

September 2019

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THE PARISH OF  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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# TRINITY TIMES



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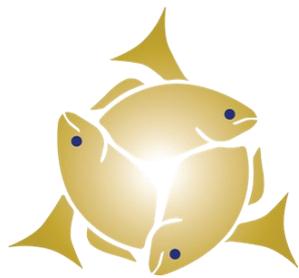


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We were very excited to welcome the Most Revd Nathaniel, Archbishop of Japan, with forty of his parishioners, and the Right Revd Dr Christopher, Bishop of Coventry. After a tour of the church they stayed for a lovely cream tea.

Remember we love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below.

**Editor** - Revd Patrick Taylor

**Design Editor** - Felicity Howlett

**Features Editor** - Judith Dorricott

**Associate Editor** - Anthony Woollard

**Subscriptions & Distribution** - Carole Askew & Paul Lageu 01789 298302, paullageu@hotmail.co.uk

**Advertising** - Karen Hollis

Email: karen@klpbookkeeping.co.uk

**PCC Representative** - Ruth Poulten

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 **October 2019** edition and will be in church on 29 September

**The copy date is 13 September**

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

Paul Lageu (01789 298 302) or

Carole Askew (01789 266 940)

#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Archbishop of Japan with Bishop Christopher by Phil Harper

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## Me, me, me, me, me, me.

I know that I am very lucky with the location of my place of work. Just across from the office are the lovely RSC Gardens leading to the river Avon. When I need to clear my head or to refocus, it's great to be able to walk around the gardens and past the river, watching the different boats travelling up and down. I must confess that so far I haven't mustered the courage to hire one of the row boats myself but admire those who do. It was on one of these walks that I saw something that made me think. One of the larger boats was heading towards Holy Trinity, I may not have managed rowing power yet, but have succumbed to engine power, and taken this trip on the river and what an incredible view it is of all the trees and Holy Trinity Church emerging through them. What struck me on this particular boat



River boat.

was a lady sat in prime position on the prow of the boat, camera in hand, giving her the best possible view of all the delights. But the camera wasn't pointing at the building or the trees, instead it was pointing straight at her, taking a selfie. For those who don't know the term, a selfie is when you take a picture of yourself. So popular are selfies now that mobile phones have two camera lens' on them, one for taking pictures of the world around you and one to take a picture of yourself, and also for video calling.

I'm not being a selfie snob; I have been known to take the odd selfie myself. The Big Nativity service selfie is on the verge of becoming liturgical tradition. What struck me as I watched the lady on the boat readjusting her hair and perfecting her pout for the photo, is how much does this represent us as a society and as individuals that our prime focus is ourselves rather than the world taking place around us. The growing issues regarding climate change stem from us being more concerned about our personal needs rather than the needs of the many. As our society becomes more consumer led, what impact does this have upon faith? For example, in our worship in services are we becoming more concerned about what we get out of worship rather than what we are offering to God? Do we focus on our needs and preferences in worship, rather than the needs of others?



The Big Nativity.

A church is a community and within any community there is variety, that is where churches work at their best, when the full range of God's people are represented. This of course leads to further differences and preferences. A quote I often remind myself of comes from John Lydgate a 15<sup>th</sup> Century monk and poet "You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." If as church members, if as a society, our primary requirement is about ourselves and our needs, then following John Lydgate's thinking, we are never going to be content.

Has the time come to turn the camera back around? To see God's creation before we destroy it with our personal needs? To follow the example of Jesus, the servant King, to serve others and try to put their needs before our own? Perhaps our worship may not fulfil all our personal needs, but is it fulfilling someone else's?

Across our worshipping communities at Holy Trinity, the Parish Centre, The Guild Chapel, St Helen's, All Saints' and Rosebird we are developing the variety of our services, but also the variety of the people. This is something to celebrate, but we cannot become complacent, it's so easy for us to think of "me", but as we turn the camera around we need to turn the "me" upside down to make "we". If we focus too much on the self, what room does that leave for God?

*Phil*

## Worship Notes – September 2019



**1 September** – All-Age Parish Eucharist: 10am during which there will be an opportunity to have new school/college/work bags blessed.

**15 September** – Open to God: 6pm in Methodist Church – an ecumenical informal worship service open to all.

**29 September** – St Michael & All Angels: 10am Parish Eucharist where the Revd Dr Paul Edmundson will be our preacher.



**29 September** – Harvest Festival, Luddington: 10.00am All Saints' Church holds the first Harvest Festival in the parish for 2019.

