

MARCH  
2018

# TRINITY TIMES

£1



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"Bravo Ursula!"

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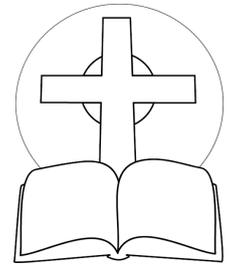
Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister





# Phil Writes...

## A Glimmer of Light in the Darkness



After the depths of winter, it seems that spring is finally on the way. Although as I write there are warnings that “the beast from the east” will mean that the meteorological start of spring, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, is postponed. But once the beast has passed, we will continue to see signs of nature waking up again. The snowdrops have flowered and daffodils are beginning to poke out their golden trumpets.

The lengthening days always help to put a spring in my step, pardon the pun. The way I keep track of the growing light is through Evening Prayer. Every week day Evening Prayer is said in St Peter’s Chapel at 4:15pm. In the Winter months the church closes at 4pm and the majority of the lights in church are switched off. As I leave Evening Prayer I look into the darkened main body of the church and see nothing but darkness. But there comes an evening when, as I pass through the crossing, I notice that I can see the font at the back as the last of the day’s sun floods through the West window. A few days later as I leave by the side door, it’s still light outside. It seems minor, but for me it’s these little bursts of light that give me joy.

The increasing amount of sunlight provides us with a reminder that we are continuing to journey through Lent. The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencen*, meaning “Spring”, and refers to the lengthening of the days.

As we continue through our Lenten devotions, and the difficulty or whatever we’ve chosen to give up or take up kicks in, perhaps looking for the bursts of light and glimmers of hope can help us stick to our resolve. If you’re really struggling, don’t forget that we are given a break from Lent on Mothering Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> March), this was traditionally known as Refreshment Sunday as the fasting rules were relaxed on that day.

In dark and difficult times, we need to look for the bursts of light, no matter how small they may be. As a church family, over the last few months, we have been hit by the deaths of some big characters, important people in the life of the church. With the passing of each there is a sense of shock and loss. And whenever someone dear to us is in pain or dies, we can’t help but think “why could God let this happen?” Yet in this time of Lent we are reminded that it isn’t a case of God letting something happen, but that God shares with us that pain and suffering.

God who felt pain and suffering as Jesus for forty days in the wilderness, who mourned at the death of a friend and was put to death on a cross, the ultimate act of love.



It was by going through such pain and suffering that we have new life and new hope. To have Spring, we have to have Winter first.

Let us not just mourn those who have gone, but celebrate the bursts of light that they were in our lives. The impact that they had on each person they met and the influence they continue to have on each of us, helping to form us into the people we are.

As we continue on our journey through Lent, perhaps it is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on the ways that we may be a glimmer of hope to others. How might we inspire others as we ourselves have been inspired?

On a theme of glimmers of light and bursts of joy, that is something that this magazine is to many people. Connecting together not just members of the church congregation, but to the people of Stratford and beyond. As you are probably aware Steve and Hilary Newman are standing down from their roles of editor and assistant editor after the March/April edition, which is the next edition of the magazine. We are looking for a team of people to help continue the magazine. It's not just editors we're looking for but people to help with distribution and advertising. If you think you could help continue this burst of light, there is a meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:45pm in the Parish Centre.

If you'd like more information about the roles please contact [stevenewman.newman@gmail.com](mailto:stevenewman.newman@gmail.com). Hilary and Steve have done an amazing job on the magazine, I hope that some will feel called to keep the light shining out.

**Phil's Behind You!!! Page 45**

*Phil*

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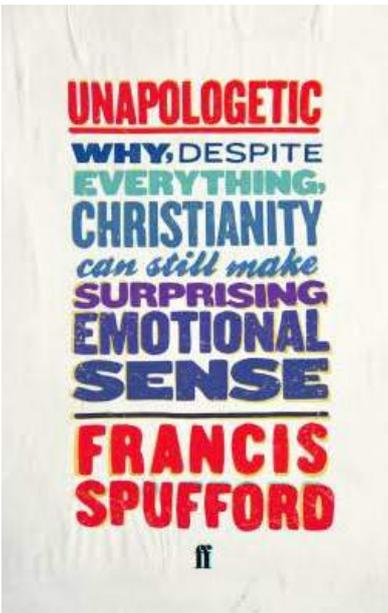
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## Anthony Woollard's Window on the World

“ A Shaft of Light in The Darkness...”

Dark days indeed. Not only does the world around seem at times to be descending into ever greater political confusion, posturing and scandal. But within the communities of our churches in this parish we have amongst others lost, in just a few weeks, Nigel Kitchener, Rohan Stewart-Macdonald, Doreen Lees, Junie Tong, and not least our beloved assistant priest Margaret Sweet. Others have written on some of these; and in so many cases – again Margaret not least, who has helped so many – there will be much place for a celebration of lives well and creatively lived. And we may have faith – though it can be a struggle sometimes – that they are in the arms of a Love that is stronger than death. But that does not take away the reality of loss and darkness.



And then, light comes, from a totally unexpected place. I am no great follower of the Winter Olympics or any other sport, but what do we make of the dramatic news that North and South Korea, those bitterest enemies, are competing as one nation?

Maybe that, too, is political posturing. We cannot know the motivations of the leaders, but as Christians we do know that all our human motivations are mixed and flawed. Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic*, the Lent book chosen by our Novel Theology group, dissects that flaw in our human nature more sharply and relevantly than almost any book written by a Christian (or anyone else) that I know. By the time you read this, it may be business as usual, or worse, in the powder-keg of the Far East. But who can tell?

I write this around the time when our Sunday Gospel, just before Lent, features the story of the Transfiguration. Whatever we make of that story – which in the old lectionaries was placed instead in the middle of Lent itself – it is a shaft of light in the darkness of the journey to the Cross. And this very same weekend, by pure coincidence, a journalist on a national newspaper, who has never claimed to be a Christian believer, wrote movingly of the imminence of death as we grow older, and the precious value of those shafts of light in the darkness. For us as Christians, they should remind us that in the midst of Death we are in Life.

But I am deliberately keeping my column short this month, because I know that there will be an exceptional volume of material, particularly in memory of Margaret, which will illustrate that truth. Let that material speak for itself.

Novel Theology Page 46

Anthony



# Patrick's Worship Notes for March

## “ Three Great Days...”

Holy Week and Easter are the pivotal moments in our church year when we journey with Christ through betrayal, death and on to resurrection. For this reason it's sometimes known as “The Crown of the Year”. At the heart of this lie three very special days, called **The Triduum** (a period of three days of prayer). Through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday we find our own experiences of pain, loss, sadness and joy being echoed in the drama of the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and then the Resurrection. I encourage you to take part in the services on all three days if you can.

### Maundy Thursday

This is the day when we recall the Last Supper, at which Jesus told his disciples to break bread and take wine in remembrance of him. We also recall how he washed his disciples' feet (Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, the commandment of Jesus that we love and serve one another). This year, anyone who wishes to receive this ministry will be invited to come forward during the service. We then enter into the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane at the Watch before the Altar of Repose (in the chancel) where the sacrament is reserved. Do join the Watch, either for a while after the service or come back later, staying to pray for as long or as short a period as you wish. The watch ends with sung Compline at 11.45pm.

### Good Friday



A “good” day because by giving his life for us, Jesus shows us how much God loves us. Christians have traditionally marked the final three hours during which Jesus hung on the cross until his death. We venerate the cross, as by it we are reconciled to God and Holy Communion is taken from the sacrament that was reserved the night before.

### Holy Saturday

We begin our celebration of the resurrection through one of the most wonderful services in the Christian Year. With Christians all over the world, we gather in a dark Church where the Easter Candle will be lit from a small bonfire, followed by our own candles, and the church fills with light. We sing “Alleluia” once more, having not used the word during Lent, to express our joy in the triumph of life over death, in the life-changing love of God.

