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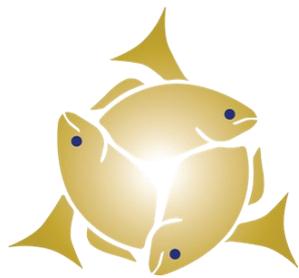
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Editorial

This edition includes an update on our Five Year Plan, represented by the image on the cover. There is also information about the Parish Weekend Away.

We always like to receive articles and photographs for the magazine. You do not have to be a professional, just enthusiastic. Please send your pieces to the e-mail address below.

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

The next magazine will be the **June 2019** edition and will be in church on 2 June

The copy date is 17 May

If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included 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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Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



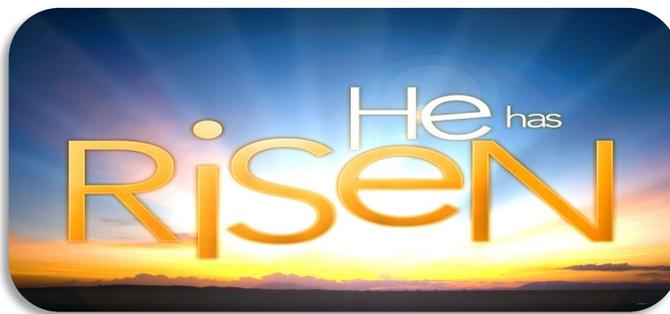
Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister



All of us were shocked to see the flames coming from Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. It's one of those events that seems a bit unreal, almost like something from a movie. Of course, it brings back memories of Windsor Castle, York Minster and our own Coventry Cathedral, all ravaged by merciless flames. But just as the flames destroyed those historic properties, there will eventually be rebirth as Notre Dame is rebuilt.

As a church we are still in the season of Easter and will be until we celebrate Pentecost on 9 June. In this season we are reminded continually that death is not the end as we celebrate Jesus, our risen Lord. In each of our lives there are times of pain, of destruction and hurt, but we can never let those times be the end of the story. I often think of Oscar Wilde's quote "everything is going to be fine in the end. If it's not fine, it's not the end". When we're in the dark and difficult times, this quote may seem frivolous, yet as often with Wilde, beyond the frivolity was great depth. Sometimes to get to the better times takes work, other times it's about patience and letting things happen, discerning which is required is not an easy thing and perhaps it can require an element of both.

Once we get through the hard times, we are stronger people. At the Easter Eucharist at the Willows school, I told them the story about a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. A person sees the struggle the butterfly is having to get itself free of the chrysalis, so they help it to break free by removing some of the parts that held it captive. But when it finally emerged, the butterfly had trouble flying – it wasn't strong enough. The struggle was a necessary part of its transformation, to help it build strength for its wings. The struggle and pain that Jesus suffered on the cross was necessary for him to rise from the dead and for each of us to be set free with a new covenant, a new relationship with God. What might our own personal struggles be giving us the strength to deal with later?

I know for me personally, when I have had difficult times, it has been the support of the church family that has helped me. The fire at Notre Dame reminds us that a church isn't wood and stone, but the people. No matter how ancient, how beautiful the building, it's the people who make a church. The community coming together in Paris, reflects that and the same is true for our churches. It's the worshipping community, who make our churches, if you took away the three buildings across our parish, we would still be churches. At our Easter Vigil and Easter Day service as we reaffirmed our baptismal promises, we remembered the role we play as the church. But church isn't just about services, it is a community inside the building and beyond. The role of volunteers at our churches is hugely important for "keeping the show on the road". On Sunday 12 May from 12-3pm in Holy Trinity we're holding a Volunteer Fair. I know that many people already give a lot of time towards our church family. But, if you're looking for a new opportunity or just want to see how many different things are happening in our church, please come along.

As the flames at Notre Dame died down, one of the most striking images is of the cross on the altar shining through the smouldering rubble. In this Easter period it is a great reminder to each of us of the wonderful line from John's gospel "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Wherever you might be on your journey, no matter how "fine" you may or may not be, I pray that as a church family we may support one another and continue to build stronger bonds between us so the darkness will never overcome. Living, as we do, in the light of our risen Christ. Halleluiah!!



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

Holy Trinity Church



Sunday 5 May - 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 12 May - 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Service for the Departed

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 19 May - 5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist - Civic Service

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Rosebird Centre 10am HolyTrinity@Rosebird

Methodist Church 6pm Open to God

Sunday 26 May - 6th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

10am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

Sunday 5 May 9.30am Family Worship

Sunday 12 May 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 May 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 26 May 9.30am Holy Communion - Patronal Festival



All Saints', Luddington



Sunday 5 May 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 12 May 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 May 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 May 9.30am Holy Communion

WORSHIP NOTES - MAY



Wednesday 1 May - St. Philip and St. James, Apostles. 10am Holy Communion in the Guild Chapel.

Sunday 12 May - 6pm A service of prayer and remembrance for the departed.

Tuesday 14 May - St. Matthias. 10am Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Chancel.

Sunday 19 May - The Civic Service takes place as part of our usual 10am Parish Eucharist. We look forward to praying for God's blessing on our new Mayor. The Mayor's chaplain, the Revd Andrew Dow, will preach. This is an important occasion when we have the privilege of placing the Christian faith at the heart of our town and praying for our local civic leaders.



Thursday 30 May - Ascension Day. There will be the traditional early morning Eucharist at 7am at Holy Trinity, concluding with the blessing given from the roof of the North Porch! Followed by breakfast in the Parish Centre, and all finished in time for work and school.

Food4thought Teaching Series 2019

The Sermon on the Mount: the call of Jesus to be Counter-Cultural.

From May to November we will be exploring Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) and its relevance to living in today's world.

