

February 2019

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THE PARISH OF  
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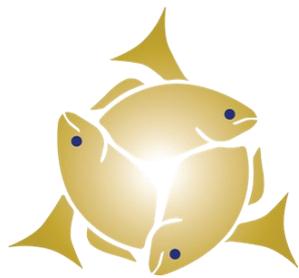
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### Editorial

Happy New Year to all our readers.

We take a look back to memories of Christmas 2018 and look forward to activities in 2019 and beyond.

*The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*  
(John 1:14)

Please note that views expressed in Trinity Times are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parochial Church Council.

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The next magazine will be the  
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Any item received after this date is not guaranteed  
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Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as  
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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia   

Front cover :- "Snowdrops" by John Burgess

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## Cross of Nails visit to Berlin

What an amazing experience! Nothing could have prepared me for the impact of actually standing in some of the churches that are part of the Community of the Cross of Nails Network in Berlin. I was able to join a group of curates still in training, who visited Berlin from 19 – 23 November to meet clergy and church members from several Cross of Nails Churches.

Having lived in the Coventry Diocese my whole life, I had heard so much about this organisation, but not realised just how special it is, even though I had been present when the Willows Primary School received their Cross of Nails in 2009.

Knowing that the Coventry Diocese has links to churches all over the world, still did not prepare me for the welcome we received and the wonderful meals that parishioners in Berlin had cooked for us, so many choices of savoury and sweet dishes, homemade especially for our visit. They were also keen to spend time in our company and learn more about Christians from England. During the visit I was really challenged to think more deeply about the cost of staying true to our faith and recognised in a new way, what German Christians must have gone through during the last war.

We visited St. Annen Kirche in the Dahlem district next to Pastor Martin Niemöller's House, on the same day that Bishop Christopher was there. It was here that the Confessing Church had met, and church leaders had resisted the Nazi command to open their church registers, so that people's ethnic origins could be uncovered. On the pulpit in the church were inscribed words from Jeremiah 4:19 about God's people not letting their voice be silenced in the face of evil, which had proved to be prophetic.



Alt-Pankow Parish Church, which is in the middle of a traffic island between two main roads, was quite a contrast to this and it was in their Parish House that we discussed ethical issues around peace and reconciliation.



The most disturbing place to visit was the Martin-Luther-Gedächtnis-Kirche built by the Nazis, which had an interior that looked more like a cinema with rows of seats sloping down to the altar, very dark wood panels and which houses the organ used in the Nuremburg rallies. The most shocking item was a crucifix with a triumphant Christ chest bared and head held high, which contrasts with our usual view of Jesus after he had died on the cross for all our sakes. The Cross of Nails in this church had neon lights on the stand and, as the church is not in general use, the congregation meets in the nearby village church of Alt-Mariendorf. Strangely, this church has large pillars right down the middle that break the direct view of the altar for all the

congregation, whether sitting on the right or left of the main aisle!

One highlight was visiting the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church near the centre of Berlin, in amongst the shops, with walls made of a concrete honeycomb containing 21,292 stained glass inlays. The glass inspired by the colours of the glass in Chartres Cathedral, was predominantly blue with small areas of ruby red, emerald green and yellow.

Our stay culminated in a morning visit to St. Mary's Church Alexanderplatz, where for many years they have been feeding over sixty homeless people a week and helping them get into work and find accommodation.



In the end it was the people who made the greatest impression, their dedicated volunteering to helping those around them and their commitment to saying the Litany of Reconciliation in their church at 12 noon every day, as people in our Cathedral in Coventry do. As Christians we are so much more connected through our shared faith than I had ever realised!

*Kay Dyer* – Associate Priest

## NEW WORKSHOP PROVIDES SOUL SPACE



Photo by Harry Lomax

A new series of workshops from The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon will explore the bigger questions in life and, taking the idea that we are all on a spiritual journey, encourage participants to take the next steps.

Starting on 14 January, Soul Space is a workshop held over 10 weekly sessions run by a team from the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon comprising Holy Trinity, All Saints' Church in Luddington and St. Helen's Church in Clifford Chambers.

The sessions will be interactive with participants given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss key aspects of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal group. Booking for the sessions, which will be held at Café Lomas at the Health and Wellbeing Information Centre, is online at [www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org).

The Soul Space team is led by the Rev. Patrick Taylor, Vicar of Holy Trinity, who commented, "Many people have questions about faith, but might not feel comfortable in church. The focus for Soul Space is on exploration, so each session will be discussion-based. We will look at what the Christian faith has to say about the issues that we all face in our day to day lives. We are all on a spiritual journey and this course will provide some compass points."

## Save the Dates for Social Events

The Social Team are planning the following events in 2019

- Sun March 3: Lunch and Musical Items
- Sat May 11: Fun Wine Tasting
- Sun June 9: Parish Picnic after All Age Communion



- Sat Sept 14: Old Town Treasure Hunt and Afternoon Tea
- Sat Oct 12: Harvest Event

The Social Team very much hope many of you will be able to join us for these events. We will need extra helpers if they are to go ahead. Please consider if you could help with advance planning or practical tasks on the day.

Contact Chris Cottrell Tel: 01789 204273 or email: [cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com](mailto:cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com)

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY



### Holy Trinity Church

#### **Sunday 3 February - Candlemas**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Special Service

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 10 February - 4th Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
12.00 noon Baptisms  
6.00pm Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 17 February - 3rd Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10  
Rosebird Centre 10.00am HolyTrinity@Rosebird  
Methodist Church 6.00pm Open to God

#### **Sunday 24 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Food4thought  
12.00 noon Baptisms

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10  
6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

Sunday 3 February 9.30am Family Worship

Sunday 10 February 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 February 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 24 February 9.30am Holy Communion - Traditional



### All Saints', Luddington

Sunday 3 February 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10 February 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 February 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 February 9.30am Holy Communion



## WORSHIP NOTES - FEBRUARY

With Easter being late this year, February brings us something of a lull between significant seasons in the church year. We begin with the feast of Candlemas which marks the close of the Christmas and Epiphany season, in which we have celebrated the gift of the light of Jesus. Next month brings with it Ash Wednesday (6 March) and the season of Lent when our focus turns towards the cross and we prepare to celebrate Easter. But first we have a dose of "ordinary time" in which to catch our breath!

There is still plenty going on. Here are some highlights:

### 3 February Candlemas

**10am All Age Eucharist.** We recall the occasion when Jesus was taken as a child to the Temple and he was welcomed as "a light to lighten the Gentiles". Traditionally this was the day when the church's candles for the coming year were blessed, hence the nickname "Candlemas", which is much less of a mouthful than the proper title of "The Presentation of Christ in the Temple"! Our All Age services are important because they give the opportunity for our whole Sunday morning congregation to come together, including those who worship at TrinityCentre@10. On this occasion we will be joined by members of the ATC (Air Training Corps), known also as the "Air Cadets".