Patrick

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## IN MARCH

### **SUNDAY March 4th Holy Trinity *The 3rd Sunday of Lent***

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

**10.00am** Parish Eucharist—with Revd Steve Jarvis

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

**6.00pm** Holy Trinity—Choral Evensong with Revd Graham Wilcox

**St. Helen's** Clifford Chambers 9.15am Holy Communion—Revd Jenny Rowland

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

### **SUNDAY March 11th Holy Trinity *The 4th Sunday of Lent* *Mothering Sunday***

**8.00am** Holy Communion—Preacher Revd Steve Jarvis

**10.00am** All Age Parish Eucharist—Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

**10.00am** Parish Centre—No Service

**6.00pm** Holy Trinity Evensong with Healing Ministry—with Revd Patrick Taylor

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

**All Saints'** Luddington 9.15am Holy Communion—Preacher Venerable Brian Russell

### **SUNDAY March 18th Holy Trinity *The 5th Sunday of Lent***

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd Patrick Taylor

**10.00am** Food4thought—with Revd. Canon Andrew Dow

**10.00am** Parish Centre FAB—with TBA

**10.00am** HT@ Rosebird—with Phil Harper

**6.00pm** Holy Trinity—Choral Evensong with Revd Kay Dyer

**St. Helen's** Clifford Chambers 9.15am Morning Worship—with Revd Kay Dyer

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

### **SUNDAY March 25th Holy Trinity *Palm Sunday***

**8.00am** Holy Communion—with Revd Kay Dyer

**10.00am** Parish Eucharist with Procession of Palms—with Revd Steve Jarvis

**10.00am** Parish Centre FAB—with Phil Harper

**6.00pm** Holy Trinity—HC BCP & Compline—with Revd Steve Jarvis

**St Helen's** Clifford Chambers 9.15am HC Traditional

with Revds Patrick Taylor & Kay Dyer

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

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# WORSHIP IN HOLY WEEK



## **Holy Monday March 26th Holy Trinity**

7.30pm Said Eucharist—Revd Patrick Taylor

## **Holy Tuesday March 27th Holy Trinity**

7.30pm Said Eucharist—Revd Steve Jarvis

## **Holy Wednesday March 28th Holy Trinity**

7.30pm Said Eucharist—Revd Kay Dyer

## **Maundy Thursday March 29th Holy Trinity**

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper—Revd Steve Jarvis  
Followed by the Watch until Midnight—Revd Patrick Taylor  
(Compline at 11.45pm)

## **Good Friday March 30th Holy Trinity**

8.15am Morning Prayer—Revd Patrick Taylor

9.30am Journey to the Cross (All Age Service) - Phil Harper

## **St.Helen's Clifford Chambers**

9.15am Good Friday Reflection—with Revd Kay Dyer

## **All Saints' Luddington**

9.30am Good Friday Reflection—with Revd Canon John Graty

## **Stratford Churches Together**

10.30am Walk of Witness—Waterside

**Holy Trinity** 12.00—2.00pm Church open for personal prayer

**Holy Trinity** 2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Preacher Revd Patrick Taylor

## **Holy Saturday March 31st Holy Trinity**

8.00pm Easter Vigil—with Revd Patrick Taylor  
(Refreshments after)

# EASTER DAY

## **Sunday April 1st Holy Trinity**

**8.00am** Holy Communion—Revd Steve Jarvis

**10.00am** All Age Eucharist—Revd Steve Jarvis

**6.00pm** Choral Evensong—Revd Patrick Taylor

## **St.Helen's Clifford Chambers**

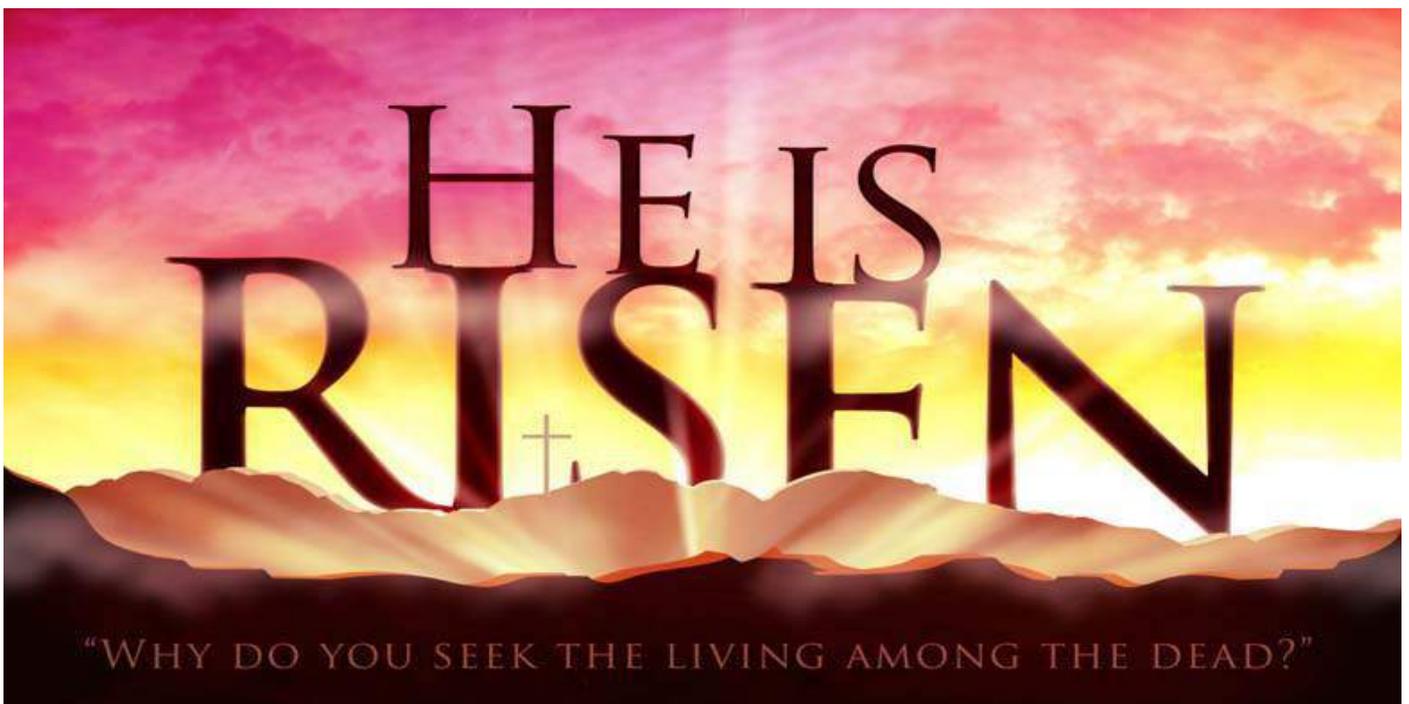
**9.30am** All Age Holy Communion

Revd Kay Dyer

## **All Saints' Luddington**

**9.30am** HC BCP

Revd Canon John Graty



# Doreen Isobel Lees—A Lake District Girl

*Geoffrey Lees*



Doreen was born in Wigton, Cumberland, on the 14th of July 1921—a Lake District girl.

Her father, Bert, and her mother, Isabella, had met in Wigton while Bert was on a cycling holiday in the Lake District. They met several times, fell in love and eventually married.

Because of Bert's work as a senior Solicitor's Clerk in Manchester the family moved to make their home there.

It was during the height of World War II that I first met Doreen while she working for the Fairey Aviation Company with my sister Audrey. I was 17 and in the sixth form at William Hulme's Grammar School, and if you have done the arithmetic you will have worked out that Doreen was five years older than me.

William Hulme's was an all male school which meant my contact with girls, apart from sister and cousins was minimal.

I was immediately attracted to this beautiful blonde girl with a cheerful smile and lovely disposition. We quickly fell in love and soon became engaged. Shortly afterwards I enlisted in the army and after initial training in the UK I was posted to a Field Security Unit in India, then to Burma and Malaya, all the time corresponding with my new fiancée Doreen.

On my eventual return to the UK we married on the 28th May 1947, almost 71 years ago. Throughout this time, and when I was accepted at Manchester University, Doreen continued to work for Fairey Aviation.

After a couple of years we moved to Derbyshire when I was appointed to lectureships at Derby and Loughborough Colleges. It was during this eight year period in Derbyshire that our sons Jonathan and Richard were born.

In 1960 I was appointed to the University of Birmingham. Meanwhile Jonathan had trained as a horticulturist at Pershore College and Stratford Gardens Department, following which he moved south, met and married Valerie and established a nursery on the Isle of Wight.

I vividly recall, on one of many visits to the island, Jonathan had his mother pricking out seedlings into plant pots in one of the greenhouses, and so keen was he to keep her working said to her: "Instead of having your coffee break...

Cont...

...in the house, I'll bring your coffee to you out here so you don't need to stop."

What happy, very happy, days those were; and it was always exciting for Doreen and me to take the ferry from Lymington to Yarmouth to meet Jonathan and Valerie and their two children Claire and Christopher.

After many successful years at Ningwood Nurseries there was extreme sadness when both Jonathan, and then Valerie, in 2009 and 2011, died of cancer. It was a time of great grief to all our family.

Doreen and I had moved to Stratford in 1960, and just weeks after the move Doreen gave birth to our twins Deborah and Adrian. We were living in the house that was to become our home for the next 57 years.

From earliest times Doreen was a regular participant at weekly coffee mornings with friends in Stratford. Doreen also became a member of many local organisations including the W.I, the British Legion, the Ladies Luncheon Club, SADFAS, TWG, Church Women's Group. Later she became my much admired Mayoress. She was also a stalwart member of Holy Trinity's Welcome Team.

