

March 2019

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# THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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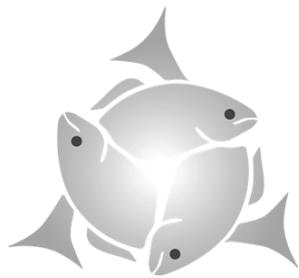
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## Editorial

This month we enter the season of Lent. In the magazine you will find details of many different activities with which to engage during this quiet, penitential time in the church's year.

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

*Psalm 96*

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 copy date is 15 March**

Any item received after this date is not guaranteed inclusion in the magazine.

Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

**timestrinity@gmail.com**

The Annual Subscription to Trinity Times for 2019 is £8 and runs from January to December. Anyone taking out a subscription part way through the year will be charged on a pro rata basis. If you are interested in taking out an

Annual Subscription then please contact either

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia   

Front cover :- Felicity Howlett

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



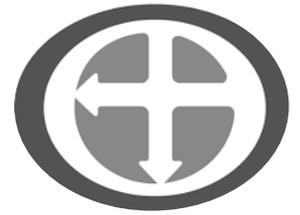
Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## REFLECTING AND PRAYING IN LENT

One of my great daily joys is the receiving, via email, of a daily reflection from the Centre for Action and Contemplation. The reflections are written by the centre's founder Fr Richard Rohr, a priest within the Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans to you and me), and an influential teacher, speaker, preacher, and Christian writer, whose books have re-invigorated the faith journeys of many people around the world.



At the end of January, a reflection appeared in my inbox entitled "People of the Way", and his opening paragraph was this "...Throughout the first five centuries people understood Christianity primarily as a way of life in the present, not as a doctrinal system, esoteric belief, or promise of eternal salvation. By followers enacting Jesus's teachings, Christianity changed and improved the lives of its adherents and served as a practical spiritual pathway. This way - and earliest Christians were called 'the people of the Way' - bettered existence for countless ancient believers. . . ."

The reflection was a powerful reminder of how over the centuries, we have often forgotten or misconstrued important elements of Christianity, and turned it into a religion about Jesus, rather than an imitation and living out of the faith of Jesus.

The notion of Christianity as being the "The Way" was based on Jesus's teaching recorded in Mark 12:28-34. An unnamed questioner asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" and Jesus responded with what is now called the Greatest Command: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*' The second is this, '*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*' There is no other commandment greater than these." Loving God and neighbour was, according to Jesus, the way of the Kingdom of God and the path of Salvation. In the account of this teaching in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus adds, "*do this, and you will live*" (Luke 10:28).



Jesus's followers took these words seriously. In many cases, and unlike contemporary practices of mission and evangelism, the process of becoming a Christian took several years, an extended time of teaching spiritual inquirers "the way" on which they were embarking. Christianity was considered a deliberate choice with serious consequences, a process of spiritual formation and discipline that took time, a way of life that had to be learned in community. In many quarters Christian communities are

once again embracing the ancient insight that the faith is a spiritual pathway, a life built on transformative practices of love, and spiritual disciplines, rather than purely assents to a set of doctrinal beliefs.

So, this coming Lent, in conjunction with our weekly Lenten evening services, we will be providing the opportunity to engage with transformative practices and disciplines to reflect on Lenten themes and readings. There will be the opportunity to use age-old ways of prayer and use of Scripture from the Benedictine and Ignatian traditions, along with contemplative meditation, and prayer using the Labyrinth. We hope that through having a taste of these practices, you will find ways of praying that can be taken away with you as helpful tools, which can be incorporated in your own practice of faith as a means of engaging and rediscovering it as the meaningful "Way" of Jesus it always was.

If you find this planned forthcoming Lenten experience to have been helpful in kick-starting your own prayer life in a fresh way, from Easter onwards there will also be the opportunity to build upon it through the re-launch of "Retreat in Daily Life" within the parish. "Retreat in Daily Life" is a commitment to a daily time of prayer, and a regular meeting with a *Prayer Guide*. More in-depth information about this will appear in the April edition of Trinity Times.

Cont.....

One of the practical expressions we can emulate of the Way of Jesus is the exercising of hospitality and the sharing a meal with others. As such, this coming Lent also sees the return of the weekly Lent Soup Lunches, every Friday from the 15 March - 12 April. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as community, share a meal and conversation, and this year, there will be a five minute "Thought for the Day" and a prayer.

Finally, it is important to stress that these opportunities over the course of Lent are open to all. They are for all within the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon, including the villages, whether regular church goers, or not, and will provide an important and valuable precursor to Holy Week and the Easter Triduum 2019. So, as we count down through these last weeks of Sundays before Lent, I encourage and pray for as many of you as are able, to join with us as we seek to be "People of the Way" on our Lenten journey, beginning with the Service of Ashing on Ash Wednesday.

Blessings,

*Steve Jarvis*



## **Services & Prayer Activities for Lent 2019 Holy Trinity Church**

**Wed 6 March 7:30pm**

*Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Ashing*

**Wed 13 March 7:30pm**

*Lectio Divina (Benedictine Tradition) followed by Night Prayer (Compline)*

**Thurs 21 March 7:30pm**

*The Examen & Meditation (Ignatian Tradition) followed by Night Prayer (Compline)*

**Wed 27 March 7:30pm**

*Prayer using the Labyrinth followed by Night Prayer (Celtic Tradition)*

**Wed 3 April 7:30pm**

*Praying with Icons and Images followed by Stations of the Cross*

**Wed 10 April 7:30pm**

*Contemplative Prayer & Meditation followed by a Service of the Eucharist*

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH



### Holy Trinity Church

#### **Sunday 3 March - Sunday next before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 10 March - 1st Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 17 March - 2nd Sunday of 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 March - 3rd Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 31 March - Mothering Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All Age Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong with Healing

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

Sunday 3 March 9.30am Family Worship

Sunday 10 March 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 March 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 24 March 9.30am Holy Communion - Traditional

Sunday 31 March 9.30am Family Worship



### All Saints', Luddington

Sunday 3 March 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10 March 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 March 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 March 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 31 March 9.30am Holy Communion



## WORSHIP NOTES - MARCH



Lent (which has been very late coming this year) comes from an Old English word referring to the *lengthening* of hours of daylight. The signs of spring are certainly with us already this Lent! Just as Spring is a time for new growth, so Lent is a time to allow our faith to grow and be nurtured through our worship, prayer and bible study. So why not make a special effort this Lent to come to one of the Ash Wednesday services (see below), use daily bible reading notes (available from Holy Trinity shop), come to our special Lent services and to The Message of the Cross on 30 March?