They are based at Stratford-upon-Avon School and Steve Jarvis is their Chaplain (Kay Dyer has been in the past so we have a strong connection).

**6pm A Service of Readings and Music for the Feast of Candlemas.** This service takes us from the sparkling lights of Christmas and prepares us for our journey following the Way of Jesus, which leads us to the cross.

**10 February 6pm Healing Service** This special service of Evensong with the choir provides an opportunity for any who wish to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil as we pray for healing of body, mind or spirit. As well as receiving this ministry for yourself, you can come to request prayer for someone known to you who is in need of God's healing grace at this time.

### 24 February 10am Food4thought

We have recently looked into developing a longer term partnership with a mission agency and have invited a guest speaker from USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) to tell us about their work and how we might support them. Please note there will be a retiring collection for USPG (in addition to the usual collection for the parish during the service).

*Patrick*

### Contemplative Prayer Group

Come and join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre Lounge for talk and refreshments followed by a time of silent prayer,

**Everyone is welcome**

Contacts:    The Revd. Jenny Rowland    01789 415 548  
                  Tricia Hall-Matthews        01789 414 182





Christmas table decoration provided by Hilary Newman

## ...Mysterious ways!

On a quiet afternoon in January last year, Steve and I were talking about all the volunteering opportunities available at Holy Trinity, and the ones we were involved with. However, we came up with one area that didn't seem to be covered – the homeless and vulnerable, of whom there seemed to be an increasing number in Stratford.

Lo, and behold, the following Sunday in church, we were approached by the Revd. Kay Dyer, who indicated that a new initiative from Stratford Churches Together was about to be launched and would we like to become involved – weekend lunches for the homeless! Now if

that's not someone working in mysterious ways, I don't know what is! We looked at each other, and in light of our conversation, we had to say yes.

The Link Project in Stratford provides lunches and washing facilities for the homeless during the week, but nothing was available to them at the weekend. The project involves all the churches in the Stratford area (eight in all), and a team of, usually, three volunteers does one session (11.30am to 14.00pm) a month – Saturday one month and Sunday the next. We use the facilities of the United Reformed Church



Steve and Hilary Newman on soup duty

in Rother Street, and although we can't provide washing facilities, we can provide a selection of warming soups, bread, cake, fruit and endless supplies of tea and coffee. We are also blessed by having sandwiches provided by Prêt a Manger who, nationwide, donate leftover fresh food at the end of each day to homeless charities; something the company has done since its inception in 1986. Some of us provide homemade soup and cake, but we also have provisions provided by

Stratford Foodbank, so getting out the cake tins and large pans is not a necessity!

At the outset, we catered for three or four guests, rising to around fifteen during last year's really cold weather, but we now seem to have settled with around ten guests each time. They all seem to very much appreciate the food, the company and the warmth. Every one of Holy Trinity's volunteers, of whom there are currently seven – but we can always do with more - find the experience very rewarding.



Two of the volunteers Marion Mitchell and Hilary Newman

If you would like to know more about the 'Soup Kitchen' or you would like to volunteer, please do contact me – it would only involve one Saturday or Sunday every three months if we can recruit two or three more of you to this very worthwhile cause.

Hilary Newman, 01789 296771 or hilnewman1945@gmail.com

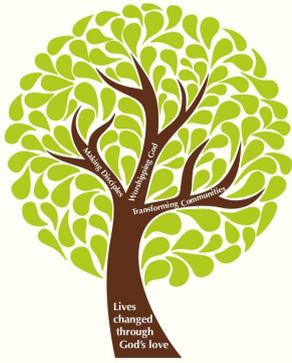
*It takes much more than money to overcome the issue of poverty and homelessness - compassion, understanding and kindness make a world of difference.*

*(Quote from the Prêt Charity Run website)*



Christmas decoration provided by Hilary Newman

Photos by Felicity Howlett



## Five Year Plan Progress Update

*In order to grow and develop as a church, we need to focus on particular things which will make a difference. Our Five Year Plan (2018-2023) has three key areas:*

*Nurturing Faith*  
*Reaching out*  
*Making the most of resources (people, finance and buildings)*

*We've made significant progress on many of the things we set out to do when the plan was launched last year. Here are a few highlights.*

### Nurturing Faith

**Youth Provision** - Nineteen young people came to an initial meeting in October to discuss what they would like to do. The first of our regular sessions is due to take place on Saturday 16 February in the Parish Centre, 4-6pm

**Trinity Talks** – A team has been set up to invite visiting speakers to address topics that may be of interest to people both within and beyond the church, focusing on the relationship between faith and living in the world today. We are looking to invite high-profile or well-known people so if you have any personal contacts, do let Patrick know!

### Reaching out

**Ken Kennett Centre** -we have played a key role in enabling the centre to get up and running again. There is now a weekly Stay and Play group on a Tuesday, which is a partnership between Trinity Tots and the Parenting Project. This is followed by a café aimed at attracting older people.

**Soul Space** -our new workshop for those wishing to explore the Christian faith has proved to be very popular. At the time of going to press, about eighteen participants have registered for the ten session course.

**Overseas partner** – We are exploring a possible partnership with USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel).

**Social Media** -the live broadcast of some of our Christmas services has enabled us to reach many more people than attended the services. There have been over a thousand views of A Service of Lessons and Carols, and over five hundred of Midnight Mass. The intention is to broadcast services regularly throughout the year.

### Resources

**Developing our people** -about twenty are registered to attend the Leading Worship course which started in January at Holy Trinity (a Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship and Ministry). Half of the participants are from this parish, which is really encouraging!

**Improving our Finances** -Our new Treasurer (Mike Warrillow) has given a presentation and produced a leaflet to help explain how our parish finances work. This has helped to prompt those not yet signed up to our Stewardship scheme to make a commitment to regular giving (usually by Standing Order). However, there remains a shortfall of about £20,000 this year so we are dependent on more generous giving to be able to sustain our ministry and mission.

**Buildings** -the results of the consultation on replacement seating have been received and the PCC is now considering the most suitable options. We will be looking at the central nave seating initially.