**29 September** – A Service of Healing: 6pm Holy Trinity Church which will include an opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil.



Pirate Phil at the Ken Kennett Centre for their *Pirates and Mermaids* stay and play day.



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

### Holy Trinity Church



#### **Sunday 1 September - 11th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Choral Evensong

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 8 September - 12th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 15 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity**

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 22 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

#### **Sunday 29 September - Michael and All Angels**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Healing Service

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

**Sunday 1 September** 9.30 Morning Worship

**Sunday 8 September** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 15 September** 9.30am Morning Worship

**Sunday 22 September** 9.30am Holy Communion - Traditional



### All Saints', Luddington

**Sunday 1 September** 9.30 Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 8 September** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 15 September** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 22 September** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 29 September** 10.00am Harvest Festival





## GOODBYE TO STEPHEN

By Tim Raistrick



Back in 1991, when I was into my second year as churchwarden, I proposed the creation of the new position of Deputy Director of Music to support the choir. The Revd Dennis Spiller and Peter Summers, the then Vicar and Director of Music respectively, agreed this was very desirable and so I brought a proposal at the November PCC meeting not only that this new role should be created but that Stephen Dodsworth, the Director of Music at KES, should be offered it. Current members of the PCC might be surprised both at the lack of advertising the post (contrary to modern equal opportunities) and also at the speed the PCC both agreed to this and the fact that Stephen took up the post less than three weeks later on Advent Sunday.

In the Annual Report the following March, Peter Summers noted “we have already begun to appreciate the benefits of Stephen’s appointment, not only through his expertise on the organ, but by allowing me closer association with the Choir during services.”

Over the years, Stephen has served five successive Directors of Music and all found him a valuable and talented colleague. Andrew Jones (2006-2011) has described “Stephen’s wonderful support, musicianship and kindness that he offered me during my time at the church – it would not have been possible to do my job and for the then choir to have tackled the repertoire it did without his dedicated and gifted accompaniment week in week out, his service always offered in the most humble way.”

The choir members over the decades have been equally appreciative of Stephen’s skills, dedication and friendship, grateful that he generously gave of his time to attend practices and services beyond his contracted hours, making the rehearsal of all our music so much easier. In addition, as David Laverty, the choir’s librarian can attest, there are many choral works that Stephen has composed for the choir over the years, including a number of anthems for the Shakespeare Service. Indeed, some of the congregation may not know that Stephen’s works have been performed by cathedral choirs both in the UK and abroad. A few years ago, he was featured on an episode of Songs of Praise as a composer of note (as well as notes).

So, Stephen’s well-earned retirement leaves us with another key position to fill and another very hard act to follow. Fortunately, he is going to play the organ on an occasional basis for us but we will miss his ever constant presence over so long a time.



Photographs by Harry Lomax



# TRINITY LADIES



Members and friends enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon cruising with Bancroft Cruises on Wednesday 17 July, which was a warm sunny afternoon. We met at their mooring at the back of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The cruise



took us along the river to Holy Trinity and then back under the bridges up the river to just past the Riverside hotel/conference centre. During our river trip we enjoyed afternoon tea with a commentary by Fiona Rae. We did not hear her usual talk as she decided we probably knew as much about the church and Shakespeare as she did! It was most enjoyable and several members have told me what a good trip it was.

At our September meeting (Wednesday 18) I am pleased to tell you that we have Mr. Graham Short, the Royal Engraver, coming to tell us about his fascinating work. He engraved the wedding invitations for Prince Harry and Meghan and also the etching on the £5 note of Jane Austen. Graham is best known as a micro artist and for having engraved The Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin. If any gentlemen, reading this report, would like to come and listen to him at our September meeting they will be most welcome.



In October we are having a talk about Fraud given by a member of the Nat West Bank. Something we should all be on our guard against.

We would love to see new members, so come and join us in the Parish Centre at one of our meetings. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Gina Lodge.  
Chairperson

Photographs by Paul Lageu



## 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,

**Everyone is welcome**

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



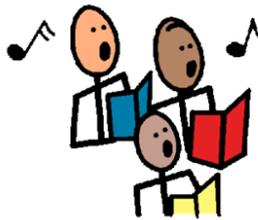
## REBECCA MILLS TO BE NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Rebecca is uniquely qualified to cover the duties of director of music for the next few months. She has an MA in music from Trinity College, Cambridge, and many years' experience in teaching and conducting choirs.