The preaching on Sunday mornings at Holy Trinity during Lent this year will focus on the significance of the three very special days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These are called **The Triduum** (a period of three days of prayer) which, through drama of the Last Supper, the desolation of the Crucifixion and the joy of the Resurrection bring us to the core of who Jesus is and what it means for us to be his disciples.

**Ash Wednesday, 6 March** - at the start of our Lenten journey we recall our dependence on God's grace. I would encourage all those who are regular worshippers to make a special effort to attend a service to receive the sign of the cross in ash. There are two opportunities in this parish:

10am Said Eucharist (Guild Chapel)  
7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)



**Monday 25 March - an important feast day!**

Here's a good pub quiz question: what are the eight "Principal Feasts" in the Church of England Calendar? Answer: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Epiphany, the Ascension, Trinity Sunday, All Saints and the Feast of the Annunciation. Bet you didn't get the last one! So that we don't forget Mary, whom you could say is the first disciple of Jesus, we will be celebrating this feast, exactly nine months before Christmas, with a special service of Holy Communion in what used to be the Lady Chapel (now the Clopton Chapel) on **25 March 9.15am**.

**Mothering Sunday, 31 March - note clocks go forward!**

There are special services at all the churches in the parish to mark this special day in the year.

The 10am All Age Eucharist at Holy Trinity will feature music led by the choir, the TrinityCentre@10 band and Trinity Voices. There will be something for everyone, whatever your age!

Details for special weekday services for Lent can be found on page 5.

*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

## Volunteers needed to read the King James Bible



It's now nearly eight years since Jane Hornby had the brainwave of a daily Bible reading in Holy Trinity Church. The idea came to her because of the popularity of the whole Bible reading, a fund-raising marathon event organised by our Warden Tim Raistrick, which took over two days and nights.

These daily Bible readings started in 2011 to commemorate the 400th year anniversary of the first publication of the King James Bible in 1611. Jane has over twenty volunteers on her list, but says "the more the merrier" as extra readers would help her rota. This rota is issued every three months, and most volunteers only need to read once a month. The readings take place at 2.30 pm each afternoon for fifteen minutes, but are cancelled of course if there are other services, such as weddings or funerals in church. Readers are always happy to swap a day if it clashes with another engagement, and there is also a list of reserves ready to help out.

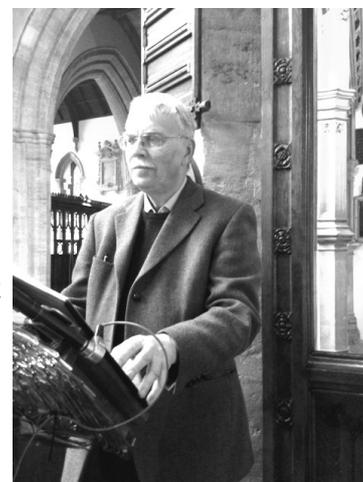
I ask Jane what volunteers chose to read, and she explains that everyone can choose their own passage. Many opt for the New Testament and readings from The Psalms are also popular. Some like to read well-known stories or parables that visitors to the church might recognise, and all the readers say it is both a pleasure and a privilege to read in church.

Jane explains that one of the aims of the Bible readings is to remind our visitors that we are a living breathing church and not just a tourist attraction.

While occasionally in winter, a reader can find that he or she is reading to a silent and empty church, usually the nave is crowded with visitors. Many people sit quietly listening to the words of the Bible and some ask questions or say how much they have enjoyed the beautiful language. We can imagine that William Shakespeare heard this language in church every week and surely he was influenced by its wonderful prose. Occasionally there is a great deal of noise, either from tourists or workmen, and a frown or a quiet word from the Verger is needed!

While our readings have always been from the King James Bible, the beautiful edition we currently use was given to the church last summer by Rena Kelly, in memory of her maternal grandparents, William and Ethel Lees.

If you are interested in joining the list of readers, please contact Jane Hornby on 01789 263966 or on [jane.hornby1@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.hornby1@btinternet.com). She will be delighted to hear from you.



Judith Dorricott



Photographs by Judith Dorricott

## Lent Lunches:- Fridays: 15 March -12 April 12.00-2pm

Why not bring a friend or neighbour, who would normally eat on their own, to the Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre this year? All ages welcome to a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese followed by a five minute, "Thought for the Day", and a prayer.

To help the Home groups estimate numbers, please sign the list in church on the preceding Sunday. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

Any donations will go to the Stratford Churches Together Homeless Project.

*Steve Jarvis*



## Mission and Outreach arrives in Luddington

On 19 January the Mission and Outreach Fund pump-primed (excuse the pun) a Community Pub Night at the Village Hall in Luddington. The Hall was hired by All Saints', and the All Saints' Team, led by the Revd Steve Jarvis, transformed the Village Hall into a pop-up pub, the "All Saints' Arms", with games and Wii skittles on the big screen. The event, attended by in excess of 60 people, including some children, was a huge success with many people asking when the next such event was going to take place. The Church-led event became the centre of the village bringing people together.



The bar staff at the All Saints' Arms....

## FROM THE REGISTERS - JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

### Christenings

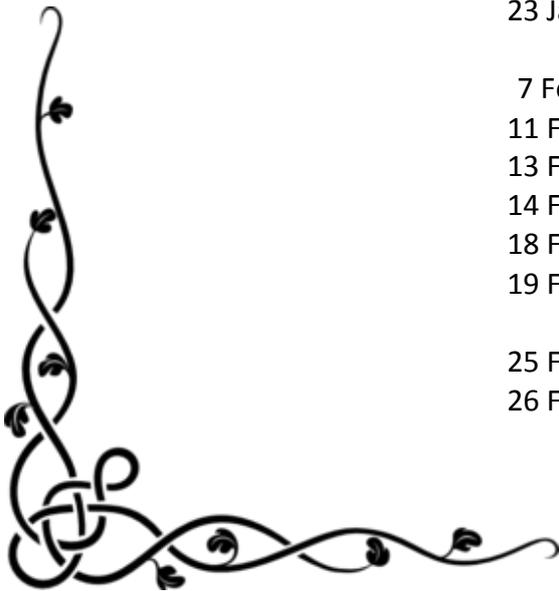
27 January Kyra Butler  
Jude Dorney-Kingdom  
10 February Isabelle Barker  
Florence Murray

### Wedding

2 February James Quaid and Tina Karma

### Funerals

17 January Glynne Hughes  
22 January Noel Shaw  
23 January Edith Hewitt  
Dorothy Carter  
7 February Rose Hamilton  
11 February Stephen Amos  
13 February Josephine Morris  
14 February Gerald Attwood  
18 February Pamela Wallis  
19 February Peter Dingley - Service of Thanksgiving  
Audrey Winter  
25 February Ronnie Mulryne  
26 February Peter Savage



### What is holiday hunger?

4.1 million children are living in poverty in the UK today. For families who are struggling financially, the holidays bring with them even greater pressure. Children who are normally at school Monday to Friday are at home, needing to be fed. *Studies have shown that 6 out of*

*10 parents in low-income families struggle to afford food during the school holidays.* As children spend **170 days of the year out of school**, it is unsurprising, yet still shocking, to know that holiday hunger is an issue.

