kept. Later, on checking up, I found that in the 18th century the Pope had bequeathed St. Valentine's body to King Carlos IV of Spain where his remains are kept in St Anton's Church in Madrid!



So where is St Valentine really buried?

And who exactly was St. Valentine?

The origins of our popular saint are shrouded in mystery. There is some historical evidence that St Valentine was a Christian martyr, who defied the orders of the Emperor Claudius in about 270 AD, by marrying many young couples so that the new husband could not be enlisted to fight in a war.

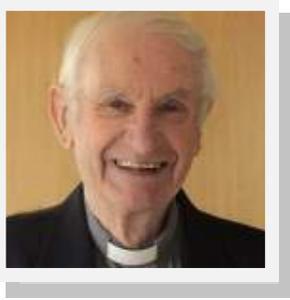
There is another school of thought that maintains Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, born in 226 AD, who refused to bow or pray to pagan gods and who was murdered in Rome for his Christian beliefs in February 273 AD.

However in Roman times, February was always associated with romance and marriage, and some believe that the tradition of Lupercalia, the Roman festival of love always celebrated in mid-February, has been carried on throughout the centuries, but simply given a Christian name.

We may never know where St Valentine is really buried, but it was not unusual for saints' bones to be exhumed from the catacombs, and relics offered to other churches as gifts - so his remains may be distributed among several churches across Europe.

The one fact we are sure of is that 14th February is Valentine's Day! Nowadays this festival is celebrated around the world, and millions of cards and flowers (particularly roses) are exchanged. Roses and birds are among the attributes of St. Valentine, and his patronage has always covered love and marriage. Surprisingly enough St. Valentine is also the patron saint of bee-keepers!

Judith



SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS



Revd. David Ellis

A Miracle From Small Beginnings

The Bible has many stories about little things like the mustard seed growing into big things. Jesus draws parables from nature and the world to illustrate the amazing unseen growth of his Kingdom.

Not so long ago children with learning difficulties were regarded in traditional Chinese culture as being under evil influence and for shame were kept hidden. When we arrived in Hong Kong in 1965 there was no provision whatsoever for them. Then something happened. An 'Association for Mentally Handicapped Children' (as it was then called) was formed and a certain Mrs Hill started a small group for European children. Every morning the children would greet Mrs Hill in their sing-song fashion, 'Good morning, Mrs Hill!' Thus the school soon acquired the name of 'Morning Hill'.

Could something similar be done for Chinese children? Who would provide suitable accommodation? 'Not in my back yard', was the cry, but as our own Christ Church hall was free in the afternoons, it was offered and a young teacher from the Morning Hill School volunteered to start a new branch for just three children – a small beginning indeed! My wife, Barbara, with experience of teaching juniors, but lacking Cantonese, offered to help. The children chosen for this pilot scheme were aged between ten and twelve years but had a learning age of two to five years.

Barbara who, incidentally, is now a helper with Trinity Tots, writes as follows: "There were two girls, Gee-ay and Youmen, and one boy, Gingay. Youmen was epileptic and came with her mother because she suffered from occasional fits. She knew when one was coming and would lie down on the floor until it was over. Desks and a blackboard were widely spread so that the children had plenty of space. It was a heartening experience. Julie, our little daughter, came with me and played her part. I managed to communicate with the children through gestures and the few appropriate words which I learnt. Miss Chan provided colourful objects and pictures in Chinese art - mother figures dressed in cheongsams, jet-haired children in pyjama suits, dogs and other animals labelled with simple Chinese characters. Their concentration was quite limited but tasks, like matching coloured squares and grouping cards together, could be quickly done.



“Gingay was a sociable and kind-hearted boy and would play quite happily with Julie. He would get into a muddle over counting objects or writing down numbers but excelled at doing simple jigsaws. Gee-ay was a shy, quiet little girl but the brightest of the three and she learnt to add up simple numbers and coped well with puzzles and writing simple Chinese characters. She was very affectionate and had flashes of liveliness when she would dash about with the sprightliness of an elf. Youmen was the most difficult to manage. It needed a great deal of persuasion to gain her co-operation. She was unable to work with other children and sometimes would wander off and refuse to come back to her task. She could count a little and could trace letters and numbers but was unable to copy them. Yet she had a great feeling for colour, shape and pattern and found satisfaction in arranging objects in a balanced design. As ‘Mrs Ellis’ was too difficult for them to pronounce they called me ‘Auntie’. Gee-ay and Gingay came from poor families, noticeable in their dress. Youmen’s parents however were comfortable enough to have an amah (servant).”