At Holy Trinity she has specialised in working with the junior members of the choir and with Trinity Voices, as well as conducting rehearsals and some services with the full choir. Rebecca has developed much of the outreach work of the choir, and in addition teaches singing, piano and theory to a wide range of children and adults, between the ages of seven and seventy two. She is also the founder and director of The Guild Consort, a chamber choir and instrumental ensemble which has performed four annual fundraising concerts for the Friends of the Music at Holy Trinity, most recently a very successful Brahms Requiem.

We are delighted to welcome Rebecca in her new role, which she started in mid-August.

Josephine Walker



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### ARE YOU A CARER?

Would you like a break with other carers – would you like to listen to interesting speakers, take trips out and about or just enjoy some sympathetic and friendly company over a cup of tea and a raffle twice a month?

Come and join us at the Carers Café, based at Lifeways Complementary Health Centre, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon.

Come and have a cup of tea, meet us and bring a friend for moral support on your first visit if you like - you'd both be very welcome.

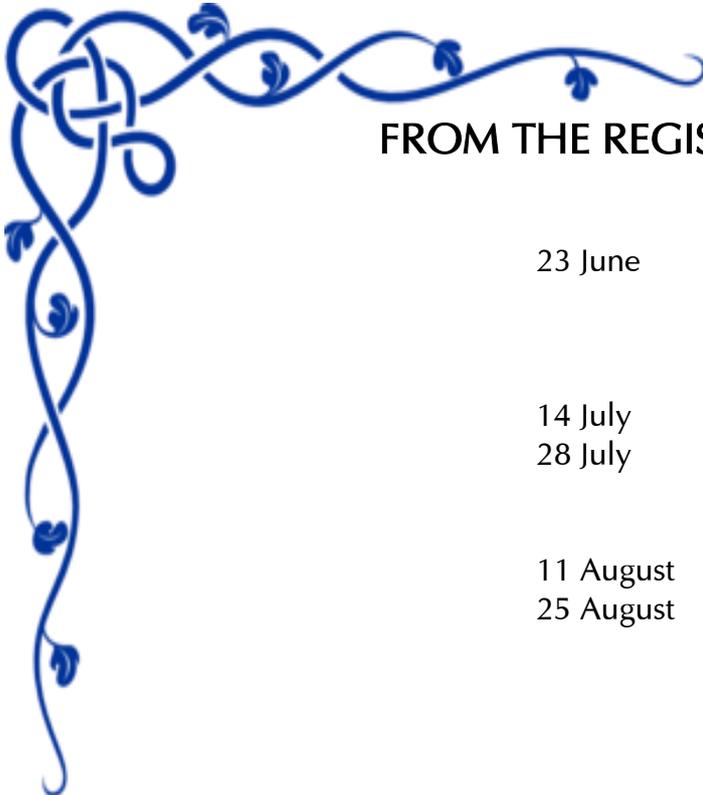
Our meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2pm – 4pm all the year round excluding August.

For further information please contact:

**Nicola Harvey: 07860 282 663, or**

**Biddy Peachey: 01789 773382**

**mobile: 07799 841 191**



FROM THE REGISTERS - JUNE - JULY - AUGUST

**Christenings**

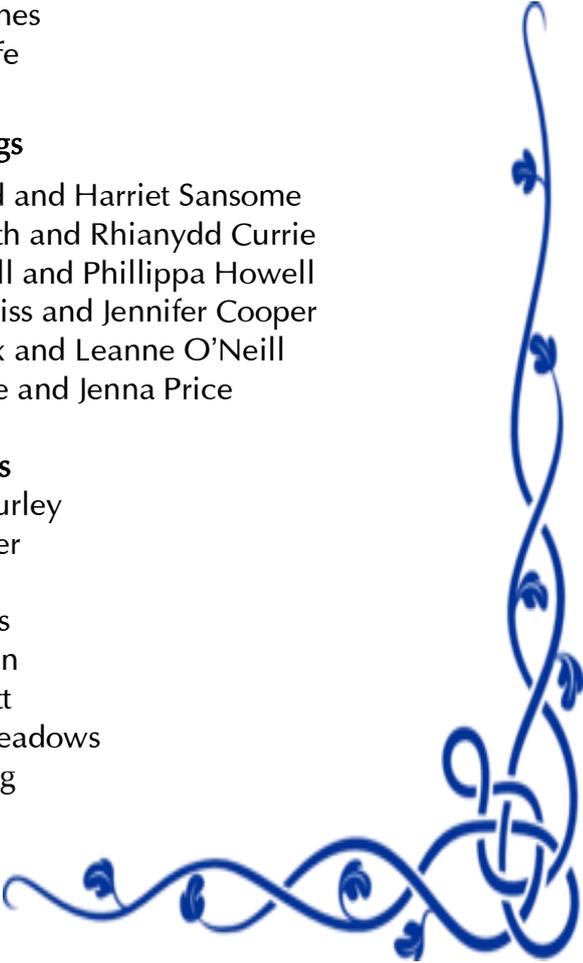
23 June	Reuben Bennett Dominik Peconka Teddy Turnbull Rupert Twiney
14 July	Alexander Millington
28 July	Thea Bak Beauden Martin-Sweet Alexandra Partridge
11 August	Joshua Young
25 August	Layla Priest George Clifford Noah Barnes Lacey Soffe