Out of five schools in Stratford-upon-Avon 172 children take up free school meals. It varies between 6 and 20% of school children in these schools. During school holidays, churches across the country partner with Make Lunch to open a Lunch Club to provide free, healthy, cooked food for children who usually receive Free School Meals. Since the first Lunch Club opened in 2011, churches have served over 81,000 meals.

Stratford Churches Together has decided to embark on a Make Lunch initiative here in the town, providing lunches in school holidays for children who usually have free school meals. We are aiming to start in the Summer half-term holidays in 2019.

If you would like to be involved in this initiative, or donate to SCT to support it, please contact Linda Horrocks:

Telephone: 01789 750971 or Email : [peterhorrocks@doctors.net.uk](mailto:peterhorrocks@doctors.net.uk)

## Meet The New Parish Social Media Team

As part of our Five-year Plan, we are committed to outreach via social media and the parish is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. A new team of volunteers has taken the helm of social media in order to share photos and information on the range of happenings at Holy Trinity, St Helen's and All Saints'.

Roy Dyer will be familiar to most as husband to our Associate Priest Kay. Roy brings digital experience to the role as he is manager of the website for Stratford's U3A. Rebekah is fairly new to Holy Trinity where she is a regular worshipper at our 10am services. Currently working as an intern at the Heart of England Forest, whilst undertaking a Masters in Forest Management, Rebekah has previously undertaken social media for the RSPB.

The Choir of Holy Trinity will continue to have its own Facebook and Twitter accounts looked after by Marie McDougall and Heather Fletcher. Marie is mum to Saul, Logan and Kade in the choir whilst Heather sings in the choir alongside her daughter Bethany.



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## Wines at Home



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Wines at Home



## “UNDERSTANDING CHURCH FINANCES”

where our money comes from and where it goes!



“The church is always asking for money”. How often do you hear that? Well, unfortunately, like all charities, churches do need money: to run and to deliver support to its congregation, to support people in

need and to take the place we would all like to see the church taking in the local community. Patrick has laid out these aspirations in our “5 Year Plan”.

I am not financially qualified, so in taking over as Treasurer at the end of 2018 my questions were very simple. Firstly, “Where does our money come from?” secondly, “How do we spend it?” and lastly, perhaps most importantly, “Do we have any?” Simple questions, so I have drawn a little diagram to try and explain my understanding of how the money flows at Holy Trinity. You will find this below and I hope it will be helpful to explain what, I realise, is not a simple situation.

We have two main sources of income which are used for two different purposes (and “No!”, we do not receive subsidies from the Government or Church of England). Firstly the “Restoration Fund”. We all know Holy Trinity is one of the most visited parish churches in Britain with many people visiting the church – and Shakespeare’s grave. The income from visitors goes to pay for restoration and building maintenance as well as the lighting, heating and administration costs which are incurred in keeping the church open for our visitors. This side of the operation keeps its head above water as a rule – although there are some large restoration and similar costs to come over the next few years. In many ways, however, I think we should consider this income a bonus. Most churches do not have our level of visitors yet still need to pay the massive costs of maintaining historic buildings with very little outside support.

Then there is the “Parochial Fund” which supports our work as a parish church – our ministry and mission – and has to be paid for largely from regular giving by the congregation. The biggest cost by far is the payment of our own clergy – though we benefit greatly also from our retired clergy who give their services for free. The next two biggest items are our music and our children and families work, both of which are absolutely central to our worship and mission. And then this also covers a proportion of our administration costs. In such a busy and complex church, we have to employ quite a few people, though here too we benefit from many volunteers for whose support we are very grateful.

It is in this “parochial” area of the budget where the challenge exists. In 2019, we need almost £20,000 more than we expect to receive, simply to keep the show on the road. But that’s just a snapshot. In 2018, we spent about £8,000 more than our income in this area of our church finances. If we continue to spend in this way, any surplus we have accumulated over the years will be largely spent within two years. It’s not that we have nothing in the bank, but it is true that we rely on the income from visitors to keep the bank account afloat. And that is why, although we don’t like talking about money or asking for it, the PCC, being responsible for church finances, has recently felt it necessary to do just that.

So what should we do? The honest answer is that we cannot do nothing. If we carry on regardless, then we will certainly be irresponsible – and eventually really run out of money. Yet the answer is not to cut out all costs regardless. That’s not a pleasant place to be when we have laid out our aspirations in the “5 Year Plan”. Nor is it for the congregation simply to give more each month. That is not realistic either and the gap is much too big anyway. Nor do I believe it’s healthy to expect the visitors to subsidise the parochial work of the church on an ongoing basis. Yet I do believe the answer lies in a combination of all these – and others.