*Five Year Plan Overview Team*

## FROM THE REGISTERS, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

### Christenings

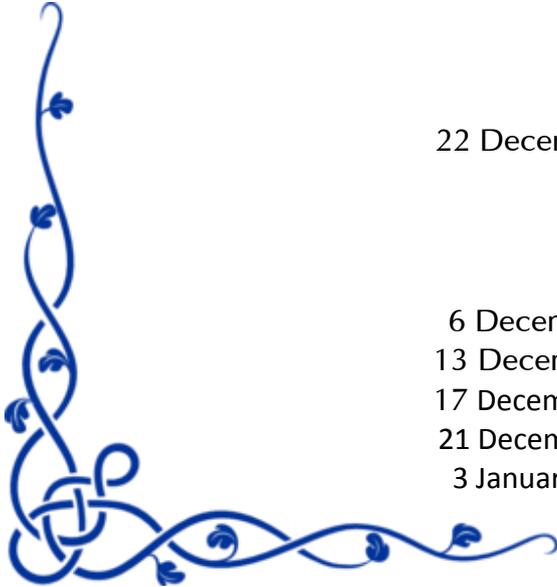
9 December  
Hope Tomes  
Luke Leist  
Olivia Bloomfield  
Imogen Hutchinson  
Erin Grocott

### Weddings

22 December  
Robert Kennedy and Rebecca Browning  
(Guild Chapel)

### Funerals

6 December  
13 December  
17 December  
21 December  
3 January  
Brian Webb  
Margaret Morris  
David Wilkinson  
Monica Lewis  
Philip Bentley



### Shakespeare for All!

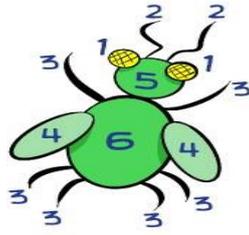
Every first Saturday of the month, from 11.00am, a group of us gather in the lovely Stratford Public Library, in collaboration with The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, to read a Shakespeare play. We started last spring, and are chomping our way through the complete works, chronologically, so that we can see Shakespeare's development as a writer across the thirty-eight plays, two narrative poems, and one hundred and fifty four sonnets. There tend to be between twelve and twenty of us, but these sessions are open to anyone who would like to turn up, and we are happy to accommodate as many as possible.

We read around the group, speech by speech, which makes the plays many-voiced and keeps us on our toes. But you don't have to read. Some people just like to sit and listen, and let Shakespeare's words wash around and over and through them. Copies of *The Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Works* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) are provided, so we can all have the text in front of us (or some people bring their own copies). There is a comfort break at the end of act three, and the Library provides tea, coffee, and biscuits. We tend to finish between 1.30pm and 2.00pm.

This whole idea was inspired by my work with Nashville Shakespeare Festival. They call it 'Shakespeare Aloud'. They also meet on the first Saturday of the month, and are now embarked on their second journey through the canon. We next meet on Saturday 2 February to read *Richard II*; 2 March for *Romeo and Juliet*; 6 April for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and so we continue. No tickets necessary; just turn up.

Revd. Dr Paul Edmondson, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.





## Epiphany Party and Beetle Drive Saturday Jan 5

It must have been at least twenty five years since I last played “Beetle” with our children. In these days when we have a vast choice of online games, I’d forgotten how much fun is possible with just a dice, a pencil and a sheet of paper. “Mike with the mike” did a splendid job of explaining the rules and organising proceedings, despite a sore throat.

Some of us older players took a few minutes to remember the importance of moving the dice around the table quickly to have the maximum number of rolls. We gradually picked up other useful tactics, such as rolling it towards the person whose turn came next and making sure it didn’t drop off the edge. By the end of the evening, you could see how much faster and more competitive the play was on all tables.

The famous faces and Epiphany quizzes exercised our brains and, together with the supper, made sure there was not time for anyone to become bored. Thanks and congratulations to the Social Team for arranging such an enjoyable event.

Bryan Cottrell



## The Epiphany Party: By Georgie Poulten aged 9

On the evening of Saturday 5 January, families got together for a fun, chilled out evening. It was nice to see friends and chat to each other and the ‘Beetle Drive’ also got people moving out of their seats to play a fun, interactive game.

You would have to be lucky though, because you had to roll a dice to begin to draw the beetle on your paper. First you had to get a six to draw a body and then so on.....

There were lots of quizzes to answer too and if you got them correct there were prizes to be won. After hours of fun, everyone was getting hungry so this was where the ‘bring and share’ bit came together - families would bring food or drinks to share with others.

There was lots of delicious food such as: vegetable chilli, jacket potatoes, cheese and biscuits, olives, crisps and dips, pavlovas, cakes and much more.

Around sixty people came from Holy Trinity church – some from Trinity@10, Trinity Voices and the Parish Eucharist.

Overall, I had a great time not only because I won a prize, but because I was near my friends. I’m sure everyone had a fantastic time like I did!

A big thank you to the Social Team for volunteering their time to organise it and make the night so memorable.

If you think this sounds like fun then please come along and join us at the next event because there’s plenty of room and we’d love to see you!

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**

**Friday March 1 at 12.15pm in Holy Trinity Church**

**Join us for the service followed by a soup lunch.**



**Come – Everything is Ready!**

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over one hundred and twenty countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some thirty eight hours later.

**Further information is available on the WDP website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)**





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## Wines at Home



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Wines at Home

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*The event has exceeded my expectations in many ways - I hope it isn't too long before the next one. Comment following the 2017 weekend*

*When is the next Away Weekend? Comment following the 2017 weekend*

*Fellowship, prayer and commitment extraordinary. Will certainly come to next one - fairly soon I hope. Comment following the 2017 weekend*

*Sunday Eucharist - totally amazing - unforgettable. Comment following the 2017 weekend*

*It's been a weekend that will give us constant roses in December. A number of us were reduced to tears during the Eucharist. Comment following the 2017 weekend*

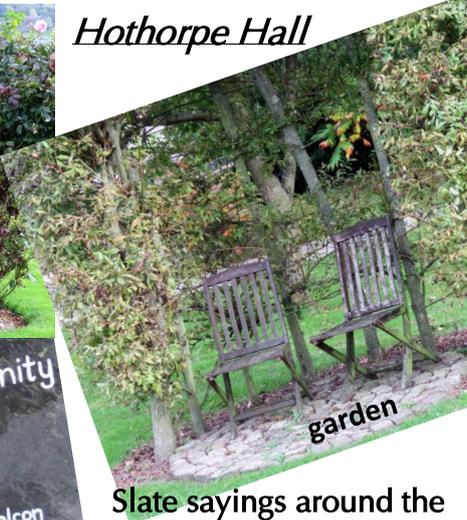
We invite you to a weekend of  
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 for  
*The Parish Away Weekend*  
 from the  
**9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
*Further details and costs will be available shortly*  
*To register your interest, and ensure a place, please email*  
[filnewman1945@gmail.com](mailto:filnewman1945@gmail.com)