May 26 **An Alternative Road to Happiness.** The Beatitudes (5: 1-12)

June 23 **A Deeper Kind of Righteousness** (5: 20-30 and 33-37)

July 28 **A Broader Kind of Love** (5: 38-47)

August 25 **More than a Skin-deep Piety** (6: 1-18)

September 22 **A Higher Kind of Ambition Part 1** (6: 19-24)

October 27 **A Higher Kind of Ambition Part 2** (6: 25-34)

November 24 **A Safer Destination** (7: 13-14 and 24-27)

Contemplative Prayer Group

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

Everyone is welcome

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



AN UPDATE ON NEW STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

from Andy Winter, Parish Operations Manager



I hope that the following, which is based on what was received and approved by the PCC at its meeting in March, gives some helpful insight into the redesign of the Church staffing and the new roles that are being advertised as Church Team Leaders.

Our approach has been to revisit what we are as a parish church, to recognize that in baptism every Christian is commissioned for ministry as a member of the Church and that as a parish church, our worship, ministry and mission is primarily the work of the baptised people of God.

In our particular instance we are blessed with over 200,000 people a year who come to us – many parishes would long for that footfall! However, the challenge is how we respond and exercise the gifts of welcome and hospitality to all of those visitors. We are a volunteer organisation, where ordained ministers and paid staff are there to enable and equip the laity to be the church and to do the church's work. We therefore rely on the generosity of parishioners in giving of their time, talents and money to enable us to fulfil our vision and purpose.

Our challenge over the last year has been to maintain a regular level of staffing that can accommodate training, annual leave, sickness etc. without putting an unreasonable strain on those who remain. We also want to develop and encourage teams of people (paid staff and volunteers) to work together to welcome visitors into our church, whether they are coming because we are a church or because they want to visit a certain grave! To do this best we are remodelling the previous roles of vergers into Church Team Leaders.

The Church Team Leaders will work all year round, including duties as vergers for services as needed and covering Sunday morning services. They will be supported by a Visitor Assistant between April and September and will include, as part of their role, supporting and developing those who respond to the call to give time as volunteers. The main responsibilities of the previous role of Head Verger will be shared amongst those appointed and there will be a more team-based and collective approach to the roles.

At its next meeting in May, the PCC will appoint an Honorary Head Verger and that person will perform the ceremonial processes at some set services, for example but not exclusively - Christmas, Easter, Remembrance, significant funerals, visits of our Bishops, Shakespeare's Birthday Service.

The Shop staff and Office staff will continue to be managed by myself as the Parish Operations Manager and, together with the Church Team Leaders and Visitor Assistants, will form the Operations Team.

The Visitor Assistants are seasonal appointments primarily for the summer (April to September). They will be expected to take charge of the church as needed when the Church Team Leader is at work but completing tasks that take them away from the Chancel Desk. They will not usually be required to robe and process for Funerals or Weddings.

Church Team Leaders will be required to plan and ensure that preparation is made for services that occur during the week. They will also be expected to verge (robing and processing as required) for a Wedding, Funeral or Ash Burial that occurs during their shift.

All Church Team Leaders will take one area of special responsibility into their role and will be expected to be fully conversant with each other's area of special responsibility whilst remaining as the lead for one of those areas. They will be required to meet together at a monthly meeting with the Operations Manager as well as meeting with the whole Operations Team, again on a monthly basis and also in one-to-one meetings.

The Job descriptions for the Church Team Leaders are currently available on our website www.stratford-upon-avon.org/staff-vacancies or can be obtained from me on request to andy@stratford-upon-avon.org

I hope that this gives some insight into the new appointments and I hope to be able to introduce you to the new faces behind the appointments in future editions.

Trinity Mead House Group Supper

Trinity Mead House Group were delighted to warmly welcome back The Revd Rachel Saum to a bring-and-share supper. Rachel had founded the group during her time at Holy Trinity whilst living on Trinity Mead. It proved to be a joyful, fun-filled evening: news and reminiscences flowed - perhaps even faster than the wine - giving rise to plenty of laughter, something at which this house group is well practised!



Andrée Perry



WALKING THE LABYRINTH

On Wednesday 27 March the Lent activity was to walk the Labyrinth. The Labyrinth offers “us a space to reflect and recognise that God is with us at every turn on the path and is always full of love for us”. Many people came to the evening and took part in the activity following the path and searching their hearts for anything keeping them at a distance from God. At the centre we were asked to put down the stone we had been carrying as a symbol of letting go of the hardness of our hearts. The centre was a place to pause in prayer and reflection and receive God’s blessing. Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10 (NIV)



FROM THE REGISTERS - APRIL

Christenings

/

Weddings

6 April

David Wolstenholme and Maxine Clarke

13 April

Thomas Davies and Madeleine Upton

Timothy Hopcraft and Lucy Jones

Funerals

3 April

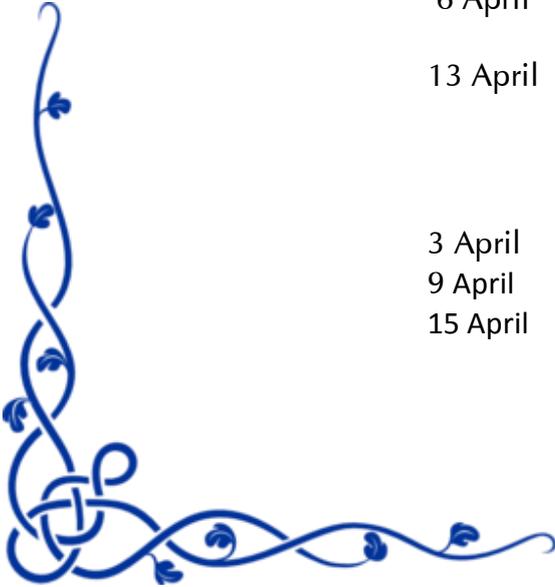
Joy Wills

9 April

Winifred Batchelor

15 April

Roy Brain



Wines at Home



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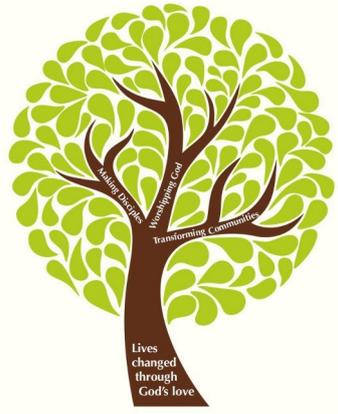
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HOLY TRINITY



FIVE YEAR PLAN

One year on...