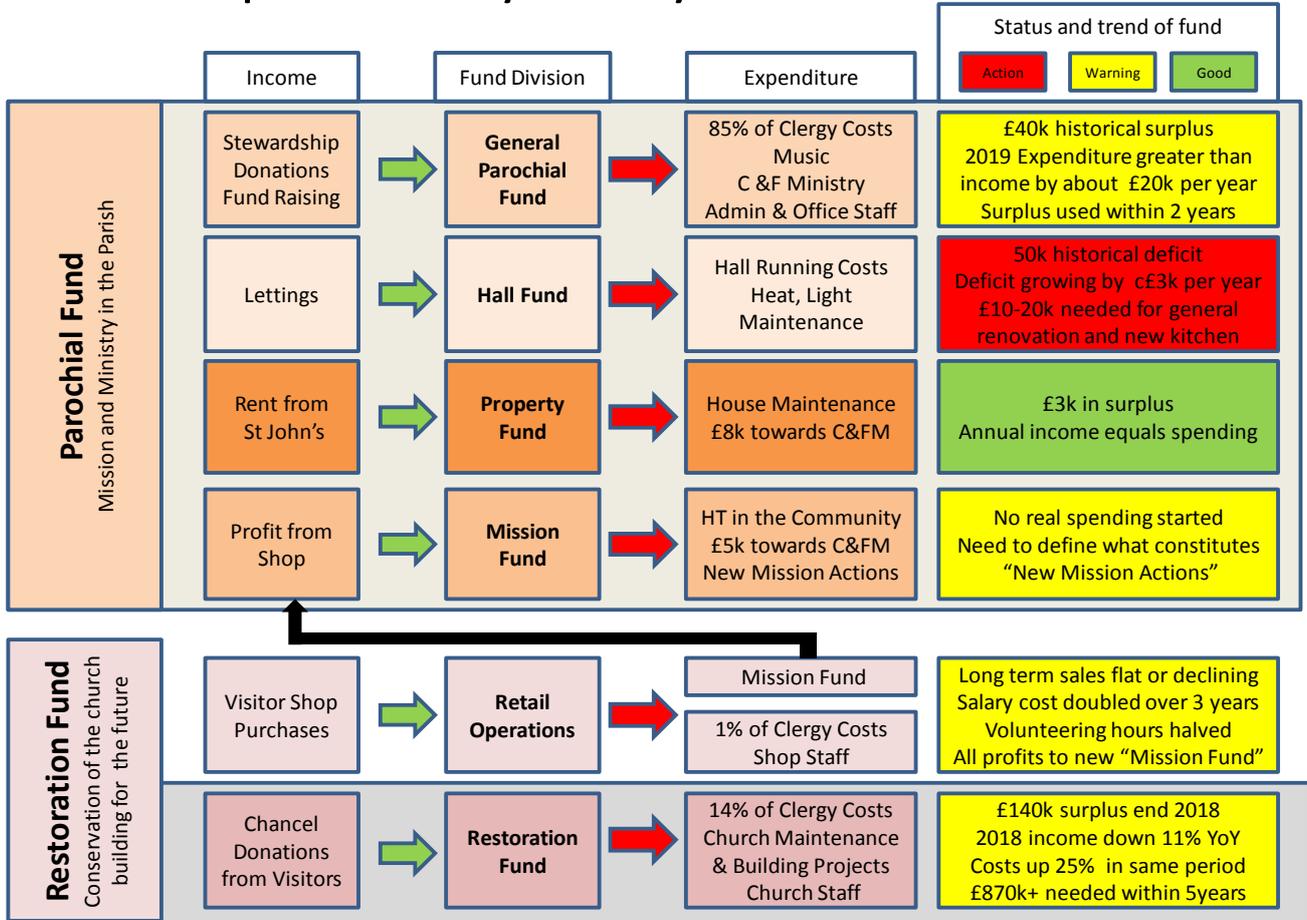
In “Bridging the Gap” we need to ensure we keep the priorities of the “5 Year Plan” firmly in sight and be certain anything we do spend is used efficiently, adding real value to our Vision of “Lives Changed through God’s Love”. Building the community in Holy Trinity is fundamental to this. If you are able to give any time to help with the work of the church, please make yourself known to a member of the Clergy or Parish Office.

*Cont.....*

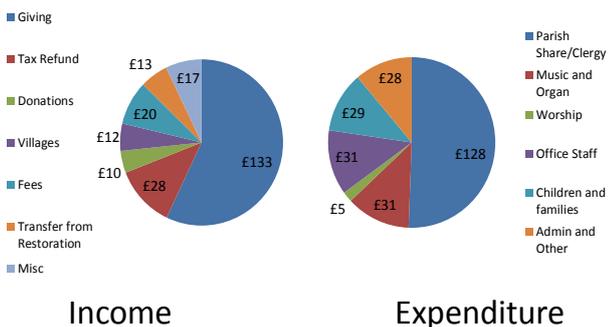
If you do feel able to give a little more each month towards the work of the church, please contact our Stewardship Officer, Chris Kennedy, on a Sunday. But what would make the biggest difference is for the church to flourish and grow. Bringing in new people and building our congregations will help the church in every way and help to ensure its long term future. This, rather than "Understanding Church Finances", is our real challenge.

Mike Warrillow - Treasurer

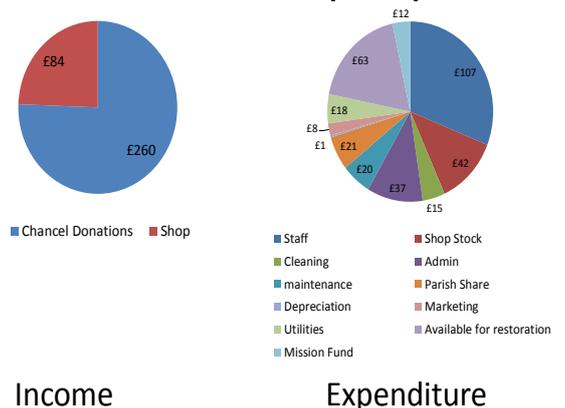
## Simplified Holy Trinity Financial Structure



### 2019 Budget General Parochial Fund (£000)



### 2019 Budget Restoration Fund (£000)



## Coventry Cursillo Weekends are back again!

After a pause of over a year while a new venue was found to hold the Coventry Cursillo weekends, one was held from Thurs 31 Jan – Sun 3 February at Launde Abbey. This is an amazing Retreat Centre built on an Augustinian Foundation, where this year they will be celebrating 900 years of prayer on the same site.



The chapel at Launde Abbey

The Cursillo Movement began after the devastation caused by the Spanish Civil War and was about recovering the fundamentals of what Christianity is really about. These things have not changed across time or culture and the Cursillo method has two basic priorities. How to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and how to make new disciples. In Coventry Diocese both Bishops support and encourage Cursillo, because above all else the Cursillo Movement exists to resource the mission of the local church. During a weekend pilgrims who come from churches across the Diocese experience worship, prayer and talks about aspects of the Christian journey, interspersed with plenty of shared meals.



The Coventry Cursillo banner

Cursillo offers an opportunity to develop a simple Rule of Life, which has three aspects like a stable and secure three legged stool. These are piety, study and action. I had the privilege of serving as a Spiritual Advisor over this weekend, during which many of us found our 'first love' for God rekindled, and there was a tangible sense of Spiritual Renewal.