Kindness and friendliness were her main characteristics. Only gradually did she succumb to the effects of Diabetes and associated illnesses, but all the while maintaining a high degree of activity and strong bonds of love to friends and family. There is so much more but it is not possible to compress a lifetime into so few words.

Kind friends have told me how they have observed how I have helped Doreen in her recent, more difficult years, but mentally she was my support.

*This is an edited version of the eulogy given by Geoffrey at Doreen's funeral.*

Of course Doreen was, with Geoffrey, responsible for the subscriptions and distribution of *Trinity Times* for many years.

*We were all very sorry to receive the sad news at the Town Council, of the death of Doreen Lees on 11th January, 2018. Having served as Mayoress to her husband Geoffrey in 1978—79 and 1988—89, when she was, on both occasions, such a wonderful support to him. Doreen continued to play an active role within many groups in the town and regularly attended Civic functions held at the Town Hall up to very recent times. We will all miss her presence amongst us, and send our sincere condolences to Geoffrey and the family.*

*Mayor, Cllr Victoria Alcock*



When I do count the clock that tells the time,  
And see the brave sunk in hideous night;  
When I behold the violet past prime,  
And sable curls all silver'd o'er with white;  
When lofty trees I see barren of leaves  
Which erst from heat did canopy the herd,  
And summer's green all girded up in sheaves  
Borne on the bier with white and bristly  
beard

Then of thy beauty do I question make,  
That thou among the wastes of time must go,  
Since sweets and beauties do themselves for-  
sake  
And die as fast as they see others grow;  
And nothing 'gainst Time's scythe can make  
defence  
Save breed, to brave him when he takes  
thee hence.

Shakespeare's Sonnet XII was read by Richard Lees at his mother's funeral



**Doreen Isobel Lees 1921—2018**

# Margaret Remembered

A Personal Recollection by Ursula Russell



If anyone were to spend a day hovering above Stratford in a balloon, they would almost certainly have spotted Margaret hurrying to and fro, street to street, house to house, bringing communion, comfort, a prayer, or going into church for a service.

Even as her breathing became more difficult these visits barely slowed down. Her Consultant assured her that most people with lungs like hers would be dead. When one of his staff expostulated at such blunt speaking in front of the patient, Margaret intervened; perhaps they had not noticed she was the Reverend Margaret? Death held no terrors for her.

She always wore her dog collar because she was a priest 24/7 and never knew when someone might need her ministry, which - in shops or on the street – they often did.

On one occasion a very agitated man stopped her, blurted out a problem, ‘I have never asked this before, but will you pray for me?’

‘I won’t pray *for* you but I will pray *with* you’, responded Margaret, embracing him while the crowds passed on either side.

Another time she caught the anguished eye of a traffic warden facing a fierce verbal onslaught from an outraged motorist. ‘Let’s have some peace about this’, said Margaret, stepping between them. The motorist agreed he might have been out of order, the agitated warden calmed down and the dispute was over.

Margaret’s day began at 5.30 am with prayers and readings, either sitting looking out on her lovely garden or, when possible, walking in it. This was her precious time with God. Then she would scrub the kitchen floor. This routine was not an imposed discipline, it was natural and typified Margaret; she was both spiritual and practical

When training communion assistants, she was passionate that actions should be performed reverently and correctly but would leaven the seriousness with humorous role play – how to cope with the awkward communicant, the woman with the large hat who would not look up (she had a collection of hats for the purpose), the visitor accustomed to individual wine glasses.



Her concern for others did not fail even at the end; the Senior Registrar and his entourage attending her bedside in Hospital were offered tea and biscuits. Indeed this care extended to animals too. She gave a home to Sophie, taken in by Cat Rescue after ill-treatment. Of course there was no question of a rescued cat breeding and in any case she was too shy to go beyond the house. Until one morning Margaret discovered Sophie and four kittens under the table in her beautiful drawing room. An immaculate conception, we decided.

Margaret was a gifted healer; her hands would transfer spiritual energy giving courage and hope whether the problem was physical or emotional.

In our darker moments, I know that many of us have drawn comfort from her words, her prayers and her touch. And she often brought a small gift, flowers from her garden perhaps and once to me, a single, perfect, nectarine.

She used to say, 'I am always here for you' and she meant it. That thought gave comfort to those who of us loved her. We will miss her but it was a joy to have known her.

Ursula



*Margaret was an unfailing encouragement to me as bishop. Never short of a kind word, and often bearing a little gift to show how much she cared, Margaret loved being a priest and was an extraordinary example of the joy and fullness of life that serving Christ by serving others brings to a person at any age. How she will enjoy dancing with the Lord and all his faithful people in the feast of heaven!*

*The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth*

*Bishop of Coventry*



# *God and Sadler's Wells*

Pat Pilton

*"I think Margaret will be remembered as a warm, generous and loving person." Words used by Reg Sweet in the Stratford Herald to describe his wife of 60 years. For her, priesthood was all about others. Self-aggrandisement did not figure in her vocabulary.*

So it took a little persuasion to convince her, in June 2013, to be interviewed for *Trinity Times* to mark both her retirement as Associate Minister at Holy Trinity and her landmark 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (although in the published interview, we didn't mention that!) Why the fuss, she asked. "I don't think things will change a great deal. I shall go from being Associate Minister to joining the rest of my retired clergy colleagues. I've got the Bishop's permission to officiate and he has granted me that for at least the next two years."

Over afternoon tea and cakes at her lovely home in Broad Street, Margaret told me of her call to the ministry at an age when most priests are contemplating retirement (to Stratford-upon-Avon!). "I realised I had gone past the starting gate," she said. "I remember driving from Oxford one night and thinking, 'No God, it's not me you want, you've got Reg and Lynette, go away.' It was not at all what I expected to be doing in my retirement, but you never know when the Lord is going to call."

*Already licensed as a Reader, Margaret, against all the odds, secured a place at St, Stephen's House theological college in Oxford, becoming the first woman the college had trained, initially not for the priesthood but to continue as a reader, albeit a knowledgeable one.*

The college stipulated that she arrive at 7.00am each day for morning prayers, complete a full college syllabus alongside the resident students and, therefore, not arrive home until latish in the evening. So, for the next three-and-a-half years, Margaret left Stratford at 6am, studied hard and achieved her Bachelor of Theology degree.

Having become an ordinand during her training, Margaret met with Bishop Colin Bennetts and Bishop John Stroyan who, after "keeping me waiting", agreed to ordain her, first as a deacon, in July 2006.



Margaret had known Holy Trinity Church all her life. The terraced house in Broad Street was where she grew up, crossing the road to school each weekday and making the short journey to church on Sundays. “The early service was at 7am in the chancel and my first memory is of sitting on the ledge of the upright misericords because I was so small. I would read a book or stare at the windows – I suppose I learned my first Bible stories from the stained glass.”

Margaret’s love of dance began at the age of seven. She started ballet lessons and passed all her grades with honours. When she was 12 Sadler’s Wells Ballet came to Stratford and Margaret’s dance teacher invited two of the company, Pamela May and (now Dame) Beryl Grey, to watch her young protégé. Impressed, the visit resulted in the offer of a scholarship to Sadler’s Wells, studying general subjects in the day and ballet in the evening. After completing her training Margaret was offered the opportunity to be with the company and appeared in the first performance of Cinderella at Covent Garden with Frederick Ashton and Robert Helpmann providing the choreography.

Surprisingly, not least to Sadler’s Wells who had written to her parents saying “Margaret shows such promise and talent,” the young ballerina opted to teach instead. “I got such pleasure and satisfaction from teaching dance” she said. Margaret taught in London, Birmingham and North Wales. She also introduced dance into Holy Trinity services from time to time and performed it on Songs of Praise. “I find dancing quite spiritual,” she said.” Some people turn to poetry or music. For me liturgical dance movement is another way of expressing worship.”

*Seldom would Margaret be seen without her dog collar.* “I wear it because there have been occasions when, if I hadn’t been wearing it, I wouldn’t have been able to help. I remember on the Newmarket by-pass that a caravan had swerved and gone over the embankment. A lady was trapped in the car and in an awful state. The auxiliary services spotted me and asked if I would go down and pray with and comfort her. Without my dog collar this wouldn’t have happened. You never know when God might need you to do something. A priest is a priest 24/7.”

*And almost never would you see Margaret refer to notes when preaching.*” The verger always puts a box in the pulpit for me to stand on otherwise I would look like Mr. Chad. I work on the sermon through the week and write it out either in full or, sometimes, just headings. In the pulpit I put the sermon on the box and stand on it - - the words coming through my feet. I like to feel I have done the work beforehand and, on Sunday, I am just talking to you all.”

*At the end of the interview I asked Margaret about that trademark kiss.* “The Bible says ‘greet each other with a kiss’. I don’t quite know why I started it, but I think the first time was after somebody moved towards me. It just seems a nice friendly Christian gesture”.