After we left, Revd Timothy Beaumont, a former Vicar of Christ Church, who had unexpectedly inherited enormous wealth and become Lord Beaumont of Whitley, donated a substantial amount to transform the little Morning Hill experiment into a permanent school in a new building alongside Christ Church. He named it ‘The Mary Rose School’ after his wife. By the time we returned to Hong Kong 27 years later to take temporary charge of Christ Church, the Mary Rose Christian School had moved to its own site and was doing remarkable work with 200 children of intellectual disadvantage, aged 5 to 16. David Ip, the head, remembering how Barbara had been in at the beginning, invited her to present the graduation certificates to students who were going on to worthwhile jobs. By then, to our astonishment, the Mary Rose School had been replicated all over Hong Kong with no less than 38 similar special schools. The stigma of intellectual disability had been completely banished! Acting as my interpreter Mr Ip invited me to address the school which I did with a full heart, marvelling at how the God-given gifts of compassion, faith, patience and generosity had achieved this quite remarkable transformation. Such is the way of the Kingdom. The part undoubtedly played by the Christian Church as the ‘yeast’ in Hong Kong’s development is truly a modern miracle.



PCC Report: Tuesday 22nd January 2018

Vision, Purpose and Strategy

The PCC was asked to reconsider the way values of Holy Trinity (currently Hospitality, Holiness and Humility) are expressed and new a 5 year strategy is proposed. A final decision has been delayed until the next PCC on 13 March, after members advised it needed further consideration.

The Reverend Patrick Taylor said he was excited about the direction Holy Trinity was heading but understood the need for reflection. "Think carefully about the proposed values and strategy over the next few weeks, and ask the congregation as well as people who don't attend church about what they think. Then please do feed in all suggestions to the Leadership Team to make sure we get this right."

Patrick reminded the PCC that we have agreed in future to connect the vision, budgeting and stewardship.

Other News in Brief

The new Christmas service pattern was hailed a great success with more than 2,700 people coming through the doors of Holy Trinity Church over Christmas - 198 of whom were children. There had also been over 1,000 hits on Facebook for the video of Lessons and Carols, while Children and Families Minister Phil Harper featured in The Mirror following the Christmas Day All Age Eucharist.

Anthony Woollard reported that he'd reached a balance on the 2017 accounts, but warned that we needed another £10,000 a year to maintain our current level of commitments.

The PCC approved the authorisation of repairs to the south gable at a cost of £81,000, with The Friends of Shakespeare's Church having pledged to make a significant contribution.

The services of Social Media and Communications professional Angela Barnard were secured, for 3-4 hours a week.

Both pro-wardens at St Helen's Clifford Chambers, Pauline Newbury and Ann Simons are standing down.

Operations Manager Andy Winter is now in post.

The Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral will journey to Holy Trinity's Church School, The Willows Church of England Primary. It's to celebrate 100 years of Coventry Diocese and an all age service is planned at Holy Trinity on Sunday 24 June to mark the occasion.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

Ruth Poulten

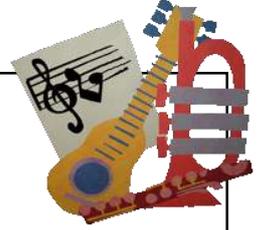


Josephine Walker is the new Chair of The Friends of the Music

We wish her every success

Soundbites for February

Wednesdays at 1.00pm Holy Trinity



- 7th—Fumi Otsuki (violin) and Alessandro Viale (Piano)
14th—Jonna Järvitalo (flute) and Ana Manastireunu (piano) (RCM)
21st—Lynn Arnold (piano)
28th—King Edward VI School: VI Form



Photo: John Burgess

There will be a full review of Trinity Players presentation of Lionel Bart's
Oliver!

In the March issue of *Trinity Times*

Bill Sikes



Mike Baker



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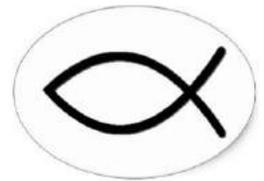
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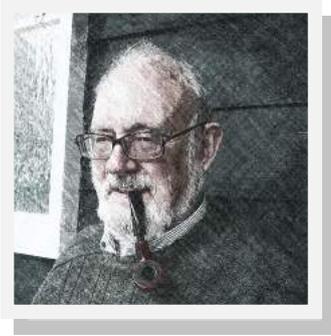
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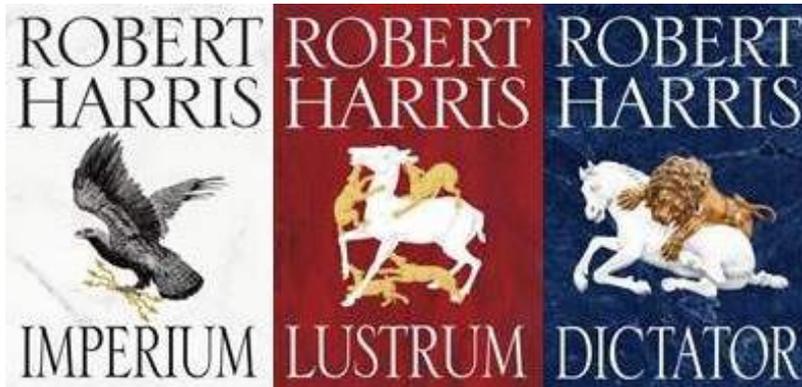
7 days a week - 8.00am to 9.00pm



Anthony Woollard's

Window on the World

“ Hope breaks through...”