As we enter Year Two of our Five Year Plan, Patrick looks back on what has already become a reality, and reflects on future challenges.

A year has passed since we launched our Five Year Plan, and I give thanks to God for the growth we are seeing and what has been achieved so far.

The Plan is our way of making our vision of *lives changed through God's love* a reality. It describes the things we feel we should be doing to attend to our purpose of *Worshipping God, Making Disciples and Transforming Communities*.

The Plan focuses on three areas:

- Nurturing Faith
- Reaching Out
- Making best use of our Resources

Here are some highlights of progress made in the past year.

Nurturing Faith

We've now completed the first Soul Space workshop, for which fourteen participants registered, and are planning to start the next set of ten sessions in September. The first group wanted to continue to meet, and so have formed a new "connect group" similar to a home group.

Following a review of the worship in the Parish Centre on a Sunday Morning, the new name "TrinityCentre@10" has been launched and the structure of the service each week developed to meet the needs of those who attend. New families are coming, and the attendance on the most popular Sundays is between fifty and sixty.

A monthly gathering for young people has been established. The focus of this is initially on young people who already worship regularly with us.

2. Reaching Out

There are now weekly groups being held at the once closed Ken Kennett Centre on Justins Avenue. One is a Trinity Tots parent and toddler group (in partnership with the Children's Centre (based at Bishopton School) and the other a Coffee Stop aimed at more elderly residents in that part of the parish.

In the village of Luddington, with the support of the Revd Steve Jarvis and a small grant from the Mission & Outreach Fund, the congregation of All Saints' Church has set up "The All Saints' Arms" – a pop-up community pub night in the village hall. This is now running every two months, and has, over its first two pub nights, brought the congregation into contact with over one hundred people, including those newly moved into the village and those who have always lived in the village, but who were new to the church community.

Following excellent work by Angela Barnard, whom we employed for a time as Communications Officer, we now have a volunteer Social Media Team who make regular postings on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. These are enabling us to make contact with a wide range of people, especially from younger generations.

3. Making best use of our Resources

People are our most valuable resource and we have restructured the staff in the church building to put more emphasis on their role recruiting and supporting teams of volunteers.

A volunteer fair on 12 May will enable members of our congregations to see what opportunities exist to get involved with the ministry and outreach of this parish.

We are reviewing our financial structures and are trying to be as transparent as possible so that decisions about funding are based on how well resources will enable us to achieve our Five Year Plan outcomes, rather than it being about knowing who to ask. Over the last year we discovered a shortfall in the funds we had available to meet the costs of our ministry and mission in the parish of about £20,000. By reducing our outgoings as much as we can, and through the generosity of those who give regularly, we have reduced this gap but we still expect to be about £7,000 short this coming year. The new Mission and Outreach fund has been established from profits made in the shop. This will enable us to start up new initiatives so that we can make contact with those whom our usual activities don't reach.

What's Next?

The most significant thing holding us back is availability of volunteers offering their time and talents to build up the work of this parish. Encouraging people from both within and beyond the congregation to volunteer will therefore remain a key priority. More important than this, however, is developing a stronger culture of lay ministry both within and beyond the life of the church, so that everyone is enabled and equipped to minister in the name of Jesus in their own context and according to their own interests and abilities.

New seating in the central nave of the church will enable us to offer this special space more widely to the community for events, as well as the ability to arrange the seating for services so that the congregation are able to participate more fully.

We are continuing to raise funds for new audio visual equipment in the Parish Centre. Thanks to a grant from the Friends of the Music and some significant gifts we are getting closer to the total required. The new kit will greatly enhance TrinityCentre@10, and be of use to groups and hirers who use the hall. It will also make life much easier for the small team of people who set up the existing equipment every Sunday!

As I begin my sabbatical this month I look back on the last year with tremendous gratitude and thanksgiving for all that God has provided and done through us, and look forward with hopeful anticipation to what lies ahead in the future!



PARISH VISION PRAYER

Ever living God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray for your blessing on this church and parish.
Guide and inspire us to play our part in worshipping you,
making disciples of Jesus Christ
and transforming communities,
so that we may see lives changed through your love. Amen.

Celebrating the Annunciation in the Lady Chapel



'The Annunciation' by Fra Angelico

25 March is the traditional date of the Feast of the Annunciation, falling exactly nine months before Christmas Day. It celebrates the appearance of the archangel Gabriel to Mary, bringing the remarkable news of her role in the fulfilment of God's plan:

*And the angel said unto her: fear not Mary: for thou hast found grace with God.
Lo: thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
He shall be great and shall be called the son of the highest.
And the lord God shall give unto him the seat of his father David,
and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom shall be none end.*

(Gospel of Luke, translated from the
Greek by William Tyndale, 1534)

Where better, then, to celebrate the occasion than in the Lady Chapel? Before the Reformation, this space at the end of the north aisle in Holy Trinity was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and contained an altar with rich adornment and candles always burning. A century later the space was filled with all the Clopton tombs, but the name 'Lady Chapel' has endured.