**"SAVE THE DATE"**



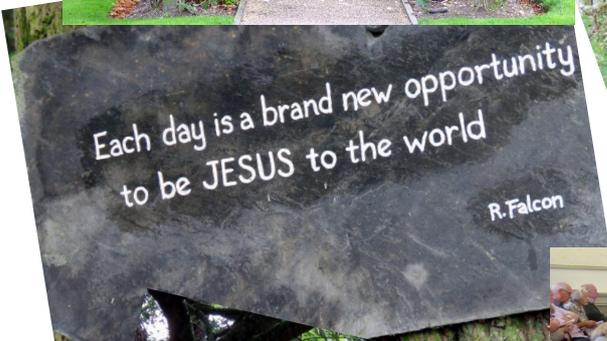
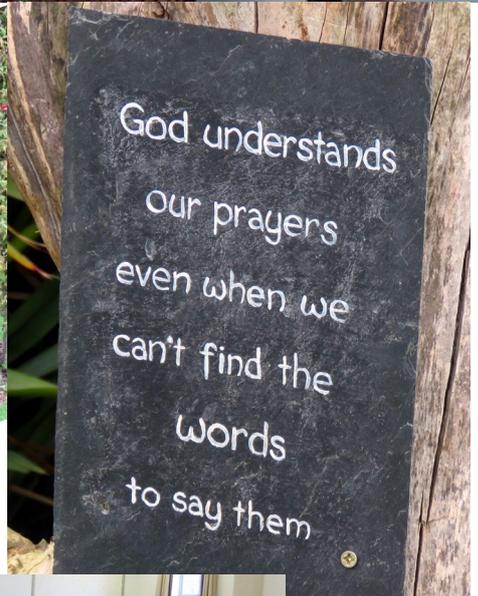
garden

*Hothorpe Hall*



garden

Slate sayings around the grounds



R. Falcon



listening to a talk



garden

Images by Felicity Howlett

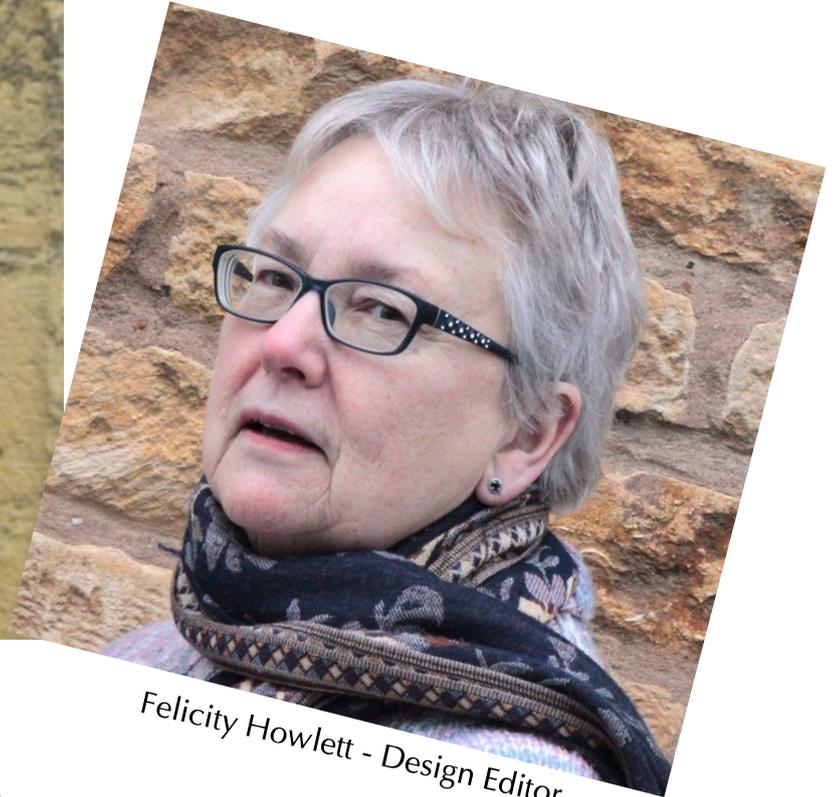


hotel

# MEET THE MAGAZINE TEAM



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Felicity Howlett - Design Editor



Paul Lageu - subscriptions and distribution



Judith Dorricott - Features Editor



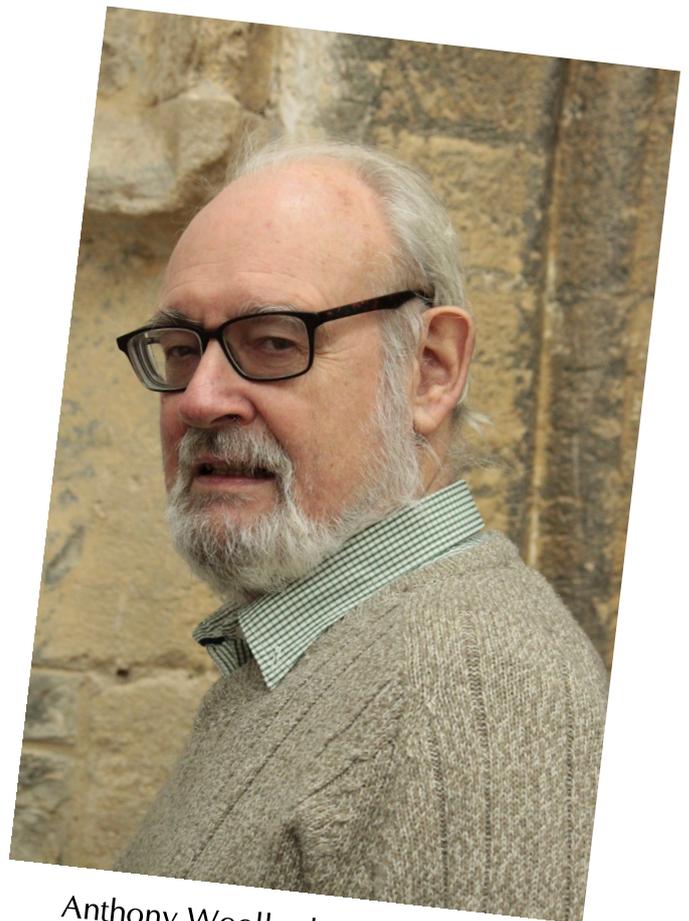
Karen Hollis - advertising



Carole Askew - subscriptions and distribution



Ruth Poulten - PCC Representative



Anthony Woollard - team member

## LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

It will be no surprise that it's been a busy time with all that we do for children and families. Our celebrations kicked off with a bang, quite literally thanks to streamer cannons, at our Christingle Service at Holy Trinity. It was wonderful to see the church full of so many different people, and in total £434.50 was raised for The Children's Society. This was followed by very special Christingles at All Saints', Luddington the following week and St Helen's Clifford Chambers on Christmas Eve.

Trinity Tots also got into the festive mood, engaging in different Christmas crafts in the weeks building up to Christmas. We finished the term with our Christmas Party where we heard the Nativity story and had a very special visit from Father Christmas. We also held our first Trinity Tots spin off group at the Ken Kennett Centre, bringing some festive sparkle to that part of our parish.



At the December HolyTrinity@Rosebird service children and adults came dressed as different characters to bring to life the Christmas Story. The version of the story was a bit different from the traditional one, as Mary & Joseph travelled to Bethlehem on a unicorn and we did have a midwife to help with the delivery! They were soon visited by the Wise Men, who travelled rather exotically on a tiger.



The culmination of our celebrations was at the Big Nativity and Christmas All Age service. At the Big Nativity I think we could have set a new world record for the number of shepherds in one place. Thanks to Marco's kind gift of a 10kg Panettone, everyone at our All Age service on Christmas Day got to share in the Italian tradition of having a piece of the sweet bread.