We are now in the second stage of the RSC's "Roman" season. Following the great Shakespeare classics of *Julius Caesar* and the rest, the company has been engaged in the dramatisation of Robert Harris's "Cicero" novels, which show some of the same events from the point of view of a different historical personage and

of a modern author. Some of the themes come alive in a new way. The struggle between factions, the rabble-rousing of ordinary people against elites; how relevant to today it all seems. And there were in the autumn several TV programmes on Roman history which similarly illustrated that relevance. So far from being a martyr, Caesar comes across as the one who destroyed the Roman Republic, with its noble ideals as well as its cruelties, and cleared the way for his nephew Augustus to become the first leader of a great Empire. And what have the Romans done for us? Quite a lot, as we know, but their achievements were accompanied by terrible violence and corruption. Within the New Testament, that empire is seen sometimes as the guarantee of order (Romans 13) and sometimes as the Antichrist (Revelation). Without it, the Christian faith might not have spread as it did, but nor would it have suffered horrific persecution.

Our attitude towards government today may be similarly mixed, whether that is at local or national level or beyond (like the European Union). Perhaps, like Cicero, we long for the old ways and the old values, or perhaps, like Augustus, we want a newer, wider vision – and like both of them we may be blind to the darker sides of our choices and motivations. And the political sides which we choose may be similarly visionary and similarly blind.

And here we are, beginning 2018. The centenary of the Armistice which was supposed to "end all wars" and clearly did not. Another stage on the long road to our nation's post-Brexit future. How new will it all be? We have celebrated Christmas and now begin the run-up to Easter, both of them testimonies to the possibility of a "new creation". What can that mean in the here and now? What does it mean to open ourselves up to the possibility of "a new heaven and a new earth, wherein righteousness dwells", and how should this affect how we live in the present on this "old and weary earth"?





There are no simple answers to these questions, and any leader, religious or political, who offers such answers is a deceiver. Yet there are clues.

I have become addicted to the novels of Catherine Fox (the wife of a former cathedral dean who is now a bishop), and in particular her *Lindchester* trilogy based on the goings-on around an imaginary cathedral and diocese. All rather churchy, no doubt, for some tastes, but genuinely reflecting the messiness not just of individual lives but the life of a community in its wider social and political context. Throughout the trilogy, three words recur. For all its messes and muddles this is a community of *faith*, though that is sometimes not very obvious. At the most surprising times, in the most unlikely places, to the most improbable people, *hope* breaks through. And the very last word in the final book – the last word of a dying, faithful servant of the cathedral – is *Love*. And these three things are what we know, and Cicero and Augustus did not.

Anthony

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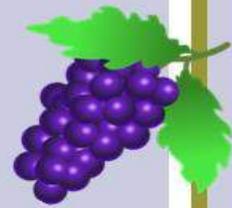
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Wines at Home



Click & Chatter

Why not come along with your knitting, or other handicrafts, and share a cuppa and a chat between 2.15pm and 3.45pm on the 3rd Friday of every month (except December) in the lounge of Holy Trinity Parish Centre.

For further information contact either

Felicity Howlett on 01789 507008

or Gillian Nunn on 01789 415830

SOLAR FARMS TO HELP TACKLE FUEL POVERTY

Judith Dorricott Interviews Tony Guy MBE



Solar farms were in the news in January. That's because Heart of England Community Energy bought three solar farms near Stratford and launched their fundraising events for investors, explaining the community benefits at the same time.

Many of us will have spotted the solar farms on the Alcester Road, on a site which was originally owned by DEFRA. Because the land is contaminated, it cannot be used for housing or agricultural purposes so investment in a solar panel project is the perfect answer.

There are currently nine solar farms on this site, covering an area of 200 acres. Heart of England Community Energy now owns three of the nine (whose size is equivalent to 50 football pitches)

and last year, these three solar farms produced enough electricity to power 4,500 local homes.

One of the local nine Boards of Directors is Tony Guy, known to many at Holy Trinity Church for his hard work organising the lighting, not only for Trinity Players but also for many church services and other events such as FAB. Tony is a Chartered Engineer with a background in the car industry, and worked for many years on prototypes of electric cars. He thinks he was ahead of his time in advocating electric cars several decades ago! So he is thrilled to be involved with this solar farm scheme, which he feels is the best way forward to supply our energy needs.

What is Community Energy, and how will it benefit our town?

Tony explained that it is collective action by ordinary people to buy and manage their own energy, and the society is looking for people to invest in this scheme. Local people are now able to buy shares, so that they can invest in and benefit from the generation of renewable energy. There is a guaranteed minimum price on the electricity generation for the next 20 years. The operation and management of the society both aim to maximise local involvement in the project, so that surplus profits can be invested back into the community, delivering social and environmental benefits.



What type of charities will be supported?