An altar was arranged on the upper step of the chapel, with a small table covered by a linen cloth and two votary candles and a bible. Patrick presided over the morning service with communion there in the chapel. It was a special occasion in a special place.



It is hoped that in due course consideration might be given to enhancing the place of Our Lady in the chapel.

Lindsay MacDonald



*Patrick leading the service for
the Annunciation
(photograph by Harry Lomax)*

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At Holy Trinity Church, there are four teams of flower arrangers, who have a rota for being in charge of the flowers. Each team does the flowers every fourth week, usually on a Friday morning.

For major festivals, we all lend a hand!

The flower teams would love more help. If you want to find out more, or would like to join a team, please contact Heather White initially

on 01789 264598 (shop) or 01789 266316 (office)
or heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org



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Image courtesy of H. Lomax



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

By the time you read this, I will probably be sitting in a dark room, possibly rocking slightly(!) But I have managed to make it through Easter. We have had lots of activities over Easter for children and families, and it's been great to see so many engage in this important part of our Christian story and in many different ways.

Even before Holy Week began there had been a Eucharist service at our Church school, the Willows, and the pupils from Stratford Primary joined us in Church for their Easter service. We also celebrated at our two Toddler Groups; at the Tuesday morning one at the Ken Kennett Centre we made (and ate!) some delicious Easter nests, whilst at Trinity Tots we finished the term with a bring and share buffet and Easter bonnet parade. I was very impressed with the creativity and ingenuity of the bonnets.



On Palm Sunday we had a very special service remembering the events of Holy Week, told through stories and videos. As each part of the story was told, the children built up a display using items which represented each stage. At the Journey to the Cross service on Good Friday people of all ages once again



remembered Holy week, but this time experiencing it through Prayer Stations. The noise of nails being thrown into a metal bin, placed in front of the High Altar is always very moving.



It was lovely to join in with the Easter Egg hunt and crafts at All Saints' and to see what they're doing to engage with their community.

On Easter Day all of the hard work culminated in our "smashing" All Age Service. If you missed the service, let's just say I am possibly banned from ordering eggs with words iced on them at Thornton's and don't leave me to look after your Easter eggs, I've still got the mallet!

In May we will begin to prepare the fourth group of children to receive their First Communion. I really enjoy leading the course and working with the children learning, not just about Holy Communion, but also the Christian family to which they belong. Each year it's not just the children who learn, but they teach me and help me to see things with fresh eyes. Usually we prepare children who are aged seven and upwards, so, if your child would like to take part, please contact me. The sessions will be beginning in mid-May and they will be admitted to receive Holy Communion at our All Age service at Pentecost. Please hold the children in your prayers as they begin their preparation.

As tiring as some of these events may be, it's great to see our church vision of "Lives changed through God's love" coming into fruition through the work we are all doing.

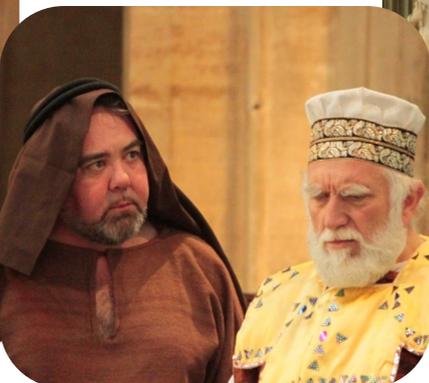
Phil Harper



THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

Our thanks go to the producer, Ursula Russell, and the performers, Trinity Players, for drawing us into a deeper experience of the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

£400.00 for the Charity 'Carriers of Hope' was generously donated.



The road to Hothorpe Hall...

Holy Trinity's Parish Away Weekend 2020



In October next year, we will once more be on our way to Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire for what promises to be another amazing weekend. To quote our speaker in 2017, the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove “What I took away from the weekend was the sense that everyone seemed glad to be in one another’s company. Maybe that’s the real purpose of going away together, it deepens relationships, fosters a sense of community and common purpose...and that, together with our prayer and worship, is perhaps what matters most.” Patrick too “was so delighted with the weekend – it exceeded all my expectations. I was struck by how much of what happened at Hothorpe will have an impact on our life as a church in the future; truly all-age worship which was engaging and inspiring; seeing how a diverse group of people can be united as followers of Jesus; an open and inclusive vision of church which embraces different styles and traditions without prejudice.”

Our title for next year’s weekend is ‘Rest and Renewal’, two things that, in our increasingly speedy world, we all find hard to achieve. Hothorpe Hall will be our sanctuary for two days – from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 October - helping us all to attain that elusive rest, away from the constraints of everyday life, and spiritual renewal with a variety of talks, worship and prayer. Our speakers next year will be the Revd Paul Swann, author, who will take us on the ‘Rest’ part of our journey, and the Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Life Events in the Church of England, who will look at how our world is changing and our responses to those changes. There will also be some light entertainment on Saturday evening, maybe even raucous laughter, especially if Phil reprises his wonderful poem “Cecil was a caterpillar...!” Saturday afternoon is currently a ‘work in progress’, with several possible options being looked at, including a ‘put your feet up and read a book’ option!

Hothorpe Hall is a Christian Guild hotel in Theddingworth, Leicestershire; all the comfortable accommodation is en-suite and all rooms have Freeview TV. There is a fully licensed Lounge Bar and lovely grounds in which to wander and contemplate the biblical quotes dotted around. There are two outdoor terraces, a games court with equipment for several activities, and a playground.

Cont.....



The road to Hothorpe Hall.....cont.

We will have exclusive use of the Hall itself, giving us a large, and several smaller, well-appointed meeting rooms, including a Chapel. Of those giving feedback in 2017 98% said that they would definitely come again, 60% thought the weekend 'superb' and the remainder 'good' (we didn't have a 'very good' category!). The Sunday Eucharist was given a resounding 75% superb – "totally amazing", "very powerful", "Eucharist was brilliant", "a number of us were reduced to tears during the Eucharist" - with two responders giving it a 'way above superb' vote!