***A loving, selfless, caring ministry. Sealed with a kiss!***

Pat



**At All Saints'** we were saddened to hear of the death of the Reverend Margaret Sweet. She looked after the Parish of Luddington between 2005 and 2013, officiating at many of the services and running Lent and Advent courses in the village and attending all the Team meetings. Despite her lifelong attachment to Holy Trinity, she devoted much time and energy to pastoral care in Luddington and her ministry was very much appreciated by all who knew her.

*The Congregation of All Saints'*

## "Eggs at Easter"

Margaret was a remarkable person, 'a force of nature' really, with a powerful inner motivation to serve and to minister. She was very much loved at Holy Trinity and perhaps especially in the villages where she acted as the key minister for some years. In some ways Margaret brought the enthusiasm and energy of a young curate into her 'late in life' priestly ministry. Most of the time it was a joy to behold, though once when she had fallen and had a black eye and a broken arm I did have to say she must have some time 'off' in order to recover. This was not popular, and no doubt I was on the receiving end of the famous 'Margaret stern look'!

She was very welcoming to myself and my young family when we arrived in 2001, unfailingly bringing a basket of eggs at Easter, and remembering special events and birthdays with great kindness. Her hospitality to the ministry team was a real blessing to us all, with coffee and biscuits in her lounge at Broad Street a basis for good discussion most Monday mornings.

Her love for her family, and pride in them all were always evident. No doubt she will be sorely missed.

*The Venerable Martin Gorick- Archdeacon of Oxford*





# Margaret Sweet 1933—2018

# Lunchtime live

at Holy Trinity Church

Soundbites



## St Anselm's College Choir

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*Wednesday 7 March at 1pm*

*Also in March..*

14 March: Mark Hussey (classical guitar)

21 March: Veronique Matarasso and Sue Meteyard (violin duo)

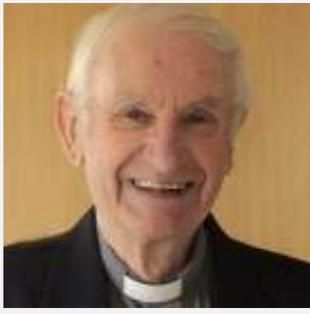
28 March: Alex Woodrow (organ)



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# SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS



Revd. David Ellis

## Believers in China

To spend time with a Christian survivor of communist persecution was quite special! When we lived in Hong Kong in the 1960's it was a curiosity to travel to the border with China and climb up to the observation post at Lok Ma Chau to view the heavy field guns ranged against the British colony and watch the chain-gang workers in the paddy fields. By 1998, when we returned for a long summer to take charge of Christ Church Kowloon, Hong Kong was back in the arms of the motherland. We were free to venture into what had always been the mysterious beyond.

Michael Lai (my one-time sixth former at the Diocesan Boys School)) took us to Guangzhou, the old Canton, to stay at the White Swan in the Shamian district on a sand-spit jutting out into the Pearl River. From Victorian times this area of the city was reserved for European traders. In 1935 Bishop Hall of Hong Kong established an Anglican church in Shamian. He called it Christ Church in partnership with our own Christ Church Kowloon, and marked it with a wall plaque which strangely was left untouched despite the vicious anti-religious vandalism of the Red Guards. The church and vicarage were however requisitioned, stripped of furnishings and turned into an engineering works. Revd Harold Wong who was vicar at the time was severely punished, humiliated and 're-educated', and then put to work at a bench in his former church. Between 1950 and 1970 some two million refugees made their perilous escape to Hong Kong. During my National Service there many bodies were washed down the Pearl River into Hong Kong waters. To be a Chinese Christian in those days was to live a nightmare. For some it still is.

But in the 1980s, after years of fervent prayer, the impossible happened. Christ Church Shamian was restored to its rightful use and Revd Harold Wong after his 'exile' of many years resumed his role as vicar at the age of 83. To meet him was an unforgettable privilege - this radiant little old Christian man who beamed through his glasses, barely a wrinkle on his face and his hair having lost none of



its colour! He presented me with a small replica of the church banner, and one memorable evening we sat down to dinner with him at the White Swan. He would not speak of the past, only of his faith in Jesus, and of his love for his congregation of 200 young blue-collar workers and his boundless enthusiasm for the future.



The old vicarage had become a seminary for the training of 50 young men and women to become pastors, evangelists and teachers, just one of many theological colleges springing up in China. At Nanjing alone some 2,000 church leaders were in training. Soon the Christ Church seminary would move across the city to a new site provided by the government, 'as big as two football pitches', beamed Harold! Many Christians in China frown at any government control, yet the Church is manifestly advancing on two fronts, both where it does and where it doesn't submit to government registration. Every wave of persecution like the recent ban on children attending church services only drives the Church underground where it continues to thrive.

Shortly after our visit a delegation went from our church right across to Yunnan Province near Burma to meet with Miao tribal Christians. High in the mountains they were given an enthusiastic welcome by village congregations dressed in their tribal costumes and still singing hymns taught to them by British missionaries a hundred years ago. We treasure a tape-cassette of a full-throated rendering of 'In Christ there is no east or west' in the Miao dialect. Some of those congregations exceed 500 members who travel considerable distances across rough terrain to be there. Their worship consists of the simple sharing of bread and wine, prayers, hymns and dances and always a sermon of one to two hours! The church walls are often adorned with bright murals of Gospel scenes.



China's largest church at Llushi in Zhejiang Province, seating 5000, is described as an Asian mega-temple. Its 206ft crucifix can be seen for miles around. An article in the Daily Telegraph in 2014 claimed that China was on course to become the world's most Christian nation within 15 years. Since the death of Chairman Mao congregations have sky-rocketed. The Pew Research Centre's Forum on Religion and Public Life estimates that the Protestant Community alone grew

from one million in 1949 to 58 million by 2010 and is now on course to exceed America's 159 million by 2025. Hard and bitter as life is for the believers history has repeatedly shown that the Church thrives most under persecution.

*David*



## *Prayer Breakfast*

An opportunity to get together over breakfast and pray for the parish.

8.00am on Saturday 17th March at 3 Rowan Close Stratford

**For more details contact Andrea blood on 01789 266825**



# Trinity Players Presented Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*

On Saturday 13 January 2018 Trinity Players presented a concert version of Lionel Bart's the hit musical *Oliver!* in the Parish Centre. Adult members of the cast were joined by five choristers from the choir of Holy Trinity Church and a wonderful addition to our company they turned out to be.

Abi Routh gave a very touching performance as Oliver and Saul McDougall was a hugely entertaining Artful Dodger. Sofia Gilson brought her very sweet singing voice to a number of scenes, playing an orphan, a gang member and then a rose seller. Harry Craster-Chambers and Logan McDougall were enthusiastic and lively orphans/gang members and all five youngsters brought their acting skills as well as their musical talents to enrich this performance. They seemed to enjoy being part of the company as much as we enjoyed having them in the team.

Both Sarah Cushing as Nancy and Tim Raistrick as Fagin were reprising roles that they had played in the past. Sarah's Nancy was full of energy and humour with the necessary degree of pathos leading up to her untimely end. Tim's portrayal of Fagin was a triumph of characterisation with all the facets of this complicated villain on show.



Bill Sikes (Mark Spriggs) with Helen Warrillow & Orion Johnson





David Southheard was a tremendously sonorous Mr Bumble the Beadle, and Mark Spriggs a spine-chilling Bill Sykes.

Other parts were played by Jane Southheard (Mrs Bumble), Chris Cornford (Sowerberry the Undertaker), Anne Blair (Mrs Sowerberry), Val Cubitt (Charlotte Sowerberry), Colin McDowall (Mr Brownlow), Jane Taylor (Mrs Bedwin his housekeeper), John Hall-Matthews (the Doctor) and Tricia Hall-Matthews (Old Sally). Orion Johnson and Helen Warrilow played Bet and Annie with great panache. Graham

Wilcox was the Narrator and used his admirable speaking voice to link the scenes together splendidly. Pete Cubitt brought his voice talents to the task of playing Noah Catchpole, he also provided some interesting sound effects, especially that of Bill Sikes dog! Phil Harper took on the task of Chorus Master projecting words onto a screen allowing the audience to join in the singing. "Other parts", as they say on Radio 4, "were played by members of the cast."

Our heartfelt thanks go to the musicians: Angela Farr (violin), Kath Bigland (piano), Jenny Morgan (violin), Sue Olver (cello) and Andy Olver (guitar). The music was directed and conducted by Roger Taylor who, as Ursula observed, was "in his element".

Our thanks are also due to Tony Guy for the lighting, Lilian Hopkins and Brenda Pitt for the refreshments, Steve Newman for the bar and the caricature of Fagin; John Burgess for photography, Orion Johnson for the poster design and Ruthie Copeman, Margaret Wilcox and Margot McCleary for Front of House.