After a Cursillo weekend pilgrims are encouraged to attend a monthly evening of worship and encouragement called an Ultreya where members can share about their progress on the Christian journey. To get a taste of what this is like, you might like to join in with an Ultreya in Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday 10 July at 7.30pm.



Cursillo group of pilgrims

To apply to join the next Cursillo weekend Course which runs from Thursday evening 24 October to Sunday afternoon on 27 October, please ask Kay for an application form or pick one up from the Parish Office. Places fill up quite quickly, but hopefully from now on there will be two opportunities each year to experience your own Spiritual Renewal.

*Kay Dyer* – Associate Priest.



## DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS LENT

I'm really hoping this year that we can help children, families and anyone who's looking for something different, to find a way to engage with Lent this year.



Over recent years rather than the tradition of “giving” something up for Lent, there has grown the idea of “taking” something up. A great way to do this is the **40acts** initiative which provide 40 days, 40 reflections and 40 challenges to make a difference. You need to register on their website [40acts.org.uk](http://40acts.org.uk) and then each day of Lent you will be sent a challenge and a Bible reading. During 2018, over one

hundred thousand individuals and thousands of groups took the 40acts challenge, creating a wave of more than four million generous acts in one hundred and eighty countries around the world. You can also sign up as a family and download a 40acts wall chart, with things to do each day as a family.

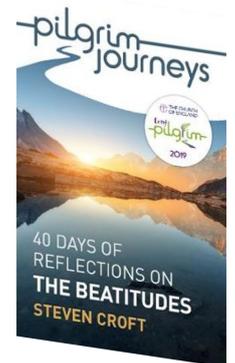
If you're looking for something more creative, on our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) we're looking for people to search for God's



presence around us, or to be more specific a cross. When Lent begins people are invited to post on one of our social media pages photos of naturally appearing crosses that they see. It might be twigs that have fallen on the floor, cracks in a paving slab or clouds in the sky. You might want to take on the challenge of trying to find a cross each day. We're hoping that we'll be able to display some of the photos that are posted.



Once again, the Church of England have produced forty days of reflections, **LentPilgrim** is based on the Beatitudes. Each day provides you with a short reflection on a Bible reading, an invitation to pray and a suggestion as to how you might respond to the Beatitudes' challenge to live as God intends, both as an individual and in community. You can purchase a booklet, which is available from the church shop. If you'd prefer a digital version, you can receive the daily reflections each day of Lent via email or using the free app, sign up at [www.churchofengland.org/pilgrim](http://www.churchofengland.org/pilgrim). If you enjoy it there is also one for the forty days between Lent and Ascension **EasterPilgrim**, which is based on The Lord's Prayer.



If you're looking for an opportunity to develop your faith or those in your family, we have a new stock of books in our church shop to do just that. There are books for children, adults and families. Why not pop in and have a look?

Finally, we will be having our break from Lent when we come together as a church family to celebrate Mothering Sunday. We're having an All Age service with Eucharist in church at 10am on 31 March. As well as giving out flowers, we'll be collecting toiletries and gifts that can be given to women in need.



Hopefully some of these things will help you to get more out of Lent this year, becoming closer to God.



*Phil Harper*

Saturday 2 February 2019  
Directed by Ursula Russell.



Some images from "James and the Giant Peach".



## SOMETHING OLD.....SOMETHING NEW



### Changing the Chairs

It was decided by the PCC that the replacement of the seating should be kept to the central nave at this time. The side aisles will be left as they are with the current pews.

There are three styles of chairs to be tried and one that, at the moment, is only in picture form. This is the Chapel Chair from Trinity Church furniture. The other three, which people are busy testing and evaluating, are the Eton chair, the Theo chair and the Alpha Lams chair.

- ◆ This is the second stage of the consultation of the seating replacement and has taken place throughout February.
- ◆ The feedback will be analysed and presented to the PCC at their meeting in March.
- ◆ The Faculty application is due to be made in April and it is expected that this will be approved.
- ◆ Fund raising plans will then be initiated and , hopefully, we will see the new chairs arriving from September 2019.



Photographs by John Burgess and Felicity Howlett

## PCC report: Tuesday 22 Jan 2019

By Ruth Poulten



Key decisions were made in the first PCC of 2019, with some agenda items providing thought provoking and lengthy discussion.

Having received a significant response from the congregation to the replacement seating consultation, PCC voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to 'keep the pews in the north and south aisle and only change the centre nave to chairs'.

One hundred and fifteen people responded to questions about the removal of pews and the wooden chairs in the main Church building, with over half giving additional comments. There are plans to retain the kneelers, Bibles, gift aid envelopes and hymn books.

Church warden Rhod Mitchell said, "The second stage of the consultation will take place in February, where we will display four chairs for testing and feedback. Then it's back to the PCC, who will select a chair based on the comments received."

Reverend Patrick Taylor clarified further, "We are very grateful to those who took the time to give us their views on this important matter. We want to create an adaptable worship area, one that is comfortable but different in style when needed and is not dictated to by one style of seating."

### Visitor Experience

The PCC also agreed, 'in principle', a revision of Church opening times, visitor pricing structures and plans to enhance the visitor experience with tours, talks and exhibitions.

Four hundred and twenty six people, both residents and non-residents of Stratford-upon-Avon completed a recent visitor survey, so Holy Trinity could understand their visitor characteristics and to gain awareness of new opportunities.

Rhod explained, "The insight has enabled us to establish the areas where we could maximise revenue from visitors, whilst also increasing their already positive experience of visiting Holy Trinity Church."

### News in brief

Members of Holy Trinity in the Community will administer the new Parish Mission and Outreach Fund which was established by the PCC and funded by a percentage of the Church shop profits.

PCC adopted the Safeguarding and Legacy Policies. Jane Armitage accepted the invitation to take up the post of Parish Safeguarding Officer, replacing Lynne Bunker who is stepping down, as her tenure as Church Warden comes to an end this April.

The next PCC meeting will be held on 12 March 2019, 7.45 pm, in Holy Trinity Parish Centre.



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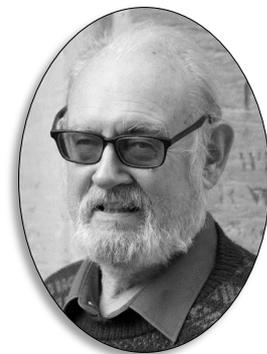
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## WINDOW ON THE WORLD



That master storyteller, J R R Tolkien, did more than just invent a magical world of hobbits and elves. He also reflected deeply, as a devout Roman Catholic, on the implications of storytelling. In his essay *On Fairy Stories*, he argued that all stories, even folk tales and children's tales, in some sense participate in the one great Story of creation and redemption.