Tony and his fellow Directors are hoping to donate up to £2.7 million to local charities over 25 years, starting with the proposed amount of £30,000 each year. As the solar farms generate more profit, they will be able to increase their donations. The first project they intend to set up is to help local people who are on social benefits and who qualify as being in "fuel poverty". This means that, because of reduced financial circumstances, these families spend 10% or more of their income each month on energy costs. Heart of England Community Energy will be able to help them meet their bills.

Another project the Directors have in mind is to help local people who need to go in and out of hospital frequently. Many of these patients, who are often elderly, turn off all their heating when they are admitted to hospital and return to a cold, damp and unwelcoming home. Heart of England Community Energy aims to help them with their heating and insulation costs.

What happens if the sun doesn't shine on the solar panels?

Even with seasonal variations, solar output can generate electricity. On a cloudy day, the solar farms will still produce electricity - although not quite as much.

But aren't solar farms an eye-sore?

Solar farms are clean, noiseless and static, and can easily be hidden. There are no chimneys belching out smoke and no fertilisers or chemicals needed. Energy will always be needed, and solar farms are less of an eye-sore than coal mines, electricity pylons or nuclear power stations.



Why is Tony involved?

Tony is passionate about his involvement with the Heart of England Community Energy society, which will benefit local people. As well as working hard to promote the solar farm project, and giving much of his time to Holy Trinity Church, he has just completed 70 years in the Scouting Movement. He was awarded the MBE for his "Services to Scouting and Young People" in 2016, and he is still the Ambassador for Scouting in Warwickshire. Tony, at the age of 80, seems indefatigable!

If you would like more information about these solar farms, please go to www.mongoose.energy/HECE



Judith



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Stratford Churches Together 2018

Lent Course

Rev. Canon Andrew Dow

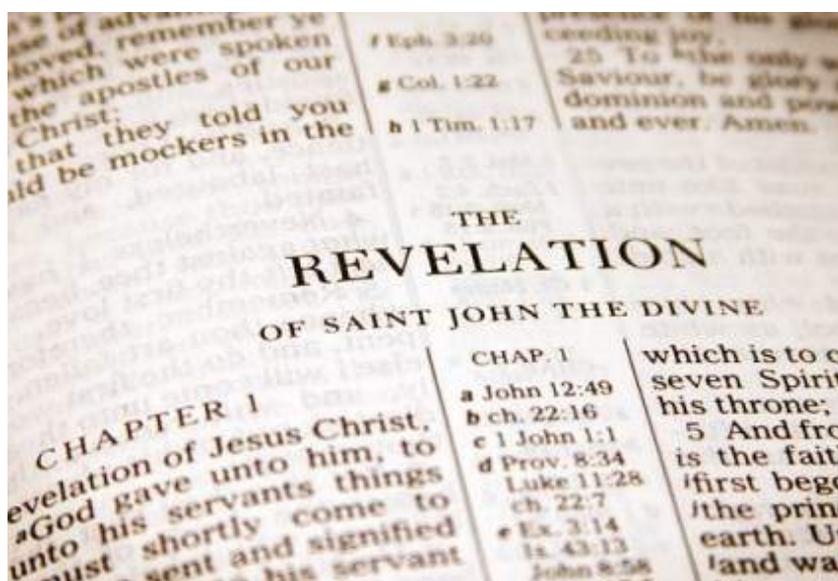


We are living in troubled times. The threat of international terrorism on our own doorstep, and nuclear conflict in the Far East; the rapid spread of internet fraud, and concern over the implications of Brexit; the current social and ethical revolution bewildering in its pace – these are just some of the issues raising the level of fear and insecurity in our nation. For Christians, the decline of the Church – falling numbers, and failure to reach the young – is only serving to boost the level of anxiety, and to raise many questions: is God really in control, or has he “lost the plot”? Will the forces of evil always have the upper hand, or can the course of history ever be steered to a just and equitable climax? And what of the Christian Church? Is it doomed for ever to cycles of escalating harassment, vilification, persecution, or mere marginalisation – together with the Christ it claims to represent? Or will Christ and his Church one day be publicly vindicated?

Pressing questions, and fortunately for Christians, there is one book in the Bible that was penned specifically to address them: the Book of Revelation. The last book of the Bible, and – because of its style – arguably the most difficult, its 22 chapters have often been widely misunderstood, misinterpreted, and even ridiculed; but as I hope to demonstrate, the book actually has a totally absorbing and completely coherent message of both hope and challenge, pertinent to any and every generation; as relevant now in the 21st century as it was when written in the 1st.

In just five sessions, we cannot hope to cover the whole book in detail, but we shall explore some of the major themes. We will try to unravel some of the classic “mysteries”: the meaning of the “144,000”; the identity of the Beast numbered 666; and the so-called “millennium” of chapter 20! Please don’t come expecting a

detailed prediction of how and when the world will end. That is **not** what Revelation is about! But do come expecting to be pulled up short by some of God’s solemn and repeated warnings, and inspired by his strategic promises. Come prepared to ask the question: “What is God saying to me this Lent through this very special book, and what might he be saying to our churches here in Stratford?”