We must say a special thank you to Hilary Newman, Jill McDowall and Cilla Burgess for finding suitable costumes with which to deck out the whole cast in record time.

Finally, a huge thank you, as always, to our producer and director Ursula Russell for having the idea and getting the show up and running.

*Jane Taylor*





Saul McDougall (Artful Dodger) and the Gang



Tim Raistrick is Fagin



David Southeard    Jane Southeard    Graham Wilcox



Sarah Cushing & Sophia Gilson



Colin McDowall    Jane Taylor    John Hall-Matthews



The Musicians

Photos by John Burgess

# The Continuing Dialogue

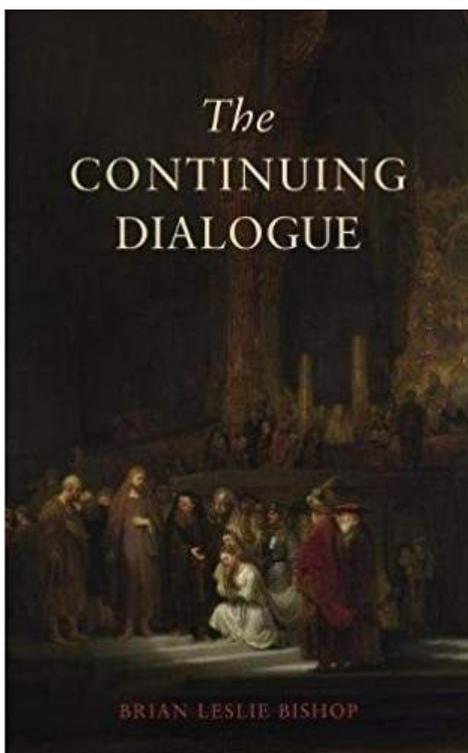
I'm **Brian Bishop**, now in my eightieth year and the author of *The Continuing Dialogue*.

My wife Jenny and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup>. wedding anniversary in 2013, and moved from Bristol to Stratford-upon-Avon in 2014.

We have been making frequent trips to the RST (and the Dirty Duck!) since 1963, the year of *The Wars of the Roses*, with Ian Holm, Peggy Ashcroft, David Warner and Janet Suzman. Long memories.