Roald Dahl was not known to be a believer – but might there have been more than met the eye in the recent Trinity Players production of *James and the Giant Peach*, celebrated elsewhere in these pages? On the surface, like most of Dahl's stories, it is just about children facing adventures and adversities, sometimes quite dark, in dealings with the adult world. And no doubt that is why it is so loved by children (and some adults) and why the production was such uproarious fun.



But there is a message. It is not just the story of James, but of his unlikely companions the insects. And a theme that runs through it is that this motley crew is built into a team in which everyone, even the apparently lowest and least pleasant, comes to be valued and loved by the others – which is why they win through. The discovery of this love, not least by James himself after his treatment by the monstrous Aunts, could truly be called a sort of salvation.

I could not help being reminded of St Paul's words on the Body of Christ in chapter twelve of his first letter to the Corinthians, and the parallel chapter in Romans and remarks elsewhere. Even the least and the lowest is part of the Body and merits equal honour and love.



The actual process of putting on the production gave a similar message. People of all ages were involved, from across our regular worshipping congregation and beyond. Bridges were built across the cracks between generations – which are, alas, very real – and between worshippers and non-worshippers, as well as between people of very differing talents. This is more than just a bit of fun. St Paul saw the building of such bridges across the cracks – particularly, in his case, between Jews and Gentiles – as central to the Christian Gospel.

Reconciliation with God must enable reconciliation also between all the people and all the elements in our cracked world. That may not always be as apparent as it ought to be in the life of the Church. But, for a magical moment, it was very apparent.



We need more such stories! A few days after the production, the Novel Theology group was studying a recent book by our neighbour Vaughan Roberts, Rector of Warwick, called *Leading by Story*. That is not about children's tales but about our own stories and the stories of our churches and communities, and how re-telling those stories and understanding them afresh is essential if we are to grow – and particularly essential for those who lead us in that process of growth. Your story, my story, Holy Trinity's story, most certainly do relate to the great Story, and maybe we need to spend more time sharing and trying to understand them. Drama and literature – and others of the arts – can help us in this process. So attention to these is not just a bit of self-indulgence or an optional extra. It is about finding our place afresh in the greatest Story of all, as we do every Sunday in the Eucharist – and did, perhaps with particular meaning, in the All Age Eucharist on the day after the production of *James and the Giant Peach*.



## TRINITY LADIES



Sarah Hosking came to speak to us at our January meeting and gave us an extremely interesting history lesson about English Cathedrals and the building of the present Coventry Cathedral after the old one was destroyed in 1940. She explained how Basil Spence was commissioned as the architect and how he managed to get the best sculptors and artisan stone masons to build our iconic cathedral. The talk was most informative and everyone found it fascinating. Sarah also told us how her mother came to make the Nativity stable, the figures and the animals for the Cathedral in the 1950's and how Sarah found them in a very dilapidated state a few years ago and managed to raise enough money to have them restored to their original glory, the crib scene was on show at the Cathedral until Candlemas.

On 20 February Mike Caldwell came to show us slides of Stratford through the ages 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.** Members of "Shakespeare's Puppies" (who are part of Guide Dogs for the Blind) will be bringing, to the meeting, a four month old puppy and a Labrador who has given birth to several puppies. If you are an animal lover and would like to support these worthy charities please come and give us your support.

**As much Tea as you can drink and as much Cake as you can eat for just £2.00. Everyone is very welcome to come to this charity event, gentlemen as well as ladies.** The Tea Party will take place in the Parish Centre at 2 p.m. and start with a talk from the Shakespeare Puppy organizer Jackie Horton.

Gina Lodge.  
Chairperson.



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# TRINITY PLAYERS

Present



## THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

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

Players will explore the emotions and the motivations of those who took part in the greatest story which is timeless.

Looking back at the cast list for previous productions in 2008 and 2010 reminds us of friends who have moved on: Becky and Helen Ormrod, Sam Gorick, James Cushing, Lucinda Murphy, teenagers then, long since out in the world of work, and Tony and Glenda Boyd-Williams now bringing drama to their church in Ashford. Margaret Sweet choreographed the dancing and Andrew Jones played the organ.

While many in the cast are returning in their old parts, we are delighted to welcome a new generation of young people including Trinity Voices (afternoon performance) and Sam Bridges, singing and playing the organ.

There will be a retiring collection for Charity. Mindful that Jesus was a refugee as a baby, our Charity is Coventry based 'Carriers of Hope' which provides the basic necessities of life to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants, primarily women and children; most have tragic back-stories. A recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, equivalent to an MBE, the Charity is interdenominational, multi-faith and supported by churches in Coventry and Warwickshire. A Babel of languages is spoken but the universal language is a hug.



There will be two performances in the church (lasting about one and a half hours without an interval) on Saturday 30 March at 2.30pm and 7pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at 2pm and wine or soft drinks after the evening performance. Since Trinity Players offer the performances as part of Easter worship, *admission is free*.

We hope you will join us to share in this thought provoking and moving Play as part of our preparation for Easter.



Do you know where the defibrillators are in Stratford?

Would you know how to use one?



Can you help Tina and Diane raise money for one near Holy Trinity Church?



Photo by Judith Dorricott

Tina Hillyard and Diane Edwards have a new project, and they need your help! When I enjoyed a cup of coffee with them recently, Diane explained "In recent years, we have raised enough money to clean the chairs and the carpets in the lounge at the Parish Centre, and to give a generous donation towards the new servery in church. Now we want to provide a defibrillator for this part of Stratford."

Many members of our church will recognise Tina and Diane as, together with their loyal team of helpers, they have been providing coffee after services for several years. With the profits from these coffee sales, Tina and Diane hope to raise enough money to purchase a public-access defibrillator, which could be situated outside the Parish Centre.

When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, their heart stops pumping blood round the body and they can die within minutes without treatment. Right now, only one person in ten survives a cardiac arrest in the United Kingdom. However, if someone gives the patient immediate cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, this can double the patient's chance of survival.

A defibrillator (technically known as an Automated External Defibrillation or AED) is a computerised device that analyses the patient's heart rhythms and enables a bystander to deliver controlled electric shocks that may be life-saving. When a defibrillator is activated, there are clear verbal instructions for the user, explaining where to put the pads and how to set the machine to work, and Tina and Diane hope that staff and volunteers in church will come forward to be trained to save a life by defibrillation and CPR.