The course, to be held at St Andrew's Shottery, runs for five consecutive Wednesdays, the 21st February – 21st March inclusive, beginning at 7.30pm. There will be a course fee of £10, to cover expenses and course materials. It is essential to book in, by contacting the administrator at St Andrew's, Margaret Spencer, 01789 293381 st.andrewschurch@btinternet.com

Four years ago, the Stratford Churches Together Lent Course crammed St Andrew's with more than 100 people from many different local churches – worshipping, and learning together from the Bible, united, was truly uplifting. Let's see if we can do the same in 2018, and thereby prepare ourselves for an Easter celebration, filled with new hope, of Christ's Passion and triumph!

Andrew

Karen Harrison *mcfhp mafhp*

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—HOWLERS!—

Compiled by Pat Pilton

A tiny wild rabbit was spotted hopping around the car deck of the 9am sailing from Southampton this morning, much to the amusement of passengers. Staff worked hard at catching the creature, finally scooping it up and keeping it in a catering department cardboard box. *Radio 4's News Quiz*

A former transplant chief told the *Sunday Times*: "I would opt out of organ donation. Part of me wants to help but part of me really objects."



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



Here rests Pancrazio Juvenales
1968 – 1993

He was a good husband, a wonderful father, but a bad electrician



Gustava Gumersinda Gutierrez Guzman
1934-1989

A memory from all your sons (except Ricardo who did not pay any money)

Thanks to Holy Trinity Crucifer Chris Cornford for spotting these tombstones featured in The Server, the magazine of The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

ONE-LINERS

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*

A man said he was going to hit me with his guitar's neck. I said, "Is that a fret?"

I'm very English really. I even ordered a book on the internet, 'how to have absolutely nothing to do with your neighbours'. Unfortunately I was out when it was delivered. *Milton Jones*

I gave a talk to a group of backpackers; they were on the edge of their seats. *Stewart Francis*

AND FINALLY...

"When my grandfather died he left a huge collection of antique clocks. It took years to wind up his estate." *BBC's Nick Owen joking on recent edition of Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.*



WISE Go the extra mile. It's never crowded
WORDS



From the December & January Registers...



Baptisms

31st December Findley Jameson Birch
Rowan Matthew Joseph Roper

14th January Esme Florence Frost Burley
28th January Harry Christopher Craig

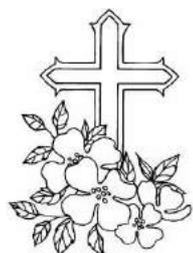
2nd December Michael Phillips and Heidi Hughes

27th January Thomas Herbert and Rebecca
Atkinson



Weddings

5th December Molly Briggs
5th December Marjorie Beadon (*Oakley Wood*)
13th December Nigel Kitchener (St Helen's, Clifford
Chambers)
14th December Anne Smith (*Oakley Wood*)
20th December Joseph Harris
21st December Mollie Whateley



Funerals

2nd January Sybil Anne Commander
15th January Gwendoline May Fraser (*Oakley Wood*)
18th January Rohan Stewart-MacDonald, followed by
a Memorial Service on 20th January
18th January Joyce Muriel Parrot (*Oakley Wood*)
22nd January John Gower Phillips
22nd January Mary Ellen Dean (*Oakley Wood*)
26th January Rita Matthews (*Oakley Wood*)
29th January A Memorial Service for Joan MacFarlane



Ann's Kitchen 'Fat Rascals'

An old Yorkshire Recipe especially for the
Homesick for Betty's Tea Rooms in York.



350g plain flour. 1 1/2 tsp baking powder. 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon. 100g unsalted butter, diced, plus extra for greasing. 100g caster sugar. 80g raisins. 50g sultanas. 50g diced candied peel. Grated zest of two lemons. 80mls soured cream. 1 egg 50mls milk.

To decorate. 1 egg lightly beaten. 8 glace cherries. 24 slivered almonds.

Sift the flour, baking powder and cinnamon into a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, raisins, sultanas, peel and lemon zest.

Lightly beat the soured cream, egg and milk together, add to the mixture and stir together to form a soft dough. Turn out on to a floured board and roll out to about 2cm thick. Cut into rounds about 8cm in diameter, re-rolling the trimmings as necessary.

Transfer to a greased baking sheet, spacing well apart, brush with beaten egg and then decorate each one with a cherry, halved, and three slivered almonds. Traditionally they are used to make a face, cherries for the eyes and the almonds for teeth.

Put the fat rascals in a pre-heated oven at 200C/180C fan/gas 6, bake for 15-18 minutes until golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool. Will keep for 2-3 days.