In 1964, married and broke, we slept in a single sleeping bag in the bandstand queuing up at some unearthly hour for the few theatre tickets available in the morning. The abiding memory is of a policeman shining a torch in our faces at about 3.00am, and asking Jenny, "Does your mother know your out, love?" Ah, the responsibilities of married life! We are members of the congregation of Holy Trinity.

~~~~~



The division between Protestants and Roman Catholics, and their division from the Eastern Orthodox Church, increasingly became, for me, a scandal that needed to be addressed with urgency. At his death, Philip Melanchthon, the first systematic theologian of the Protestant Reformation, looked forward to being freed from the *rabies theologorum*—acrimony and fury of theologians. Well, amen to that brother Philip!

For most of my life, I have felt to be rather adrift from organised religious groups: but never from Christianity. I have always believed—I would say known—that Jesus is the Light of the World and regarded the Christian Gospel as encapsulating that Light. It has always seemed to me that the mission that had been entrusted to the church worldwide was to be a medium of that Light. Increasingly, it has become clear to me that far too often that focus is lost to ecclesiastical politics and sociology. That is the scandal that appals.

When the world cries out for the light of the Gospel, the church, so often, seems to be looking the other way. So the impression given is of a confusing babble of voices squabbling, contradicting, and stereotyping one another. The words of Edmund Sears directed to a warring world outside the church door one-hundred-and-fifty years ago, now are directed at the church itself by the baffled multitude:

***“O hush the noise, ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing.”***



I felt a need for less saying and more listening, and seeing. James warned of the “unruly” nature of the tongue and I began to realize that it might be rewarding to explore other ways of understanding than those delivered by this unruly member.

There was much more *looking* and *seeing* required than was being made available to me and to those around me if we were to grow into some kind of spiritual awareness. I heard much talk of having seen the light in the claustrophobic world of my early life in a Baptist Church in London’s east-end. Why was it, then, I wondered, that we kept bumping into one another. Words are a limited and limiting diet if not served with other means of communication. The world of the arts both visual and performing, when eventually I became aware of them, expanded my horizon and became a lifelong pursuit. When, on retirement, the demands of remunerative employment were finally eased, I began afresh to look about me. I have to say that I was very fortunate in that my career as a teacher of literature and drama enabled me, and hopefully some of those with whom I came into contact with, to develop our *looking* and *seeing*. But, nevertheless, the daily routine tended to be very demanding.

So to theology. The University of Wales, Lampeter, Department of Theology offered me a place as a postgraduate student. After two very stimulating years, I was awarded a Master’s Degree with distinction. I had along the way discovered “Theological Aesthetics,” a relatively new departure that encouraged the idea that art could deliver theology through “seeing.” My dissertation was, “The Theology of Giotto’s Passion Frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua.” My supervisor, Professor Martin O’Kane, greatly encouraged me to develop the work into a PhD thesis which I would have been delighted to do, but the fees by now were prohibitive. I pressed on with the work, unsupervised, and personally gained a lot from doing so. Dr. Christine Joynes of the University of Oxford and Professor Alison Milbank of the University of Nottingham suggested revise it and seek to have it published, and directed towards a more general readership than that of an academic thesis. So, here it is: what I have learned whilst eavesdropping on the “conversation” between artists down the centuries and the five narratives concerning the life of Jesus that are only to be found in the Fourth Gospel, the Gospel According to John.



Brian

Brian’s book can be ordered directly from the author for the special Trinity Times readers price of **£10 + P&P**  
brianbishop38@yahoo.co.uk

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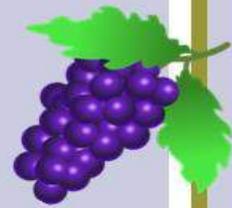
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Wines at Home



## 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

# Never a Dull Day at The Duck!



## *Judith Dorricott Interviews Sam Jackson Landlord of The Dirty Duck*

Is the most famous pub in Stratford called the Dirty Duck? Or is it called the Black Swan? Either way, this famous inn on Waterside has been a second home to countless actors over the decades, as well as welcoming local people and tourists.

I chatted to Sam Jackson, who last year celebrated twenty years of being Manager of the Dirty Duck, and I asked him what was the key to the success of the pub.





Sam says that he had a good deal of experience running pubs in Cheltenham and Oxford before coming here in 1998, and also living on the premises helps him maintain high standards. He is proud that some of his permanent staff have been working with him for many years, while in the summer they employ extra young people from Stratford to help out. Both school and university students become highly-trained under his guidance, and several ministers' children have been spotted pulling pints over the years!

This quirky pub has a fantastic location looking over the river, and hosts a real mix of customers, including many from Holy Trinity Church. The pub welcomes children and is dog-friendly, and they recently added a wonderful Pimm's garden at the rear. Sam explains that the Dirty Duck is the flagship pub among the "Old English Inns" owned by Greene King.

Actors and RSC directors and staff often come in after a show and they are treated exactly the same as everyone else, even if they have to creep in through a back door in disguise. Sam has played host to many of our leading Shakespearian actors, including Sir Antony Sher, Sir Ian McKellen and David Tennant - who always had a huge crowd of fans following him. Dame Judi Dench, one of Sam's favourite actors, even got engaged in the Dirty Duck many years ago.

Sam epitomises the gregarious smiling landlord, and obviously loves his work despite the long hours. He welcomes everyone who enters, and says the best things about the Dirty Duck are that you never know who will come in next, and you never know what might happen! With so many weddings at Holy Trinity Church during the summer months, the staff have hosted many a nervous bridegroom and his best man before the ceremony. The pub has excellent relations with our church and contributed enormously to the fund-raising for the church tower a few years ago.

I asked Sam about the best and worst times as manager of the Dirty Duck. He laughed and said that the worst moment was the famous flood of April 1998! He had only been in his new post for two days, when the River Avon burst its banks onto Waterside and flooded the cellars of the pub, causing enormous problems. They had to close the premises because of the electrical damage, but they managed to open again on Easter Monday.



As for the best times, Sam thought hard. He was proud to win a National Pub Award in 2001 and to receive the Best Small Business in Stratford Award in 2016, and he greatly enjoyed unfurling the flag at Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations recently. However his greatest pride was being chosen as one of twenty torch bearers for the London Olympics in 2012, and he remembers running up the Birmingham Road holding the torch aloft to cheers from all the onlookers.

Sam has overcome his own problems too. Seven years ago, he was diagnosed with cancer, but is now back to full health. To support him, his loyal staff ran a half-marathon in Europe, raising much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Research.

After a childhood spent in Singapore and Hong Kong, how does Sam find Stratford? He loves the mix of people and the friendliness of the community. In the summer, he feels that Stratford is almost like a city with its great numbers of visitors, but in the winter it returns to being a friendly local town. He particularly enjoys Christmas Eve, when many members of our congregation walk down to the Dirty Duck and enjoy mulled wine together after the Christmas Carol Service. That's a special time both for the church and the pub!



Judith



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# Our New Operations Manager, Andy Winter Tells us About Himself



I was born in North London (the right side of the river!) and was brought up in St Albans where I stayed until leaving for University. My parents and their families were all from North London too. My parents moved out to St Albans when I was very young and they still live there in the same house. My sister lives close by and my brother a little further away in Norwich.

I was brought up in the Anglican Church and as a young person was involved in church life as a chorister, a server, a musician, an active member of the youth club, and went on to be a representative with the British Council of Churches (as Churches Together in Britain and Ireland was then). A journey into ordained ministry has been explored on several occasions throughout my years and I've worked for the most part of my life for the YMCA in different places and with the National Leadership Team. I suspect that my interest in the development of people as well as myself recognises that the journey is a continuing process and the stimulus offered by different styles of worship as well as seeing that all I do is part of my pilgrimage is important and why in the end I haven't been able to discern that my journey is within ordained ministry. My confirmation was a significant moment that I recall clearly, although I was only twelve or thirteen, plus a commitment I made when I was sixteen have been the foundation of my Christian life ever since.

My first job was teaching Physics and Maths at a secondary school in Coventry. I lived in the YMCA and after a couple of years left teaching to take over the running of the YMCA. I then worked in Portsmouth and Wimbledon before becoming Operations Director of YMCA England and later Director of Learning and Consultancy. In 2008 I took up running my own company in Learning & Development before going back to work for YMCA in Coventry which I left last July, enjoying a six month break before being appointed to this post.



I've lived in Banbury for twenty-one years, having relocated from south London for my work with the YMCA in 1997.

I hope that the experience that I have gained will help me to help Holy Trinity to use their resources efficiently, effectively and wisely (People, Property and Money) so that what we do and how we do it is a reflection to the community of the Kingdom of God.