Keith Hillyard, who is involved with the Shakespeare Lions, triggered Tina's interest when the Lions helped fund local First Responders, and then provided CPR training for Senior School students in our town as well. During this time, Keith and Tina started wondering where the defibrillators are in Stratford. Tina says "There are less than a dozen in Stratford itself, and none in the Old Town area. A defibrillator could mean the difference between life and death for a member of our congregation, a local resident or one of the thousands of visitors who come to our town each year."

But defibrillators are expensive machines! The aim is to raise over £2,000 to cover the purchase, installation and ongoing costs of the defibrillator. Tina and Diane started fund-raising last year and already have passed the half-way mark. So far, their money has come from the profits of coffee sales, and now they are considering other ways of raising the final funds needed.

Tina and Diane really hope they can reach their target of £2000 by the spring, so that a defibrillator can be in place in May ready for the influx of summer visitors.

*If you would like to contribute towards the cost of a defibrillator, cheques, made payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC and marked "defibrillator", can be given to Diane or Tina, or the Parish Office. If you are a UK taxpayer and put your cheque into a Gift Aid envelope, this will increase your donation by 25%.*



Judith Dorricott

## SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS IN PAKISTAN

### Pilgrims on a journey

Before continuing the story of my journey to explore the Christian-Muslim interface in Pakistan I must introduce my travelling companions who were in themselves remarkable!



Our expedition was led by Fr Bernard Chamberlain of the Mirfield Fathers, the Anglican Community of the Resurrection in Yorkshire. Soon after joining the Community Bernard was assigned to its work in South Africa, spear-headed by Fr Trevor Huddleston and involved in the struggle against apartheid. At Stellenbosch Bernard was chaplain to the university where Elizabeth Roome, a member of our own HT congregation, was at that time a student. When the Mirfield Fathers' work was finally outlawed in South Africa Bernard was deported and returned to Yorkshire where he was appointed Community Relations Advisor for the Wakefield Diocese. Thus in my Muslim-majority parish I came to know him as a valued advisor of remarkable bravado and irrepressible humour.



Boldly, Bernard, always eccentric and full of fun, led us through Pakistan, knocking on doors as a stranger and charming Muslim households into offering warm hospitality. Enjoying a cold shower at the end of a hot and dusty day he would articulate with relish his delight in Pakistani place-names: 'Oh, ye waters from above! That feels a lot better! Sheikapura! Gujranwala! Alleluiah!' In later years he shocked the Mirfield monks by leaving them in order to get married. 'The same Lord who called me in,' he affirmed, 'is calling me out!' In escaping the press he took refuge for a while in our home. But when the fuss was over he was appointed Community Relations Advisor for the Bristol Diocese where he and his wife ministered effectively together for many years with a ready embrace for people of all colours and creeds.



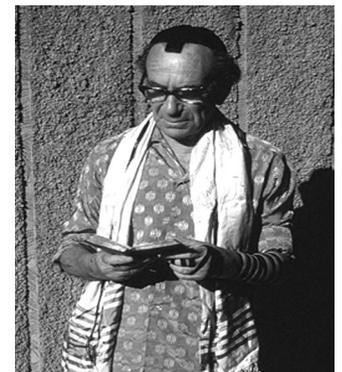
Fr John Gott was chaplain to the St John Fisher RC School in Dewsbury which had a large intake of Muslim students. Carrying a small communion set in an attaché case he enabled us to participate in the Eucharist on our travels. Roman Catholic and Anglican, we were as one. He had planned to celebrate the Eucharist before we flew from Heathrow but the chapel was in another terminal. Undeterred we sat down on the carpet of the departures lounge, using the top of John's attaché case as our altar while the world's feet shuffled around us; very incarnational and poignant! John was our way into several lively and youthful

Roman Catholic communities in Pakistan, which welcomed us to participate fully in their joyful celebrations of Mass. On a brief excursion into India from Lahore we met married RC priests who had previously served as married Anglican clergy. Fr John (pictured in retirement) still lives in his native Yorkshire.

Harry Crivan, our Glaswegian Jew, had fled from Germany with his parents before the war. From lowly beginnings he became principal of Coatbridge Technical College, Glasgow. In retirement he threw his energies into interfaith relations for which he was awarded an MBE.

Whenever we paused on our journey to celebrate Holy Communion Harry would don his skull-cap and prayer shawl, bind phylacteries to his forehead and left forearm and read from the Old Testament. In Rawalpindi the Jewish Passover occurred a month later than Easter (as sometimes happens). There Harry led us in a celebration of Passover and only then did it dawn on him how our form of worship was derived from his.

In Karachi we accompanied Harry down a backstreet to find the only surviving synagogue in Pakistan. A little old man called Joseph proudly showed us the building, opened the Ark of the Covenant and unrolled the scroll with its tinkly bells. But with only seven elderly members they were not enough to form a congregation requiring ten.



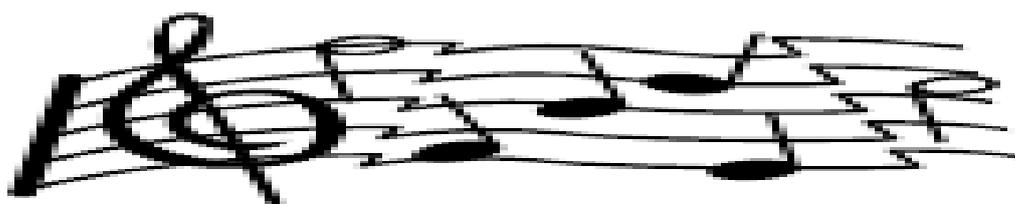
Before Partition that synagogue had numbered 5,000.

Harry lived to be 99 and was greatly revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims in Glasgow.

How blessed I was on that journey by my fellow pilgrims - each one a spiritual inspiration. Next month: how we four strange men journeyed north to Multan to be welcomed with open arms into a Christian Women's hospital!



Rev. David Ellis



## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY

### .... TWO GREAT COMPOSERS ....

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents a programme of Masses from the two great composers, Haydn and Beethoven, on **Saturday 23 March 2019 at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon.

*Mass in the Time of War (Missa in Tempore Belli)* by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was written in 1796 when Austria was at war with Napoleon. The work is thought to reflect the deeply religious composer's anti-war feelings. Also known as the *Paukenmesse (Kettledrum Mass)*, it is the second of the six late great masses composed by Haydn between 1796 and 1802.