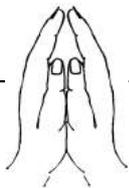
Ann

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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

Contacts: The Revd. Jenny Rowland 01789 415548

Tricia Hall-Matthews 01789 414182

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

JOIN FRIENDS AT THE

Trinity Coffee Stop

*For Coffee, tea, and maybe a naughty
slice of homemade cake!*



Saturday February 17th

10.00am—12 noon

Everyone Welcome



Trinity Ladies

Revd Diane Patterson

“ Women have made their own contribution to Stratford...”

We have begun our last two meetings on a very sombre note as we have lost three long-standing and much loved members of the Trinity Ladies group - before Christmas first Molly Whateley and then Gwen Fraser and in January Doreen Lees. We kept a silence for each and lit a candle and said a prayer and we also pray for Molly's sister Sheila, Gwen's sister Jill and Doreen's husband Geoffrey in their loss.

In December we had a lovely carol service led by Rev Steve Jarvis and then in January we welcomed Mairi MacDonald who came to talk to us about WOMEN OF STRATFORD. As Mairi pointed out, history has mostly been written by men about men but women have made their own contribution to Stratford and she told us the stories of several of them. She stopped short of telling the story of the woman who ran a brothel and the woman bigamist - but we hope she might be persuaded to come again one day to tell us the stories of some of the more infamous of our fellow townswomen!



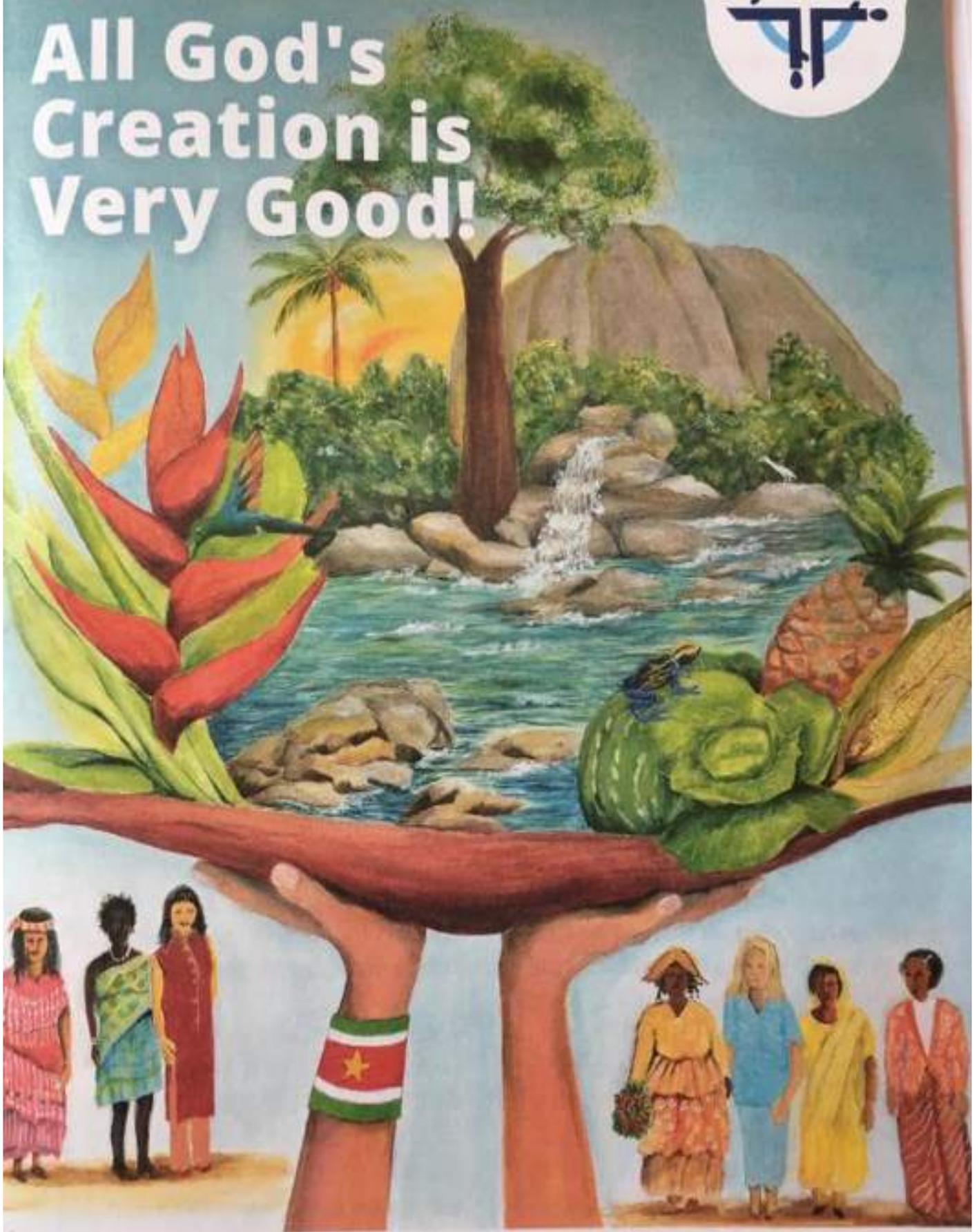
Looking ahead, on Wednesday 21st February we look forward to welcoming Thomas Kerr to talk about SHAKESPEARE'S SCENERY and then on 21st March we will be holding our annual CHARITY TEA, this year in aid of SPRINGFIELD MIND. We hope to have a speaker that afternoon to tell us about MIND's work before we enjoy tea and cakes. The charge of £2 for tea will go to MIND, and although we are always delighted to welcome visitors, it would be really lovely to have some visitors that afternoon, so see you then, if not before!