Booking will begin in September this year with payments, which may be made either by cheque or directly into the Church Bank Account, made quarterly over the year. We all know someone who would love to go to Hothorpe, but maybe is unable to afford the full amount, so with the Booking Form will be a Gift Aid form for you to give, if you are able, an optional additional donation of your choice to a Support Fund, so that we can enable those people to attend. Booking forms will be available from July.

Further information will be published in the Trinity Times and in the Pew Leaflet as we have it, but we would encourage you to register your interest as soon as possible, especially if you would like a single room, so that we can contact you later in the summer to confirm your place. If you would like any more information in the meantime, please contact Hilary Newman on hilnewman1945@gmail.com.

TRINITY LADIES



I am delighted to be able to report that our Charity Tea Party raised £180 to be divided between our two charities: Avon Cats Rescue and Guide Dogs for the Blind. A cheque for £90 has been sent to each of these charities.



Many thanks to all who supported us and made the occasion such an enjoyable afternoon.

At our April meeting Julie and Philip Spinks came and told us about the research they have done into those who 'Resisted the Call to Arms' in the First World War. It was a very moving account of how our grandfathers were affected by their decisions not to take up arms. There were many men who felt that their livelihoods would be ruined if they were to leave for any length of time as well as those conscientious objectors who did not want to fight.

In May we have organized a visit to the Other Place to see the RST costumes and other parts of the theatre, followed by tea and scones. The cost is £13.45. If any of you have not yet paid for this outing and would like to come with us please let Diane Edwards know as soon as possible.

We meet in the Parish Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. Do come and join us.

Gina Lodge.

Chairperson

Save the Date Sunday 9 June

Parish Picnic following Parish All Age Eucharist at 10am



“Notes” from the Friends of the Music

Hello, and welcome to the first of what we hope will be a regular feature in Trinity Times. It is the intention of the “Friends” to bring you updates on all matters musical either being supported by, or funded by, the Friends of the Music.

The Friends of the Music was first set up in 1983 by members of the Choir, musicians and Church music enthusiasts to develop and support music within Holy Trinity. They support the work and ministry of the Church Choir and Music Groups and encourage the musical education and development of young musicians in Primary and Secondary education, by organising a series of fund-raising events and concerts.

The weekly “Soundbites” concert is a prime example of this fund-raising. Now in its sixth year, “Soundbites” continues to provide a platform for young musicians from the leading U.K. Conservatoires and Colleges, whilst also featuring younger talented musicians from local colleges and schools.

Part of the success story of “Soundbites” is the wide variety of music on offer throughout the year and such is the success of Soundbites that performers have now been booked into 2020.

An interesting series of interviews is also envisaged for these “Notes from the Friends” beginning with Jo Walker (Friends of the Music Chair). Further interviews will include Benedict Wilson, (Director of Music at Holy Trinity), an interview with one of the younger Choristers and one of the young organ scholars.

Each year the Friends commission a new anthem and 2019 is no exception, with the honour this year being awarded to Stephen Dodsworth and Rebecca Mills, both well known, not only to worshippers in Holy Trinity, but in the wider musical world of Choral Societies, Chamber Choirs and Vocal education. As is the tradition in Holy Trinity, these commissions will be premiered on Shakespeare Sunday (28 April).

Also coming up is the A.G.M of the Friends of the Music, which this year will be held on Friday 21 June. This A.G.M. promises to be “different” from the usual format followed in previous years. Why not come along and bring a friend to hear discussions on plans for the development of Holy Trinity’s music and future concerts which the Friends will be supporting later this summer? (Refreshments will be provided!)

The Friends of the Music committee are delighted to have been asked to provide you with regular articles and we look forward to providing you with what we hope will be interesting and valuable insights into the unique world of musical worship from Holy Trinity

David Laverty



KEN KENNETT COFFEE STOP

In November, when the newly refurbished Ken Kennett Centre opened, we started a weekly offshoot of the monthly Coffee Stop, that meets in the Parish Centre. The venture had been well supported by Holy Trinity and we were keen to offer something for the community in this part of the parish. The Ken Kennett Coffee Stop meets every Tuesday from 11am to 12.15pm for coffee and tea, cake and biscuits, and a good chat. We end the morning with a prayer. At our Easter meeting we enjoyed a wonderful cake (with Easter eggs!) made by Nigel Raistrick. Everyone is welcome and we have been delighted with the numbers dropping in on a Tuesday morning.

Revd Diane Patterson



Photographs by
Harry Lomax



Helping in the Shop

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Greeting visitors on the Chancel

Serving tea and cake to our visitors in the summer months

How about some gardening?

Are you looking for ways to become more involved in the Holy Trinity community?

VOLUNTEER FAIR

See the many, many ways you can contribute to the life of our vibrant church on

Sunday 12 May 2019
in the church building from
12noon to 3pm



Taking part in drama



Beautifying our church

We really look forward to showing you "what happens behind the scenes"

Lives changed through God's love



Lent Lunches 2019

On five Fridays in Lent, between 15 March and 12 April, from 10.30am the main hall in the Parish Centre was buzzing with activity. Volunteers from one of our five Home Groups were setting up tables and preparing to serve a simple lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese to anyone who wished to join them.

Each week we served between twenty and thirty customers who were able to sample many soups, among which butternut squash and leek and potato seemed to be firm favourites. As lunch was being enjoyed, Andrew Dow provided us with a five minute "Thought for the Day", based on the Gospel reading of the preceding Sunday, and concluding with a prayer. This extra, spiritual dimension to the lunch, appropriate to Lent, was well received.