Things aren't slowing down in 2019. We are continuing with our Toddler Group at the Ken Kennett Centre, which meets every Tuesday during term time from 9:00-10:30am. Even if you haven't pre-schoolers yourself, please spread the word about this new group. We also have a host of All Age services, which are great opportunities to bring our church family together in worship. Details of these services will be in future Trinity Times and in the weekly pew sheet.

Our new Youth Group will meet for the first time on Saturday 16 February at the Parish Centre. If you want more information about the group, please contact Revd Steve Jarvis.

### *Willows Pantomime – Cinderella*

15 -17 February

If you want to see a very different side to me, please come and support our Church School, the Willows' annual pantomime. This year it's *Cinderella* and I'm taking on the role of the Evil Step Mother, Baroness Hardup; imagine a combination of Miss Trunchbull & Miss Piggy! You don't have to have children at the school to go and it's great fun for any age.

Tickets are only £5 and can be purchased online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/willowsfriends](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/willowsfriends)

Friday 15th February 7pm,

Saturday 16th February 3pm & 7pm,

Sunday 17th February 4pm

The money raised by the pantomime goes to the Willows Friends to support the school and all the work being done there.

*Phil Harper*

Children's & Families Minister

## COVENTRY DIOCESE KENYA PARTNERSHIP

*In 2015, one of Holy Trinity's retired clergy – the Rev Canon Andrew Dow – visited Uganda with the congregation's gift of money enabling Good News Bibles to be bought and given to teenage orphans. Now he is off to Africa again – but to a different region. Here he explains more:*

On Friday 15 February, I shall be flying to Kenya, along with seven others from the Coventry Diocese – lay and ordained – under the leadership of the Bishop of Warwick. We will be based for eight days in the Western Kenyan town of Kapsabet, where the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) has recently established a brand new diocese! Yes, the Christian church in Kenya is growing so fast that older diocesan structures are no longer coping. So in 1983, the Diocese of Nakuru spawned the new diocese of Eldoret, which has now itself “given birth” to the Diocese of Kapsabet.

Elected as its first bishop in 2016, the Rev Paul Korir - whom I met on his recent visit to Coventry – is by any standards a remarkable leader. Born into poverty which often sent him to bed hungry, and shoeless until aged 16, Paul was converted to Christ aged 20. “God raised me from grass to grace”, he says on his website, “and that is why I was so passionate to share the hope of Christ with other young people, who like me, were at risk from poverty, political corruption, and hard-line Islamic influences.” Following his ordination, Paul threw himself into evangelism, church planting, and leadership development, all great preparation for his current pioneering episcopal role.

Paul's study of the New Testament has convinced him of the importance of Christian partnership – that is, that no individual Christian, or Christian church, or community should try to follow Christ on their own, without the mutual support of partners, or fellow travellers on the path of discipleship. “Through partnership,” he writes, “I seek to raise a godly future generation by allowing people to visit other cultures through mission trips and ministry together.”



Perhaps it was this vision that led him recently to approach the Bishop of Coventry with a view to establishing a partnership between the dioceses of Coventry and Kapsabet. Bishop Paul, along with three others, visited our diocese in November – sadly, time didn't allow for a visit to Stratford – and now Coventry is reciprocating with our team visit, the second in twelve months.

So what benefits could this partnership bring? Bishop Paul is hoping that we may be able to offer theological teaching, training in preaching and discipleship, and expert help in the fields of Christian education, vocational training, and hospital chaplaincies. In return, these Kenyan Christians may prompt us to worship more joyfully and with less British reserve(!), and challenge us by the unashamedly open way they share their faith with unbelievers. We may also take note of their stand on certain ethical issues currently troubling the Christian church worldwide. Along with almost the whole of the Anglican Church in East Africa, ACK has resolutely set its face against western-based liberalising trends in the area of sexuality, determined to uphold non-negotiable, as they see it, biblical principles about sex and marriage.

Initially the partnership will be forged at a central level, but in the hope that gradually it will transmute into lots of vibrant links between local parishes. Holy Trinity's five year plan has committed us to entering into some kind of mission partnership, or link – perhaps it could be with an actual Western Kenyan congregation! It could be quite a shock to the system – and very good for us!

So what will I be doing in Kapsabet? At the time of writing, I don't yet know! But this is Africa, where people are more important than programmes. I guess I may be asked to preach – in Kenya, that means speaking for at least half an hour! So I shall take some of my older, longer sermons with me.

Obviously the team and I would appreciate your prayers as we travel and visit. Because of some poor roads, widespread poverty and unemployment at 40%, Kenya is not the safest place in the world. We need God's protection, as well as wisdom speaking into a totally different culture. Please pray about the team's health, too! After the rest of the team has returned to UK, I am staying on in Nairobi for three days, to revisit some old haunts (I first visited the city 51 years ago!), perhaps even the local wildlife safari park!

Andrew Dow

## Sprucing up the Churchyard

The Town Council team do a great job with the basic maintenance of the churchyard. However, there is a limit to what they can do and so in summer we put out a call for volunteers, first through the pew leaflets and then through the email list of the Friends. The following people responded and have been active during autumn:

Philip and Pam Cheshire  
Richard Hartley  
Robert Hornby  
Liz Johnson  
Marion Mitchell  
Valerie Thompson



*Robert Hornby fixing a robin nesting box in a holly tree near the north transept.*

We aim to make the churchyard a pleasant place for everyone who visits and being there also provides opportunities to talk with visitors and to represent the church community. We have had a two-hour session every two or three weeks since August, with a total of six sessions to date. Tasks accomplished have included:

- ◆ Removal of grass and weeds along edges of all paths.
- ◆ Removal of weeds around perimeter of building.
- ◆ Removal of weeds from base of wall on Mill Lane (outside on road).
- ◆ Suckers cut from lime trees up to a height of 4 metres.
- ◆ Fitting of four RSPB bird boxes, donated by *Welcome to our Future* (Registered Charity).
- ◆ Planting of six hydrangeas in bed to north of west door of church.
- ◆ Removal of ivy from various gravestones and monuments.
- ◆ Removal of brambles and thinning two thickets on north side.
- ◆ Planting of four shrubs in the bed alongside the southern path.
- ◆ Cutting down dead yew tree amongst gravestones near river.
- ◆ General tidying and removal of rubbish.

We met with Tony Holt, the supervisor of the Town Council's garden team, and agreed on various complementary tasks. We are grateful for his friendly cooperative approach. In addition to mowing, tree pruning and leaf clearance, the Council team maintain gravel on paths, replace vertical edge boards on paths, and remove ivy from the river-side wall. We have also appreciated the kind support and encouragement of Andy Winter, and the guidance of our previous Verger, Paul Harris, before he moved to Oxford.