Diane

Women's World Day of Prayer 2nd March 2018



All God's Creation is Very Good!



PREPARED BY CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF **Suriname**



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All God's Creation is Very Good!

The interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on Friday, 2nd March with the title 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it. The service in Stratford-upon-Avon this year is being held at The United Reformed Church, Rother Street on Friday, 2nd March at 2pm.



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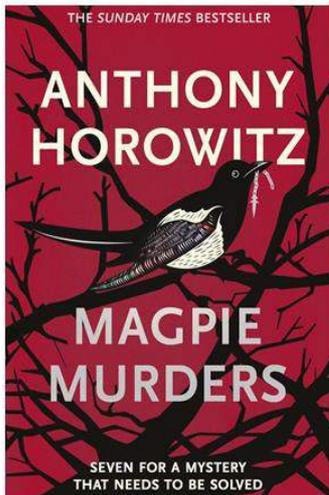
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Novel Theology



The choice for February is Anthony Horowitz's *Magpie Murders*.



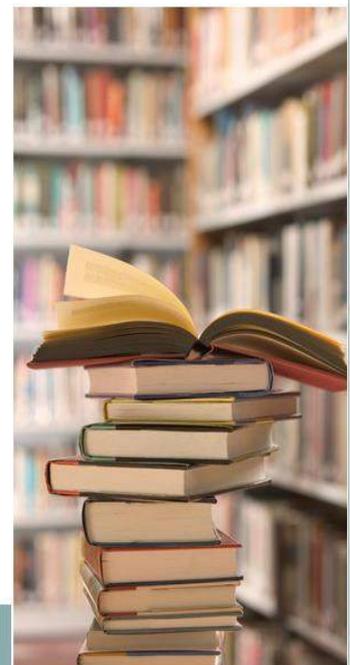
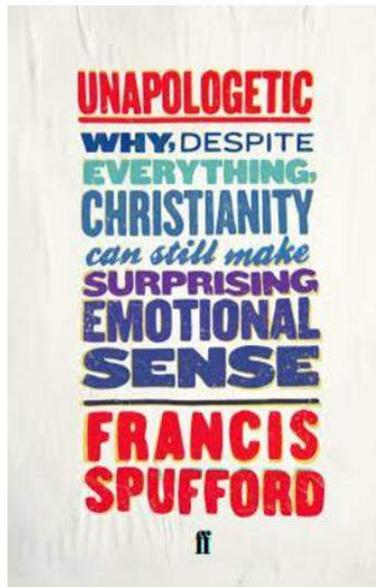
If you need information about dates, or have ideas for future readings please contact

Anthony Woollard

01789

204923

Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic* is the choice for March .



Trinity Times Needs A New Editor

Just a reminder to all our readers that Hilary and I will be relinquishing our posts of editor and assistant editor with the April/May edition of *Trinity Times*.

If anyone out there is interested in taking over the positions, or becoming a member of the team, please get in touch with us, or with Patrick.



Best wishes

Steve & Hilary

P.S. Contributions for the March issue must be sent to stevenewman.newman@gmail.com by Friday 23rd February