We were pleased that many of those who came for lunch stayed and chatted together over tea and coffee. We hoped that these lunches would provide company and fellowship for those who often eat on their own. No charge was made for the lunch: any donations received over the five weeks will go to the Stratford Churches Together Homelessness Project and may well be used to support a project similar to that which Link had been providing until recently.

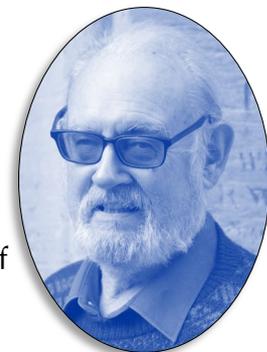


Photograph by Harry Lomax

May I express my thanks to those members of the Home Groups who were able to give time and energy to these lunches, to Andrew for his input and making himself available each week, and to all those who shared the valuable experience of "breaking bread together".

Chris Cottrell

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

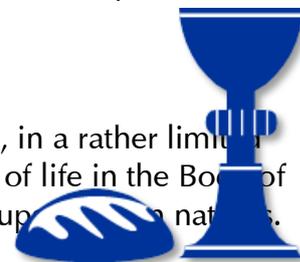


“History matters”. So the *Herald* reminded us when the sign of the Falcon appeared again over the newly branded and refurbished Indigo Hotel. The Falcon Inn is part of this town’s history, and how good that its new owners made a gesture in recognising this.

History matters – and, whatever the final outcome of the Brexit process, there is no doubt that we are living through a time when the history of this nation is being remade. And, with it, the history of Europe and indeed of the world.

It is very tempting, at such a time, simply to run away from history-in-the-making. Maybe into an imagined past, or into family life. Or into a purely inward faith which treats outward history as irrelevant. Now, there are many ways of reading Scripture, and different emphases in different parts of both Old and New Testaments – but the history of nations is generally treated as far from irrelevant. Both Isaiah and St Paul, to name but two, saw the historical changes of their times as somehow part of God’s purposes. They would not have supported any flight to a purely inward faith.

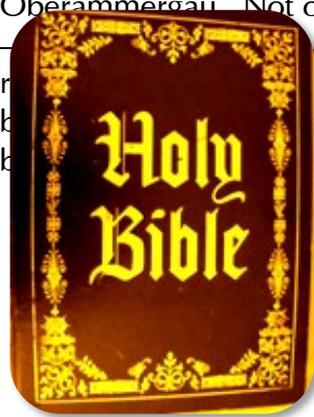
We have just lived once again through Lent and Easter (plus the annual Shakespeare festival). The emphasis in Lent is often the renewal of our inner lives, and it can be a valued time for that. But I was struck when, on leading us in a Labyrinth devotion at one of the midweek services, Phil Harper’s father placed great emphasis on the **outward** action of walking a mini-pilgrimage through a pattern representing the twists and turns of life. And central to our church life are the Sacraments, “outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace”. Part of the Labyrinth experience was the way in which, in a rather limited space, we kept on bumping into each other! This too, we were reminded, was part of life in the Body of Christ. And it is equally a part of life more generally, whether as individuals, or groups, or nations. The outward and the inward belong together.



Holy Week and Easter, of course, are profoundly historical. Just think of the part that the Roman occupation of Israel played in this greatest history of all. Let alone the sweep of Israel’s history over many centuries, chronicled in the Old Testament – that library of books which sometimes seems alien and irrelevant in parts, but is not so. The deepest inner truths are not separate from the business of politics.

And what a part Shakespeare has played, and continues to play – not just in the history of our town, not just in the personal histories of many of us, but in the ongoing history of Western culture and indeed far beyond. Would he have been a Remainer or a Leaver? All we know is that he took English history and culture with enormous seriousness, and did a lot to shape it – but also that he was deeply grounded in a wider European culture.

Every ten years, including 2020, the famous Passion Play is performed at Oberammergau. Not only another representation of the greatest story ever told, but itself a part of history – of our town which was saved from the plague centuries ago, but also of German history and culture. I am looking forward to it – not simply in terms of a rekindling of faith, but also in terms of the rich complexity of ongoing history which we share across national and cultural boundaries. History matters.



Pastoral Care at Holy Trinity

Pastoral Care has always been part of the life at Holy Trinity. Everyone matters in our church and most people are good at looking out for others. However sometimes people slip through the net. The pastoral care scheme was set up in 2013 and now seems to be the time for a review. The new electoral role will be a good starting point to check that everyone is involved, if they want to be.

The aim is to ensure that everyone knows that they matter and belong. For some people this will be being part of a group – the Holy Communion services at Holy Trinity on Tuesday mornings and the Guild Chapel on Wednesdays for example, but we would like most people to have a named contact person.

Contact people may have just a few names on their list or feel able to have more. The contact may be just seeing them in church or may be proactive, depending on the contact person. As the congregation is constantly changing we also need people to get to know newcomers to church. Everyone can play their part here. Think particularly of people sitting near you in church or who live near you.

If a contact person notices someone has been missing from their normal attendance they can follow them up and let the pastoral care coordinator know if there is a problem, illness etc. It helps the scheme if you let your contact person know if you are going to be away for some time, are going into hospital or are having problems. All information is totally confidential, and all contact details and permissions held in accordance with the parish's GDPR/Data Protection Policy.

There is a great need for more people to be pastoral contact people, so please have a word with me if you can help, or would like to know who your pastoral contact person is. I am usually at the 10am service.

Many thanks to all the people who help in this scheme.