The experience of volunteering has been very positive for everyone involved. We have found the activity satisfying and have worked well together as a team. The appearance of the churchyard has improved noticeably, and we have received many compliments from members of the congregation.

We will take a break for three months over the winter and resume at the end of February. We would be very happy to have some additional volunteers in the group. It's not necessary to come to every session, only when convenient. If you are interested, please phone me on 293110 or email

[linsay.macdonald@homecall.co.uk](mailto:linsay.macdonald@homecall.co.uk)

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*Anthony Woollard's*  
**WINDOW ON THE WORLD**



“Who am I?” It’s a big question and it can be answered in several ways.

The televised Royal Institution Lectures for children over Christmas answered it in terms of evolution. Even the little bits I saw taught me more biology than I ever learned at school.

But of course we are not just biological human beings occupying a particular space on the tree of evolution. What makes you and me individuals includes our personalities, our history and culture, and so much more.

Psychologists tell us that we begin to find out who we **are** very early in infancy, in terms of boundaries – of what we are **not**. A baby gradually discovers that it is not-Mummy, not-Daddy, not-Kitty and certainly not the hearthrug. As Kay recently reminded us in her sermon on Luke 12:31-50, establishing the boundaries between parents and children is a big part of growing up. And it is this business of boundaries, which we all need, that presents the greatest challenges.

Let’s take personality. I am an introvert. I am not an extrovert. This is an important part of who I am. The world needs both types, and I usually find extroverts enlivening rather than irritating. I hope they can live with me similarly.

But let’s go on. I guess I am part of an intellectual elite – not like a lot of other people, some of whom I don’t always find easy to understand, and who may in turn see me as a threat (think of those references to “experts” at the time of the referendum). And I am a white English male – not like those of other nations and races, some of whom are now looking at the political tangle we in this country have got ourselves into and are rather glad that they are not us. At this point, it is precisely the drawing of boundaries (“God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are”) that gets us into trouble. If our identity is based purely on what we are **not**, we can become narrow, prejudiced and downright hostile to those others.

And yet, we do need the boundaries that tell us who and what we are, in terms of gender, education, national culture and so on – but positively rather than negatively. That is the difference between patriotism and nationalism, between proper pride and a superiority complex. Can we be open in our sense of identity, neither losing it, nor defining it exclusively against others?

I have been impressed lately with a number of interviews with actors of mixed heritage. Those who can be 100% modern English, and 100% Nigerian (say) at the same time, **and** 100% Hamlet or Juliet when they are on stage, really make you think about the possibilities of an enriched identity. That is why the theatre is so important in our lives. When our sense of identity is as real and generous as that, barriers can begin to break down.

Archbishop Welby, whose family background created a pretty confused sense of identity, has said that he now finds identity in Christ alone. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor martyred by Hitler, said something similar in a poem based on his prison experiences. And that is as big an identity as you can find. But how it works out, in the life of an over-educated introvert white English male (or whatever), may not be at all a simple matter. As we approach Lent, it may be worth meditating on just who we are, and how, and why, and how it fits in with the different feelings of identity in those gloriously diverse people around us.



## Carol Singing on Trinity Mead

On a dry but chilly evening, the Friday before Christmas, around thirty adults and children congregated outside the Co-op on Trinity Mead to go carol singing around the estate. As well as the singers, we were admirably supported by Andrew Dow and his trusty trumpet, Faith Piper on bells and her percussion teacher, Bo, on drums.

Starting with 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', we sang four carols outside the Co-op, much to the delight of the staff (more on that later). The group then toured the estate, stopping to sing at various strategic points. With the clarion call of Andrew's trumpet, many of those living on the estate came out to listen to the singing and chat to our collectors (we had a collection on behalf of The Children's Society).



What had been planned as an hour's singing stretched into ninety minutes with everyone enjoying not only the singing but also the interaction with the residents. Following a final sing on Chesterton Drive we retired to the Bentall's house for a much appreciated warm up with mulled wine and mince pies.

As a postscript to the evening, the following day one of our singers was in the Co-op on Trinity Mead and was asked, by the lady of the checkout, if he'd been one of the carol singers the night before. She went on to say how much they'd enjoyed the singing and how it had cheered them up on what had been a very busy evening for them. Another of the checkout assistants asked if they were coming back again and was very disappointed to hear that it wouldn't be until next year.

Everyone felt that the evening had been a great success, both as an outreach exercise from Holy Trinity and in raising £100 for The Children's Society. Special thanks to Chris Cottrell and Margaret Sullivan for organising the event.



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Present



## THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

Actors, Readers, Singers and Musicians tell the Easter Story from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection

Trinity Players previously presented this dramatic re-enactment at Easter 2008 and 2010.

It tells the Easter story from the viewpoint of people who were, or might have been, there.

The message is, of course, timeless, so past and present merge as we re-create the greatest story.

There will be two performances (lasting about one and a half hours)

on Saturday March 30 at 2pm and 7pm.

Since Trinity Players offer the performances as part of Easter worship, admission is free.

If you would like to be involved onstage or backstage in any way, please contact Ursula on

[urussell@joyousgard.org.uk](mailto:urussell@joyousgard.org.uk)



On Sunday 13 January Edith Brooks was presented with some flowers and a card to commemorate her thirty years' service to Holy Trinity as an altar server. The day was extra special as it was also her birthday.

Photo by Harry Lomax



## SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS IN KARACHI by David Ellis

As vicar of a parish with a 50% Pakistani Muslim population, I wanted to be able to relate to the families, many of whom had children in our church school. So I set out on a somewhat scary visit to Pakistan, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Trust. My companions were Fr. Bernard of the Mirfield Community of the Resurrection, Fr. John Gott, RC school chaplain in Dewsbury and Harry Crivan, a Glaswegian Jew. All of us were working with

Pakistani Muslim communities. Armed only with a few addresses of Christian and Muslim families we set off never knowing where we would spend the next night. At Karachi airport however we were met at 4am by Bishop Arne Rudvin, Moderator (Archbishop) of the United Church of Pakistan who had got wind of our visit via the understandably anxious Bishop of Wakefield. As a Norwegian missionary, Arne Rudvin had spent twenty years in Pakistan. He kindly made room for us for several days. As we sat at his feet he shared his insights into Islam and the stance taken by Christian mission in facing a 97% ardently Muslim population. 'In Britain,' he said, 'to speak of God is an embarrassment. Here God is the hot topic of conversation!'



Arne Rudvin

From Bishop Rudvin we learnt that towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Presbyterian mission in NW India resulted in the conversion of a million 'untouchables' (known today as Dalits). The poorest were willing to be baptised for a bag of rice. Conversion went only skin deep. These Christians lacked leadership and teaching. Shunned by Muslim society for their menial tasks, they were dubbed 'The Sweepers', the name that sticks to their descendants who form the bulk of Pakistan's 2% despised Christian population today. A much smaller group of better educated Christians has emerged through the mission hospitals and colleges.