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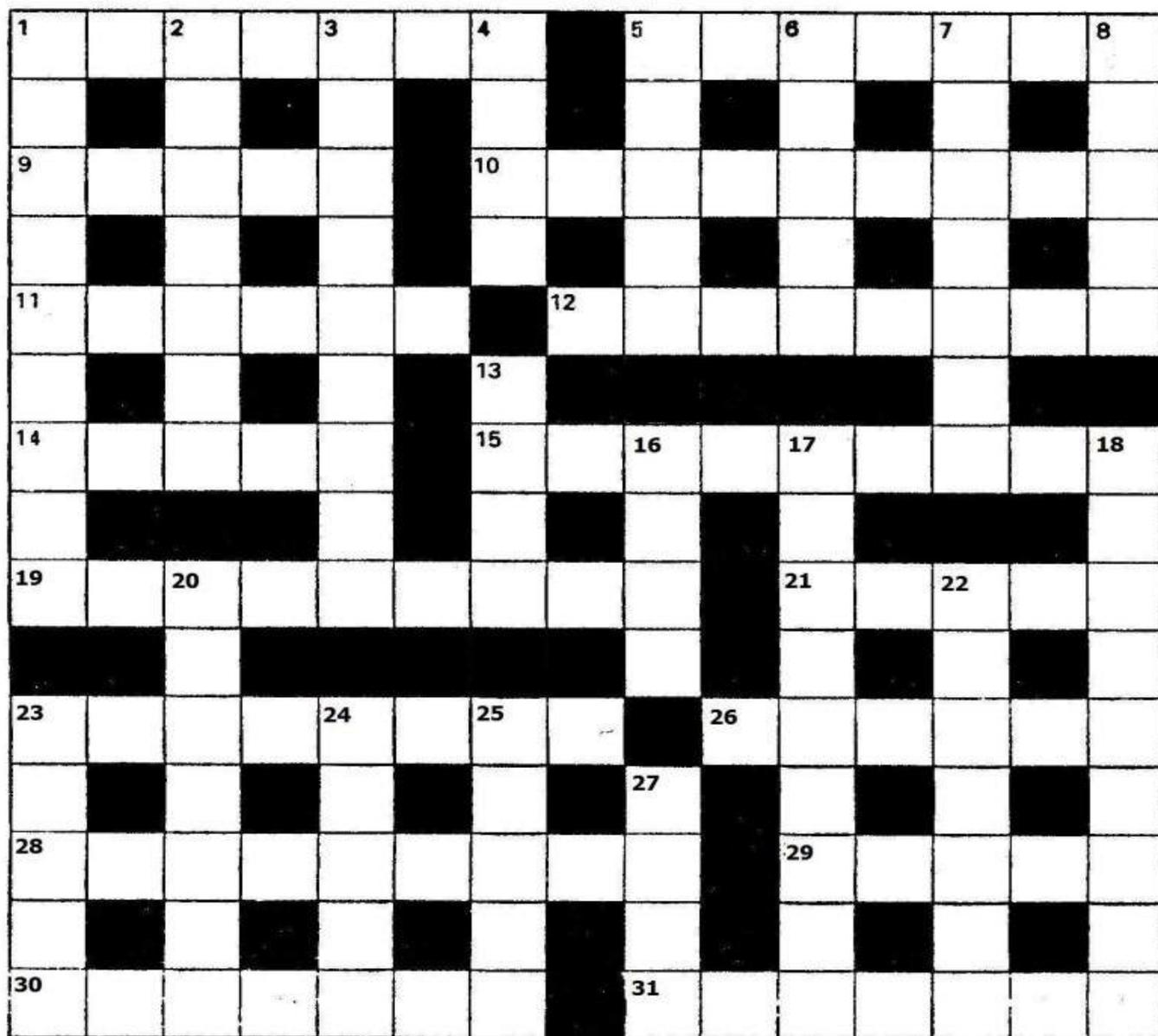
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February Crossword



CLUES ACROSS 1. Worn by sportsmen to indicate e.g. mourning (7) 5 Originator (7) 9 Device regulating flow (5) 10 Forfeit (9) 11 Directions for making something (6) 12 Non-Jews (8) 14 Growing old (5) Towards sunrise (9) 10 Measuring rod (9) 21 Necessities (5) 23 Delicately (8) 26 Quest (6)

26 Reprisal (9) 29 Bluff (5) 30 Climbing aids (7) 31 Pole Star (7)

CLUES DOWN 1 Opponent (9) 2 Last book of OT (7) 3 Athens Council Meeting (Acts 17) 4 Powdery matter (4) 5 Repeated order of events (5) 6 Decree (5) 7 Meddler (7) 6 Marsh grasses (5) 13 Third son of Jacob (4) 16 Indian religious adherent (4) 17 Marvellous (9) 19 Corinth synagogue ruler (Acts 18) 20 Ruled (7) 22 Before (7) 23 Satan (5) 25 The nearest ones (5) 25 Years (5) Profound (4)



Image: Courtesy Old Postcards of Stratford Holy Trinity with fisherman c 1900



Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank

Would like to thank the members of Holy Trinity Church for their continued donations of supplies over the past few weeks. Through such generosity the foodbank is able to help those in need.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Armband 5 Creator 9 Valve 10 Sacrifice 11 Recipe 12 Gentiles 14 Aging 15 Eastwards 19 Yardstick 21 needs 23 Daintily 26 Search 28 Vengeance 29 Feign 30 Ladders 31 Polaris

DOWN 1 Adversary 2 Malachi 3 Areopagus 4 Dust 5 Cycle 6 Edict 7 Trifler 8 Reeds 13 Levi 16 Sikh 17 Wonderful 18 Sosthenes 20 Reigned 22 Earlier 23 Devil 24 These 25 Longs 27 Deep



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There will be an interview with Sam Jackson, the Landlord of the Dirty Duck, in the March issue of *Trinity Times*

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—01789 266316***

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
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
The Venerable Brian Russell 01789 266316			

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

Parish Secretaries: Sue Holt & Helen Holland 01789 266316;

Parish Assistant: Rebecca Rumsey 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—TBA

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 Josephine Walker 01789 266316

Home Communion Steve Jarvis 01789 266316

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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