Gillian Nunn Pastoral contact coordinator
Email mg.nunn@btinternet.com
Tel: 01789 415830
Or in writing via the parish office



*The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

Psalm 29:11

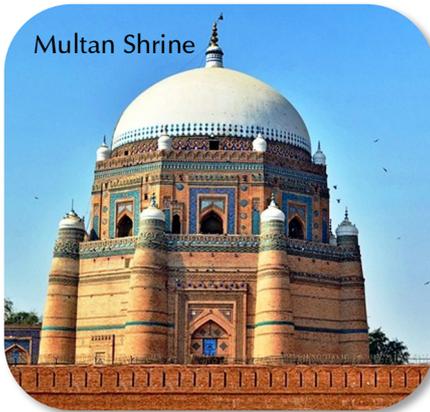
David White polishing the best church plate (Communion vessels) for Easter. Now we know what the vergers get up to in their free moments!



Photograph by John Burgess

SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS - SUFIS, PIRS AND PITY

Last month I wrote of our experiences in the Multan Christian Women's Hospital and in the squalid homes by the railway tracks. Next day we headed in a couple of scooter-taxis through the horrendous chaos of camels laden with brushwood, bullock

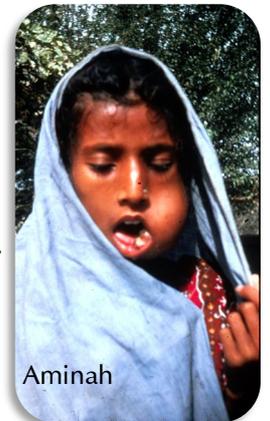


Multan Shrine

carts, donkeys and gaily decorated buses for the Bahauddin Zakariya shrine, the most famous of many Sufi mausoleums in the city. A vast number of people travel considerable distances to the shrine in search of a healing miracle. Sufism is the practice of mysticism in Islam, reputedly inspired by Ali, son-in-law of Muhammad. It's an aspect of Islam which is considered the closest to Christianity because it focuses on a personal and direct interior relationship with God, somewhat akin to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the history of Islam it found expression in monasteries and the emergence of 'Pirs' (holy men comparable to saints). Sufism however is frowned upon by orthodox Islam for its emotional and visionary excesses as in the whirling dervishes. Later on our journey, we

were to spend a very strange night with Barkat Ali, a Sufi/Pir, in his monastery at Dar-al-Esan. But here at the Multan shrine were hundreds of childless women, wailing in anguished supplication for a child of their own, repeatedly touching their foreheads on the central tomb, a scene of great pity.

Some of the more extremist Pirs set themselves up as quacks or witch doctors in the more remote villages with the practice of exorcism and folk remedies. In recent years petitions to have such practices outlawed have been made to the Supreme Court but in rural areas superstition strongly prevails. In a Muslim westernised hospital in Multan Dr Khan introduced us to some of the cases of prolonged neglect which had been brought in to him from the villages. Among them we met Aminah, a little girl whose mouth was badly misshapen by a tumour. Dr Khan was confident that he could perform successful surgery. He was widely dubbed as the 'Doctor Schweitzer of Multan', a man of great humility and compassion who confined his skills to the poorest people, so-called 'incurables' and those with gross deformities. For him the quack doctors were a curse. His hospital was surrounded by tents and makeshift dwellings where family members were encamped to cook meals for the patients in the open air, a common custom across Asia and Africa where hospitals provide no meals.



Aminah

On leaving the commendable Dr Khan we took tea with the Bishop of Multan Diocese and his very chatty Pakistani wife. Bishop Samuel was one of the six (now eight) diocesan bishops of the Episcopal Church of Pakistan, formed when Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Presbyterians united in 1970. Bishop Samuel was full of questions about the Pakistani community in Britain. He was concerned that the money being sent back to Pakistan at that time was doing more harm than good because families left behind in the homeland were using it to buy useless luxuries and becoming irresponsible and lazy. Some were buying land and buildings as insurance against the day when they feared some future British government might evict them – a fear, one hopes, long gone. That same evening Bishop Samuel took us out to one of the bustis (slum areas) to share in a very moving family service where the worship is always so earnest and focused.

With fond farewells to the nurses we left the Women's Hospital for the unknown, unsure of where we would spend the next night. But the Holy Spirit had directed our intrepid leader, Fr Bernard, to head for Gojra, a Christian town of some repute which in more recent years has suffered terrible persecution. Thus we boarded one of those trains for which the Indian subcontinent is infamous, with people crouched on the roof and hanging on to the outside. We just managed to squeeze into a corridor and for several hours I sat on my luggage by an open window periodically engulfed in clouds of smoke from the engine and the swirling dust of the desert!

Revd David Ellis

MIDSOMER MURDERS: THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE?

There was once a town on a river, where everyone was puzzled at the number of dead and wounded bodies that came down from the hills of Midsomer County upstream. The Churches felt they had to do something. They put a lot of effort into giving the corpses a decent burial, and caring for the wounded.

Then someone said: "There is something very wrong here. A terrible social evil, a community of violence, and we are just putting a sticking plaster on it." Someone else said: "But the causes for this are elsewhere. They are out of our hands. And what if we had to get involved in politics to solve the problem?" A church leader said: "No, the first one of you is right. We can't just tackle the symptoms, we must tackle the causes".

So the Bishop of Midsomer was involved. Working parties were set up involving police, social workers and the churches. They looked into all the things in that community which divided people and encouraged conflict and violence. They had quite a struggle with the local authority about how little money was going into facilities for the young and the elderly. They did not win all their battles. But they made a difference. Corpses stopped coming down-river.

Why tell this little parable? Because of the challenge Kevin Bond gave us at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to devote more of our resources to the social needs of our town. It coincided with a challenging play on homelessness put on by a local group. Both these events reminded us that there is plenty of unmet need even in wealthy Stratford.



The churches, including Holy Trinity and its individual members, do try to respond. We set up the Foodbank, our people help feed the homeless at weekends and support Syrian refugees, and there are various activities to combat loneliness, and so on; and not least there is the work of Holy Trinity in the Community and the individuals in need whom we help financially. No doubt more is needed.