My experience is that churches, and smaller voluntary organisations, often have many activities that are vested in one person. I think this puts a great deal of pressure on those people and whilst it starts with the best of intentions people often feel later on that they have too much to do and later that they must defend their position. My hope is that I will be able to shape collaborative ways of working and ways of sharing information that helps people to understand what goes on and how they can help shape and influence future planning.

Sue, my wife, and I have two children, Keri who some of you met at my commissioning, and Mike. Keri teaches in Banbury at the local Church of England School (St Mary's) and lives with us. Mike is married, lives in Gloucester, and has three children, Freddie, Oscar and Charlie. The boys love the play park on the other side of the river to Holy Trinity so I am sure that some of you will be introduced over time!

I have always been a great lover of sport and the outdoors, both participating and supporting. I still cycle when I can and cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats in 2003. I'm now contemplating cycling here from Banbury in the summer.

I'm casually musical, although I don't play as much as I used to when I led the band at St Mary's Church. I play guitar and am developing my capacity on Mandolin too and I enjoy all forms of music with no strong preference. I simply try to match form and style with mood.

The making of handmade couverture chocolates (only using Fairtrade chocolate) is a bit of a passion, and I'm about to start my Easter Egg productions!

*Andy*

**Kenneth and Jillian Connolly** both recently died, just nine weeks apart. They were 91 and 90 years of age, and had been married for 63 years. Ken and Jill were parents to Jane and her sister, and grandparents to Robin. Jane had been their carer for nine years. 'Soundbites' was a weekly joy to them from its inception, and latterly their other weekly plans always revolved around Wednesday lunchtime recitals at Holy Trinity.





# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

I am indebted to Trinity Times' reader Lawry Sear for this gem which he spotted in Norfolk's Glaven Valley News.

An artist who was employed to renovate the great oil paintings in a ancient church in Belgium, rendered a bill of 53.96 francs for his services. The churchwardens, however, required an itemised bill and the following was duly presented, audited and paid:

|                                                                                                     |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| For correcting Ten Commandments.....                                                                | 5.14 francs |
| For renewing Heaven and adjusting stars.....                                                        | 7.14 francs |
| For touching up Purgatory and restoring the lost Souls .....                                        | 3.04 francs |
| For brightening up the Flames of Hell, putting new tail on Devil and doing odd jobs for Damned..... | 7.17 francs |



|                                                                               |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| For putting new stone in David's sling and enlarging the head of Goliath..... | 5.13 francs  |
| For mending the shirt of the Prodigal Son and cleaning his ear .....          | 3.39 francs  |
| For embellishing Pontius Pilate and putting new ribbon on his bonnet.....     | 3.08 francs  |
| For taking the spots off the toe of Tobias .....                              | 10.30 francs |
| For putting earrings in Pharaoh's ears.....                                   | 5.26 francs  |
| For decorating Noah's Ark and putting new head on slave .....                 | 4.31 francs  |
| <b>TOTAL 53.96 francs</b>                                                     |              |



*"I'm sorry, but the holiday-relief vicar not tailoring his sermon to fit in with the parking restrictions isn't a valid excuse."*

A customer in Bristol is indebted to Ikea for the following instruction that came with the blinds he had purchased: "The blind lowers the general light level and provides privacy by preventing people outside from seeing directly into the room".

**From the St Peter's and St Andrew's parish magazine: "Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for breakfast, including hot sausages aimed at children under ten years old."**

Shop sign: Hey, I'll be back in five minutes. But if I'm not, just read this message again.

**AND FINALLY**... Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake. "I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at First Baptist." *swapmeetdave.com*

**WISE** Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations  
**WORDS**



# From the February Registers...



11th February Sophia Autumn-Rose Murray  
Joshua William George Williams

## Baptisms

2nd February Doreen Isobel Lees (Oakley Wood)

2nd February Kate and Alexander Robberts  
(Luddington)

6th February Morris James Adams (Oakley Wood)

9th February Junie Tong-Clark

13th February Jayne Elizabeth Manning

16th February Madeline Dora McNally (Oakley Wood)

19th February Peter John Bull

23rd February Peggy Chick

28th February Rohan Stewart-MacDonald (Ash Burial)  
Isobel MacDonald Robertson (Ash Burial)



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## MUSIC FOR MARCH 2018



### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – the Third Sunday of Lent

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#### 10am Parish Eucharist

*Motet:* Attwood *Teach me, O Lord*

466 338 377

*Voluntary:* Buxtehude *Præludium, Fuge und Ciacona*

HOAN 512 263

#### 6pm Choral Evensong

*Introit:* Attwood *Teach me, O Lord*

335 342 425

*Responses:* Rose

*Canticles:* Stanford *in B flat*

Psalm 11

*Anthem:* Tallis *Verily, verily I say unto you*

*Voluntary:* Buxtehude *Fuge in C*

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Mothering Sunday

---

#### 10am All-age Parish Eucharist

*Motet:* Rutter *For the beauty of the earth*

HOAN 598 494 234

*Trinity Voices:* Rebecca Mills *Thank you for my family*

HOAN 29 336

*Voluntary:* Rutter *Toccata in seven*

#### 6pm Evensong

*Introit:* Wood *Oculi omnium*

376 492 436

*Responses:* Ferial

*Canticles:* Chanted

Psalm 13

*Anthem:* Tomkins *Out of the deep*

*Voluntary:* James *Voluntary in a*

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – the Fifth Sunday of Lent

---

#### 10am Food4thought

#### 6pm Choral Evensong

*Introit:* Tippett *Go down, Moses*

335 342 425

*Responses:* Rose

*Canticles:* Dyson *in c*

Psalm 34.1-10

*Anthem:* Tippett *Steal away; Nobody knows*

*Voluntary:* Bingham *Overture (from Baroques)*

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday

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#### 10am Parish Eucharist

Special order of service

*Motet:* Bullard *The Feast of Palms*

*Voluntary:* Jackson *Procession*

#### 6pm BCP Holy Communion

410 339 76 364 (t.408)

*Motet:* Tomkins *Out of the deep*

*Voluntary:* Tomkins *A fancy for two to play*

Compiled by Benedict Wilson  
Holy Trinity's Director of Music

# First Aid Needed!



Stratford Ambulance Association, whose volunteers provided First Aid and help at 40 of the town's major events in 2017, such as Shakespeare's Birthday Parade and the annual River, Food and Motoring Festivals, is looking for new headquarters.

The Association, founded in 1944 when there was no ambulance

service or National Health Service, fears it is to lose its temporary home in Stratford's TA centre in New Broad Street. When this happens it will have nowhere to stage its training courses, hold meetings or store the two ambulances it uses in its First Aid support for the community.

A new base should ideally be in or close to Stratford and would have a large room to run courses for both association members and the public with somewhere to store two ambulances.

Association chairman Ernie Coombes said: "We are trying to raise our profile so we can attract more members, run more training courses and make more people in the community aware of how important First Aid is in saving lives. Our role is very important in training people. We can help people in the community keep others alive until the ambulance arrives. We are making people aware of what to do in an emergency," said Mr Coombes.

First Aid has grown in importance with an ageing population and as towns and villages in the Stratford area are provided with defibrillators and ambulance response times grow. Training is already given to pupils at schools in Stratford and more is planned.

Support has come already from the Stratford Town Trust and Waitrose supermarket but more is needed if the Association is to expand and move forward to meet the demands of the local community.

Stratford Ambulance Association used to work alongside the St John Ambulance Brigade raising funds to help its work and provide its ambulances. Four years ago the two organisations split as St John was reorganised from a local to regional level. To find out more about courses run by Stratford Ambulance Association, offer accommodation or make donations, contact the Association by email on [contact@stratfordambulanceassociation.org.uk](mailto:contact@stratfordambulanceassociation.org.uk)

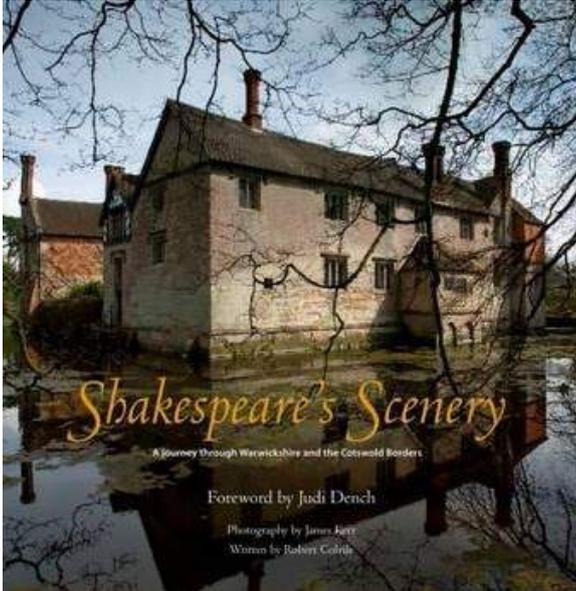
Lawrence Sear



# Trinity Ladies

Revd Diane Patterson

*“Beautiful and Breathtaking...”*



A good number of us met in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 21st February and it was lovely to have two new members with us. We welcomed James Kerr who had come to talk about his book *SHAKESPEARE'S SCENERY* and to show us some beautiful and breathtaking photographs. Most of them seemed to involve being out and about at dawn and even doing stunts with a helicopter to get the best shot! James also brought copies of his book to sell, so some lucky people may get a lovely gift in due course. James's presentation was followed by a raffle and then tea, biscuits and cake.

*Shakespeare's Scenery* has a text by Robert Colville  
and a foreword by Dame Judy Dench

Our next meeting on Wednesday 21st March will be our annual charity tea party, this year in aid of SPRINGFIELD MIND. We look forward to hearing about their work in the local community. We hope to have lots of visitors on that afternoon. The presentation will be followed by a special raffle and then tea and cakes. We are charging £2 for the afternoon, all proceeds will go to...

## **SPRINGFIELD MIND.**

Please put Wednesday 21st March in your diary! when Trinity Ladies will be holding a Charity Tea Party in aid of SPRINGFIELD MIND at 2 pm in the Parish Centre. We are charging £2 for tea and cakes and the afternoon will start with a presentation from MIND about the work they do in the community in connection with mental health. There will then be a raffle - donations are welcome - followed by tea and cakes. Do please come and bring your friends and neighbours. Everyone will be very welcome.

*Diane*

## 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

## Karen Harrison *mcfhp mafhp*

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Appointment  
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# Friends of the Music AGM