*Mass in C (Op 86)* was commissioned by Prince Nicolas Esterhazy in 1807, probably with the help of Haydn, from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) for the name day celebrations of the Prince's wife on 13 September of that year and Beethoven felt this mass was rather special.

Music Director, Stephen Dodsworth, will conduct the Choir, The Regency Sinfonia and professional soloists - Joelene Griffiths soprano, Chloe Pardoe alto, Daniel Joy tenor and Malachy Frame bass. The Choral Society was first formed in 1836 and shares with the Huddersfield Choral Society the accolade of being the oldest choral society in the country.

Tickets for Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's 23 March concert, £15 (adults) or £8 (students) from **RSC Box Office** in person or by **phone 01789 331111** (10am-6pm Mon-Sat); on Website [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or on the door on the night if seats available.

Up to two children under 16 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult.



# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

## ONE LINERS:

For 20 years my wife and I were happy. Then we met!

*Rodney Dangerfield: Spotted in window of Greys Opticians. Here are more gems from the US comic:*

When I was born I was so ugly the doctor slapped my mother.

My wife is always trying to get rid of me. The other day she told me to put the garbage out. I said to her I already did. She told me to go and keep an eye on it.

Advertisement for a workshop taking place at a Leicester college: *The Northern Sky in Winter*. In this workshop we will be looking at the night sky in the northern hemisphere during winter. The introductory workshop costs £35 and will be led by an expert astrophysicist who has worked on Earth, Jupiter and Saturn.

*Radio 4's News Quiz*

**Spotted in Stratford-upon-Avon Debenhams' after-Christmas sale: "Four pack men's briefs. 30% off. I'm not quite perfect because one pair is missing"**

Police who found £350,000 in cash hidden in a washing machine have arrested a man on suspicion of money laundering. *The I*



**With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come**  
*Merchant of Venice*

*You told Harry Lomax you enjoyed his TV quiz show howlers last month, so he has sent us some more. From Celebrity Mastermind and The Weakest Link:*

At least 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament are usually attributed to which author?  
*Contestant - John Constable*

The merchant, the knight and the wife of Bath are amongst the storytellers in which work by Chaucer?  
*Contestant - Shakespeare*

Which calendar month is named after the first Emperor Augustus Caesar?  
*Contestant - June*



*I have set the Lord always before me;  
Because he is at my right hand I shall  
not be moved.*

*Psalm 16:8*





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# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town*

*Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

*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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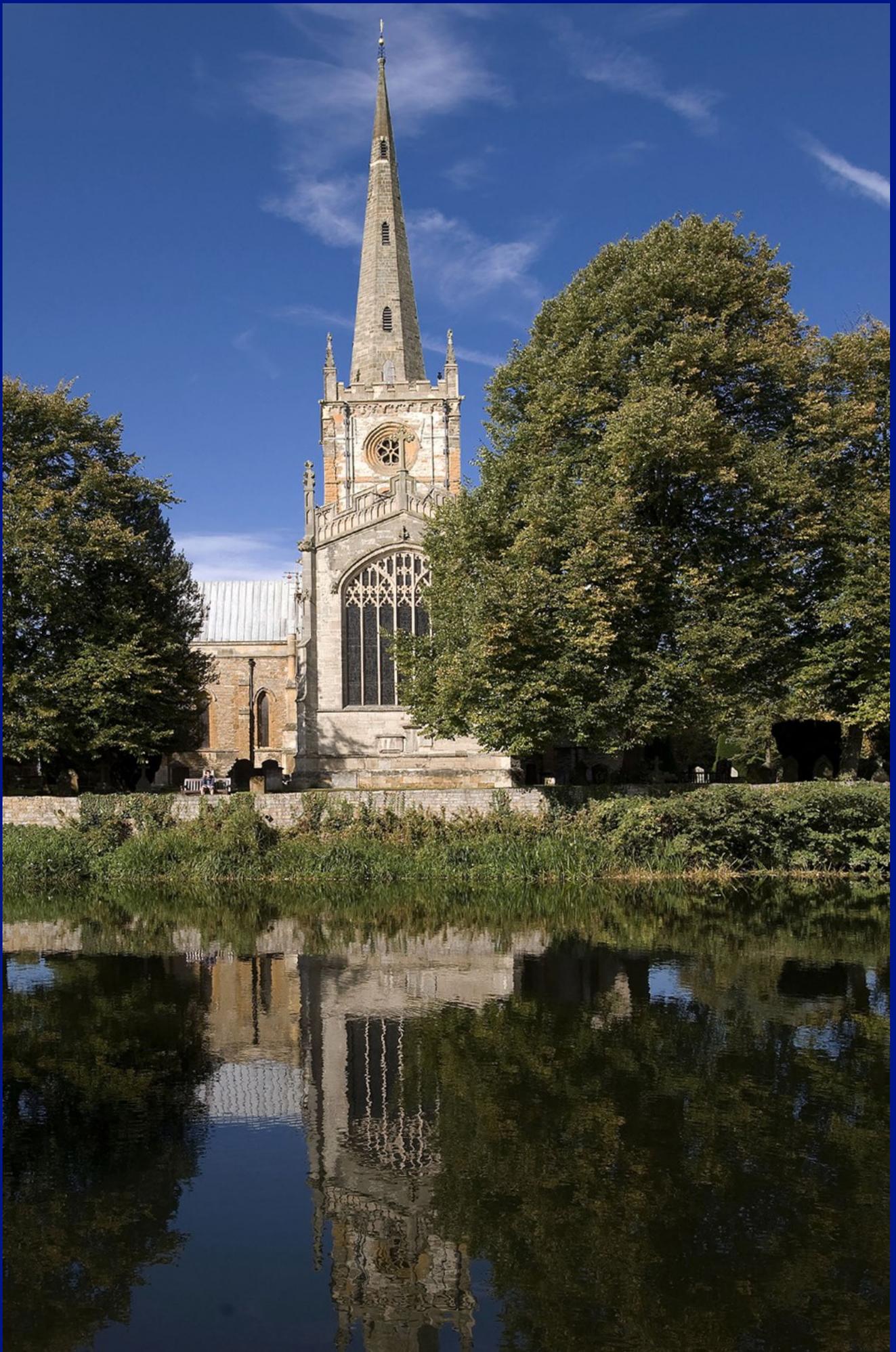
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