Is this all just sticking-plaster, though? Not entirely. Kevin's challenge was in terms of where we as a church put our money; but it may be that where we put our people, and our love, is a far more distinctive offering which the churches can make. Beyond that - is it really our job to make good the inadequacies of the Welfare State? That is debateable.

But it is certainly part of the churches' job to be the conscience of the community, alongside other people of goodwill and vision. All honour to those of our members who join political parties and other public bodies like the Stratford Society, and express their faith through protesting against some of the decisions which contribute to such need. "Religion and politics don't mix", we hear, and there are certainly risks in getting involved in the issues with which our State and community leaders have to deal. But there are churches in inner-city Coventry which have got thoroughly involved in "politics" and have benefited their city as a result. (And some of our Parish Share goes to support those churches.)

Rather than throwing more money at these problems, might we not be training our members for that sort of involvement? Are there any local issues where we might take the risk of getting involved as a church? Do we know what the Church of England nationally is doing about the really big issues in our society, and can we give more support to that?



Kevin has asked a question, which deserves a response. But it may not be the one that he expected.

Anthony Woollard

Stratford Climate Action Day 22 June 2019



In response to the IPCC October 2018 report pleading for urgent action to limit the global temperature to 1.5C by 2030, Stratford Methodist Church, Stratford Friends of the Earth and Stratford Quakers have united to form Stratford Climate Action Forum (SCAF).

SCAF proposes to organise Stratford Climate Action Day on 22 June 2019 at Stratford Methodist Church Centre. In order to inspire, share and facilitate people to take action for saving the planet in the next 12 years, this event will have a lecture, workshops and exhibitions.

The lecture will be given by Dr. Lisa Schipper, research fellow of Climate Change Institute in Oxford, entitled "*Climate Change - why we can still do something*". The workshops will be on personal action and community action. The exhibitions will

include environmental concern, recycling and waste reduction, sustainable low carbon economy, public sector contribution, carbon footprint and lifestyle, new technology in transport, energy saving and renewable energy and campaigning.

We are planning to work with local authority and business and to attract a wider spectrum of general public to partake.

For further information contact Dr Lim Ho (Stratford Methodist Church) limho21@hotmail.com

See next month for an article on Climate Change entitled "What kind of inheritance for our grandchildren?"



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To be opened on the village green by the Reverend Kay Dyer



HOWLERS!

ONE LINERS:

If all the world's a stage, where does the audience sit?

I couldn't make up my mind whether to join the local relay team. It was touch and go! *Daily Mail*

My dentist was a pie maker before he became a dentist. He's very good — and he gives you a choice of fillings. *Ken Bruce show*

A MAN was taken to hospital after a crash involving a motor bike and a military tank this morning. The motor cyclist sustained a suspected fracture to his arm and leg and was taken to Poole Hospital. The driver of the Warrior tank was uninjured. *Dorset Echo*

Note to guests at a Hilton Hotel in Wales: "Dear Guest. This is a non-smoking room. The ashtray is provided for your convenience."

Photograph sent to Radio 4's News Quiz of a safety warning sign attached to an electrical box: "Opening this box would result in death by electrocution. And a \$50 fine."



"...and then, as the organist hits us with a cool hip-hop riff, you kick off the wedding vows in a smokin' rap style..."

Trinity Times picture man Harry Lomax has been howler spotting those TV quiz shows again.

Host Ben Shephard: Which planet in our solar system shares its name with a chocolate bar?

Contestant: Milky Way.

Host: No that's wrong - it's Mars.

Contestant: Milky Way is a chocolate bar.

Host: Yes, but it's not a planet is it -- it's a galaxy.

Contestant: That's chocolate as well.

Tipping Point

Host: What was Gandhi's first name

Contestant: Goosey Goosey

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Email: friends@st-helenschurch.co.uk

Contact: Roger Morris - tel: 01789 297361
Sarah Crang - tel: 07990 791934

Adults £12.00 – Children £6.00

PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Leadership Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	on sabbatical
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590 steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168 kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696 phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

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	The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471

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
Director of Music	Benedict Wilson	01789 266 316	
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

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
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
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396



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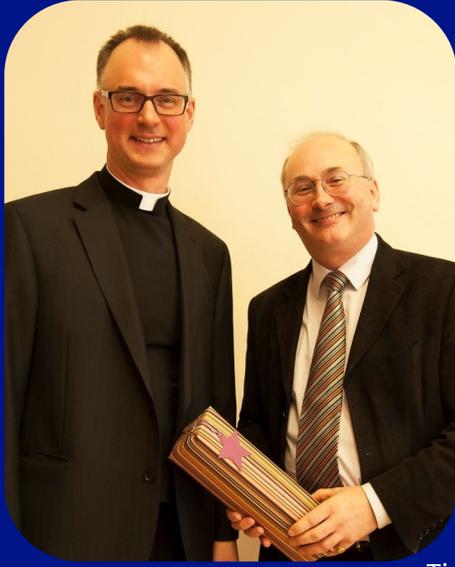
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At the APCM meeting on Sunday 7 April two of the Wardens, Tm Raistrick and Lynne Bunker, came to the end of their time as Wardens. The congregation thanked them for all their hard work and Patrick presented them both with a gift from Holy Trinity Church. Paul Lageu and Hilary Newman have now taken their places.



Tim Raistrick



Lynne Bunker



At the same meeting Anthony Woollard officially stood down as treasurer and his place has now been taken by Mike Warrillow. Anthony was given a gift to express the thanks of all at Holy Trinity for his hard work over the years.

Anthony Woollard

APCM photographs by Harry Lomax



Hilary Newman



Paul Lageu