28<sup>th</sup> January 2018

It was with great sadness that we felt the tragic and untimely death of our Chairman Rohan Stewart-MacDonald. He leaves a huge gap at the heart of the Friends of the Music and we will miss his enthusiasm, energy, musical talent and extreme kindness so much.

Patrick began our meeting by praying for both Rohan and Doreen Lees, another of the Friends who has recently departed, and we remembered Margaret Sweet during her final illness. Margaret has also sadly passed away since then. We will miss them all greatly.

Patrick praised the work done at Soundbites which promotes the music at Holy Trinity Church so well and he thanked Benedict for his work with Willows Scholars bringing so many of them into the Church Choir. Benedict is now aiming to forge links with Stratford High School to develop a partnership that may very well bring older children into the musical activities of the church.

Patrick also praised the work done by Rebecca Mills in establishing Trinity Voices, a church choir formed especially for younger children.

Awards were presented to Jonas Moore (the Helen Yates Cup for a junior age chorister), Abi Routh and Theo Sampson (the Standards Cup), Albert Jackson-Bettles and Saul McDougall (the Joan Everett Cup for choristers showing enthusiasm and progress), Oliver Edwardes (the Hudson Evans Cup for a senior chorister showing leadership) and Patrick Ellis (the Genge Bequest, an award (cheque) given to a treble who has served the choir loyally and is coming to the end of his service). When he leaves us in the summer Patrick will be going to Portsmouth Cathedral as a Choir Scholar.



Photo: John Burgess



Benedict also presented Juliette Carter with a special award in recognition of her outstanding work as Head Chorister. He especially commended her for her work in looking after the new choristers.

Patrick congratulated the choristers on their success and thanked the whole choir, choristers and adults, for their hard work and commitment which contributes so much to our worship at Holy Trinity.

Josephine Walker was elected to the Chair and Robert Hornby was elected as a new member of the Committee. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected as for last year.

The meeting was followed by a bring-and-share tea and we would like to thank all of those who were involved with the preparation, delivery and clearing up afterwards of this wonderful feast. We are especially grateful to Kate and Martin Corfield, Diane Edwards, Pauline Tate and Joan Forbes.

*Jane Taylor*  
Secretary

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# Carmina Burana

## Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society

On 17th March 2018, Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's Spring concert will be Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Poulenc's *Gloria*, two great pieces for a choir to sing and audience to hear – fun, difficult on places, contrasting and not often performed due to the huge cost of performance, the requirement for a large orchestra, two pianos, a 'ragazzi' choir and a suitable large venue. Last performed by SCS twenty years ago in 1998, *Carmina Burana* had its premiere in Frankfurt in 1937, eighty one years ago. The source of Orff's material was an early 13<sup>th</sup> century manuscript (*Songs of Beuren*) discovered in 1803, written in Latin secular verse, describing the vicissitudes of fate in life, the pleasures of the seasons and the bawdiness of the tavern. Poulenc's *Gloria*, composed relatively recently in 1960, is joyful, with some lovely tunes, a fine example of modern religious music and is also justly popular.

Professional soloists, Rachel Godsill (soprano), Greg Tassell (tenor) and Samuel Oram (baritone), with the Regency Sinfonia, children from Holy Trinity Church Choir and the Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society will be conducted by Stephen Dodsworth. The concert takes place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at 7.30pm at the Levi Fox Hall, King Edward's School for Boys, Stratford-upon-Avon.

For tickets, £15 (**adults**) or £8 (**students**), or further information, phone Carol Jackson on 01386 841440. Tickets also available at Stratford Artshouse, Rother Street, via website [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or at the door on the night if not sold out. **Up to two children under 16 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult.**

## FORGIVEN AT THE CROSS

### A Passiontide Play

At

## St Andrews Church Shottery

Saturday 17th March & Sunday 18th March

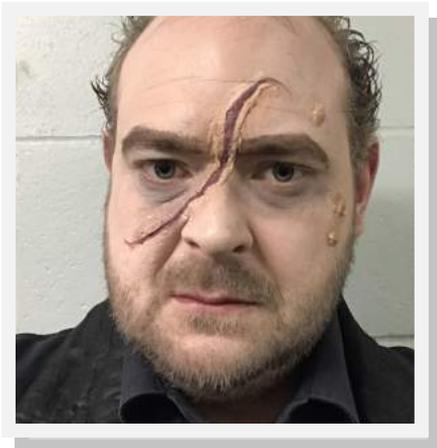
7.00pm

Followed by Tea & Coffee

**Admission Free**

Donations may be offered





## Phil Harper Children & Families Minister

*He's Behind You!*

Over the last few months I've been spending some Monday and Thursday evenings at the Willow's C of E primary school, in rehearsals for the school's annual pantomime. The pantomime is put on by staff from the school, parents and others involved in the school community. I was invited to take part because of the links between the church and the school - if you weren't aware the Willow's school is our local church school. The pantomime this year was *Puss in Boots* and I played the lesser known character of Igor, the Henchmen to the evil Oggie the ogre. It was a great privilege to share in this production, seeing first hand the commitment of so many people to not just putting on a play, but a play that helped to raise vital funds for the Friends of the Willows (what would have been the PTA in older terms). The man tasked with bringing it all together was Richard Sandle-Keynes, one of the Year 5 teachers, who did an outstanding job, keeping control of a very motley mob and hopefully regained some elements of sanity after it was all done. I visit the Willows regularly for assemblies, services of Holy Eucharist, and the fortnightly Prayer Tree. But spending many hours in rehearsal and performance allowed me to really see the heart of the school, and I felt very privileged to do so. Hopefully, if I didn't misbehave too much, they'll have me back next year and if they do the performances are open to the whole community.



On a similar theme of spending quality time together, one of my personal highlights of last year was preparing a group for their First Communion. Over the four preparation sessions I really enjoyed spending time with the candidates and getting to know them better. Here at Holy Trinity we invite children from about the age of 7 upwards to receive Communion before Confirmation and in April we'll be beginning the preparation for the next group. If you think your child would be interested or you'd like more information, please contact me ([phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)).

A quick reminder of some services coming up...

On 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10:00am we're having an All Age service for Mothering Sunday (There won't be a F.A.B. service in the Parish Centre that day). All are welcome to join us for this special service, and there will be a posy of flowers for all the ladies. We'll also be collecting toiletries and beauty products to be passed onto people in need in Stratford.

On Good Friday at 9:30am (30<sup>th</sup> March) we've our Journey to the Cross service. It's an informal service where we think about the events of Holy Week using a selection of Prayer Stations set up around the church. We'll be serving hot cross buns, in church, before the service.

Of course, on 1<sup>st</sup> April we've our Easter Day All Age Parish Eucharist. Last year's service was a joyful occasion and this year should be the same again. Children will again be invited to help with the sprinkling of water and there should be a chocolate treat for them after the service!

*Phil*

## **Novel Theology**

The reading choice for March is *Unapologetic* by Francis Spufford and for April Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*

For more information contact Anthony Woollard

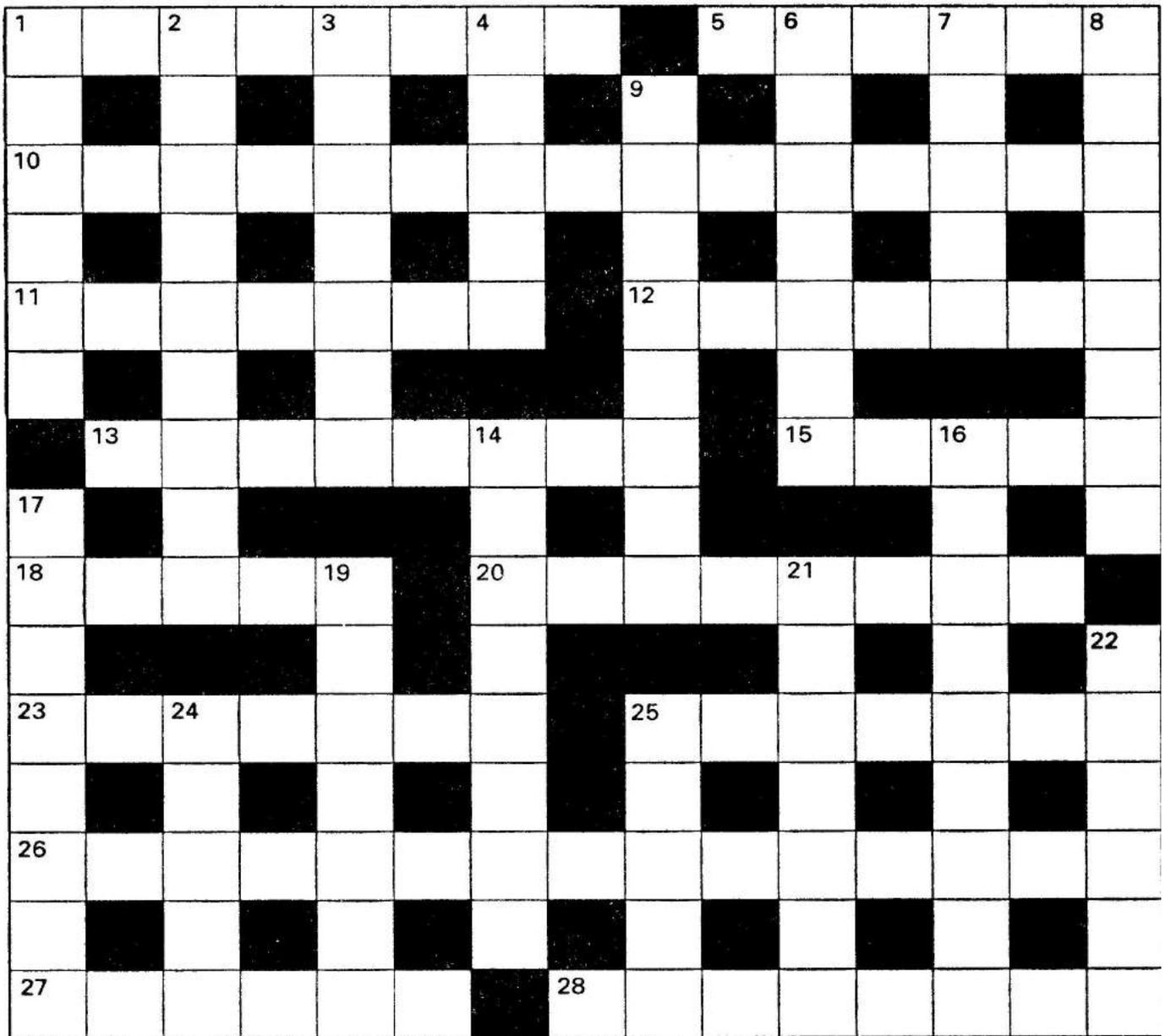
On 01789 204923

**The Group usually meets on the first Thursday of the month**

## **Trinity Coffee Stop**

Join friends in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre Saturday March 17th  
10.00am 12noon for Coffee & Cake

# Crossword for March



**CLUES ACROSS** 1 Dedicated love (8) 5 Venerate (6) 10 Soul searching (4-11) 11 Root (7) 12 Planned task (7) 13 Satirical plays (8) 15 Jewish leader (5) 18 Responds with loyalty (5) 20 Skilfully excellent (8) 23 Most cherished (7) 25 More ingenious (7) 26 Phenomenally (15) 27 Ecclesiastical rupture (6) 28 Unguided drawing (8)

**CLUES DOWN** 1 Want (6) 2 Cycle-racing centre (9) 3 Dark syrup (7) 4 'He is ----; ask him' (John 9.23) (2,3) 6 Charm or enthrall (7) 7 Top-notch class (5) 8 Famous scientist (8) 9 Arranges or distributes (8) 14 Puerile (8) 16 Russian musical instrument (9) 17 Affection (8) 19 Repeated alternations (7) 21 Envelop (7) 22 Made animal sound (6) 24 Eighth letter (5) 25 Snow traveller (5)



# Mike Baker



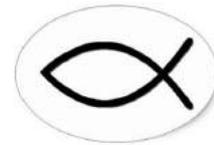
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## **Lent Lunches: Fridays March 2nd-23rd 12.00-2.00pm**

Is there anyone you know who often eats on their own and would appreciate some extra company? Why not bring them with you to one of the Lent Lunches for a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese? All ages welcome. To help with catering, please sign up on the list in Church on the preceding Sunday. Any donations will go to the Stratford Churches Together Homeless Project.

The lunches are being organised each week by a home group. *Steve Jarvis*



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Now

Booking for

Mothering Sunday!



**All Saints' Luddington** will be holding their AGM on Mothering Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. which will be followed by coffee. The AGM will commence at 11.00 a.m.

From Easter the Sunday services at All Saints' will be held at 9.30 a.m. instead of 9.15, including Easter Day. As the clocks change on Easter Day it may make getting to the service a little easier!

### SOLUTION TO MARCH CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 1 Devotion 5 Revere 10 Self-examination 11 Radicle 12 Project 13 Comedies

15 Rabbi 18 Obeys 20 Masterly 23 Dearest 25 Subtler 26 Extraordinarily 27 Schism 28 Freehand **DOWN** 1 Desire 2 Velodrome 3 Treacle 4 Of age 6 Enamour (7) 7 Elite 8 Einstein (8) 9 Disposes 14 Immature 16 Balalaika 17 Fondness 19 Seesaws 21 Embrace 22 Brayed 24 Aitch 25 Skier

# Parish Contacts:

The Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG  
Email: [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto: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 Jenny Rowland      | 01789 415548 | The Venerable Brian Russell | 01789 266316 |
| 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 |

***Operations Manager:*** Andy Winter—01789 266316

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

***Parish Administrators:*** 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 Communions*** 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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