Pakistani Christians

In Holy Trinity Cathedral, Karachi, we experienced native-style worship, sitting barefoot on the floor and using body postures, touching our heads on the floor for confession and raising our arms for praise. We sang the Zabur, a Punjabi arrangement of the psalms with a frequently repeated chorus, accompanied by tabla drums, tsimta (clashing steel blades) and a small harmonium, a style of worship we found wonderfully exhilarating.

Next door to the cathedral was the Anglican theological college where the principal was Michael Nazir Ali, later to become Bishop of Rochester. He was training his students to work in the 'bustis', the sprawling slum estates on the edge of every city. Slowly we wove our way through the traffic in Bishop Rudvin's car to visit the Franciscan seminary. In the chaos of bullock carts, donkeys, heavily laden camels, gaily decorated buses, jay-walkers and tongas, one drives by horn, adrenalin and prayer, passing upturned vehicles and others which have sunk to their knees with shattered front axles as though in desperate supplication.

At the RC Franciscan seminary Fr Louis Mascarenos was also training his enthusiastic Goanese students to brave the bustis. Lunchtime was punctuated by uproarious mirth. They found Harry, our Glaswegian Jew, to be a great novelty and dubbed him 'The Man from the Old Testament'. After lunch Fr. Louis jumped astride his Lambretta and led us, habit flying in the wind, to his flat which he shared with three of his students, the only Christians among 150 Muslim families. His home was a centre of prayer and love where neighbours came for enquiry and advice. They could take away portions of scripture and Christian literature, but most were illiterate. For them help came in the form of writing letters for job applications. For those who could read, the walls carried inspired messages such as 'God is secretly planning for you in love.'

There is in Pakistan an invisible crowd of unbaptised believers, fed by correspondence courses, who are reading their bibles and joining in Christian worship but who fear the threat of ostracism which baptism brings. One evening we went out to one of the bustis and sat among a vast crowd of some of the poorest Christians on earth, filling a huge disused barn where the singing was tremendous and the worship deeply felt. From Karachi we prepared to move on to Multan, renowned for its heat, dust, beggars and saints, uncertain from now on where we would next lay our heads.



# SOUNDBITES - FEBRUARY-JUNE

Wednesdays, 1pm Holy Trinity



DATE	PERFORMER	INSTRUMENT
6 February	Peggy Wu (RCM)	Piano
13 February	Laurens Macklon and Benedict Wilson	Baritone and piano
20 February	Fumi Otsaki	Violin
27 February	Eiran Lewis (RCM)	Classical guitar
6 March	Musicians from KES	
13 March	Andrew Harsley (RCM)	Cello
20 March	Omnium Gatherum	Choir
27 March	Rebecca Grace	Soprano
3 April	Fangbin Xia (RNCM)	Piano
10 April	Felicity Davis (RBC)	Voice
17 April	Quarto	Vocal Group
24 April	Gloria Yehilevsky and friends(RBC)	Percussion
1 May	Olga Eckert (RBC)	Violin and piano
8 May	Edward Leung (RBC)	Piano
15 May	Verity Morris and Elizabeth Jones	Clarinet and piano
22 May	Kathryn Ellis and Rebecca Mills	Soprano and piano
29 May	Chloe Underwood (RBC)	Voice
5 June	Yue Yu (RBC)	Viola
12 June	Year Ten Musicians from KES	
19 June	Curzon Brass (RBC)	Brass ensemble
26 June	Bogarka Gyorgy (RBC)	Violin



## TRINITY LADIES.

On behalf of the Trinity Ladies I would like to wish all the readers of Trinity Times a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

As I am writing this report on 1 January we have not as yet had our January meeting when Sarah Hosking is coming to speak to us about Coventry Cathedral. I am sure that she will enlighten us with things we did not know about the Cathedral. On 20 February we look forward to seeing slides of Stratford shown by Mike Caldwell and on 20 March we will be holding our annual Charity Tea Party in aid of Avon Cats' Rescue and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Please come and give us your support. Tea and Cakes are just £2.00. Our meetings are on the third Wednesday in the month starting at 2 p.m.

You will be very welcome to come and join us.

With all good wishes for 2019  
Gina Lodge.

## Compline

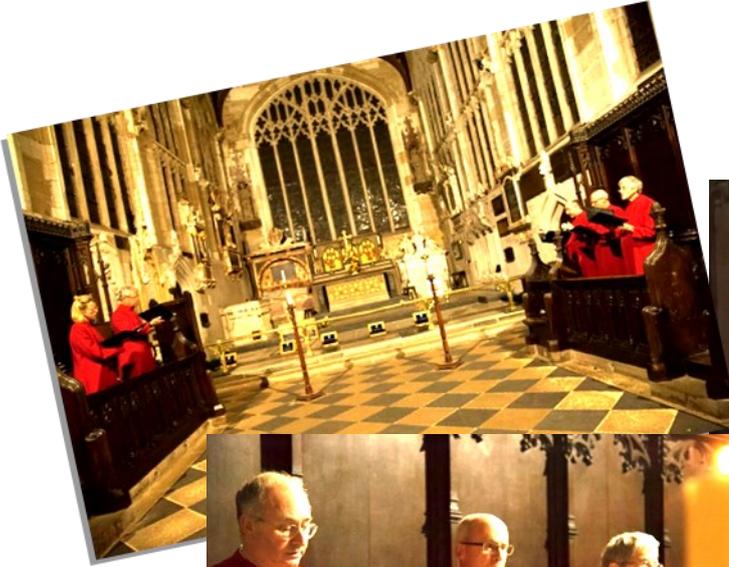
With the grey days of winter we could be feeling blue! However, there is one weekly service to give great cheer to us all.....and that is.....Compline.

I know that I have written about this wonderful service before that takes place on a Friday at 8.40pm for twenty glorious minutes.

I feel very honoured that members of the choir stay to give their time, after choir practice, for this service just for me. I, you see, am the sum total of the congregation!

Do come and join me one Friday and let the cares of the week be calmed away by the words of the prayers of this very special service.

Lindy Draper



Photos by Harry Lomax



## Greenbelt Festival

23 to 26 August 2019 Boughton Estate, Northamptonshire

If you would like, please join Kay in the pre-pitched tent area, provided by Camplight. We have called our group 'Trinity' so that we can all be together! (If you bring your own tents then we can still arrange to meet up over the weekend.)

## Prayer Breakfast

A Prayer Breakfast is held three times a year. We meet in each other's homes for a simple breakfast followed by a time of prayer for Holy Trinity, All Saints' and St Helen's Churches and the parish.

Everyone is welcome. Prayer may be aloud or silent, it is as each person feels comfortable. The next Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, 9 March. Details will be in the pew leaflet. We start at 8am and finish by 9:30am.

Pat Jackson, Gillian Nunn, Pauline Tate.

# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

## ONE LINERS:

I went to a drive-in movie. I didn't see much. There was a bloke in the front row in a combine harvester. *Tim Vine*

When the inventor of the drawing board messed things up, what did he go back to? *Bob Monkhouse*

Words can't express how much I hate World Emoji Day

**NOTICE** seen in Durham Cathedral: You have permission to use the washing machine in the education centre except after 2.30pm when it's full of children.

**On Wednesday Michael Portillo will be giving a talk about his life at St. Swithun's Girls School.** *Hampshire Chronicle*

Seen on menu in a London restaurant: 'If you would like a straw, please ask one of your waiters. They are biodegradable'

**Newspaper headline: Dutch police shoot man with a knife.**

A listener to Radio 4's News Quiz spotted this misprint on a buy and sell Facebook page in Havant: Virtually new black and white bed frame for sale. Can sell with mistress if required.



**Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face**  
*Victor Hugo*

*My thanks to our Trinity Times picture man Harry Lomax for passing on these Howlers by TV quiz show contestants on The Chase and University Challenge*

According to the saying, one of what does not make a summer? *Contestant - Snowman*

What language is spoken on the Faroe Islands? **Egyptian**

What was Gandhi's first name? **Goosey**

Emma Hamilton was the mistress of which naval hero? **Popeye**



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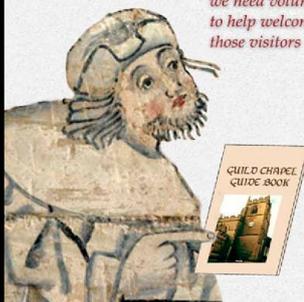
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Special Guest Speaker  
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During "Food for Thought" we will be able to hear about the Sri Lanka Project that we support as our Mission Charity.  
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# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town*

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*Tel. 01789 266 316*

*Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org*

## Clergy & Ministry Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Director of Music	Benedict Wilson	01789 266 316

## Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Neville Beamer	01789 263 435	The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow	01789 417 852	The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182	The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453		

## Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316	andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
Head Verger:	TBA		
Vergers:	David White, Sarah Moorse, Joanna Pinnington		
Parish Administrators:	Sue Holt	01789 266 316	
	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316	rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316	wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598	heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org

## Church Wardens

Hilda Craig	01789 551 234	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Lynne Bunker	01926 642 054	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474

## Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	01789 264 256

## Other Contacts

Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Lynne Bunker	01926 642 054
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	TBA	
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Miriam Dow	01789 417 852
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Josephine Walker	01789 266 316
Home Communion	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator	Gillian Nunn	01789 415 830
Welcome Team	Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928
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	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396



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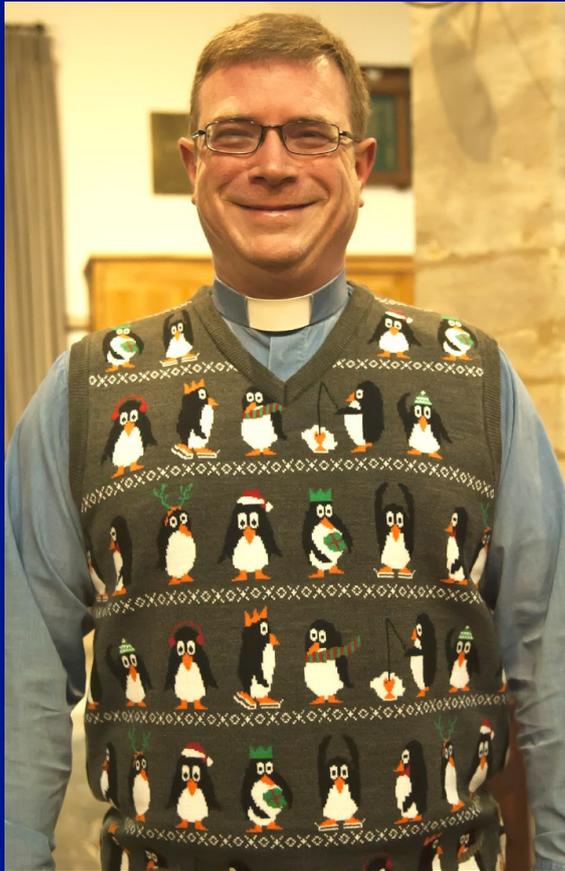
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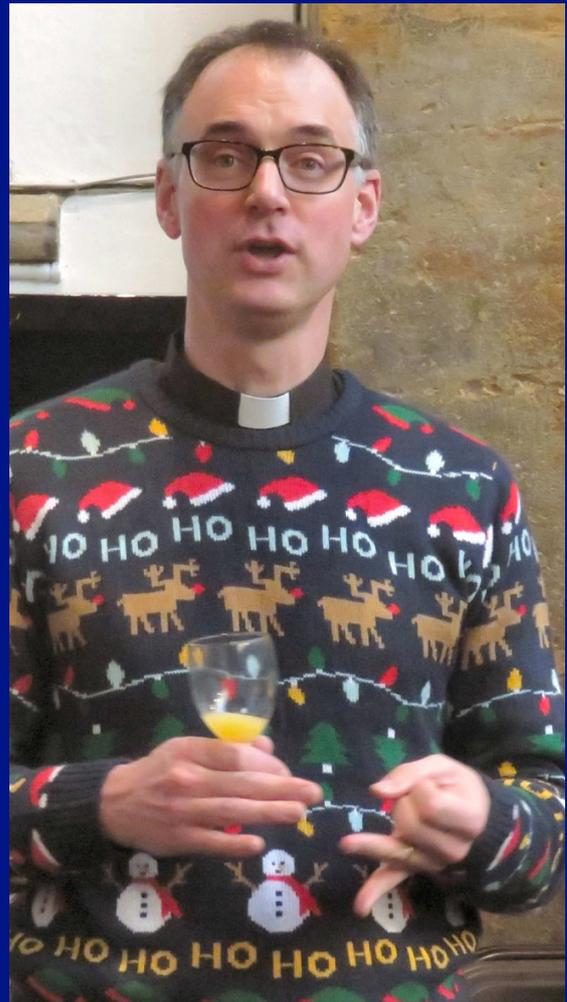
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# MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS 2018

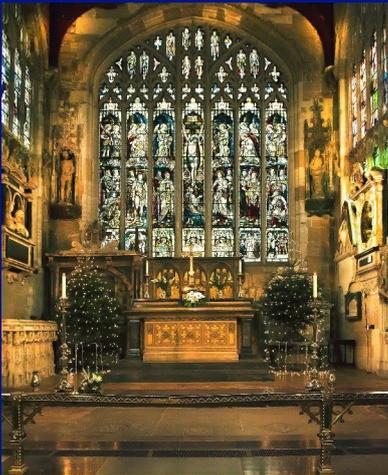


*Photos by Harry Lomax*

### Clergy Christmas jumpers



*Photo by John Burgess*



### Christmas altar



### Beautiful flowers at Holy Trinity



### Nativity

*Photos by Felicity Howlett*