**Weddings**

6 July	Jack Lingard and Harriet Sansome
26 July	Wayne Smith and Rhianydd Currie
10 August	Jack Gledhill and Phillippa Howell
16 August	Gareth Bayliss and Jennifer Cooper
20 August	Michael Fox and Leanne O'Neill
31 August	Craig Frayne and Jenna Price

**Funerals**

27 June	Margaret Hurley
1 July	William Tyler
16 July	Joan Page
17 July	Cecil Robins
22 July	Cyril Hudson
23 July	Lorraine Batt
31 July	Malcolm Meadows
16 August	Sylvia Young



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## Special Guest Visited Holy Trinity



Members of the Coventry Diocese Cursillo community were delighted to welcome the President of the National Anglican Cursillo, Trevor King, to an Ultreya Service at Holy Trinity Church on the evening of Wednesday 10 July. He is pictured here with Eleri Parry the British Anglican Cursillo Community representative for Coventry Diocese. People from many churches across the Diocese attended this event. Cursillo is a movement of the Church, providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.

*Kay Dyer*

Photograph by Roy Dyer

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## FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC AGM

Friday 21 June by David Laverty



Jo Walker thanked her colleagues on the committee for their help and support during her first eighteen months as Chair of the Friends of the Music. She praised the quantity and variety of music that has been performed in the church during this time, including the weekly Soundbites, the evening and choir concerts and the remarkable Sunday music. All of this has combined with an expanding and developing choir to



make Holy Trinity an important musical centre in Stratford. Soundbites performers, many from music colleges, continue to bring a high standard to these occasions.

She complimented the quality of the music played for the Chancel Concerts and listed all the wonderful performers who have delighted us with their skills during 2018/2019. Rebecca Mills was congratulated on the two very successful concerts which she presented - *A Baroque Evening* with the Guild Consort and the Brahms *Requiem*.

The 2018 Choir tour of Holland was a huge success and the choristers represented Holy Trinity magnificently by singing confidently in a variety of venues and melding into an impressive unit. The Chair thanked Benedict Wilson, Stephen Dodsworth and Rebecca Mills for the remarkable music training that they have given to young singers.

The choir will greatly miss Benedict Wilson, director of music, who is leaving to take up a position as director of Choral Music at Shrewsbury school. His enthusiasm, energy, musicality and humour were infectious and we wished him well for the future. Stephen Dodsworth was also wished all the best as he retires from being an organist and conductor at Holy Trinity for many years. They will both be greatly missed.

Linn Macdonald, mother of Rohan Stewart-Macdonald, and many of his friends and relations were thanked for their generosity in raising considerable funds in memory of Rohan. The committee hopes to use this money to purchase a very beautiful bench, made from a tree that grew in the churchyard, and a new grand piano, that will fulfil the needs of the increasingly experienced performers from the conservatoires and music colleges who come to play at Holy Trinity.

The prizes were then awarded interspersed with musical items from the choir and soloist performers.



# **Rest and Renewal**

## ***Holy Trinity's Parish Away Weekend***

### ***9 to 11 October 2020***



As you may know, 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 away. The feedback from our 2017 weekend at Hothorpe couldn't have been better, with almost everyone saying they would be very happy to come again – we hope you will!

The theme for the weekend next year is based on two things that are increasingly hard to achieve in our modern 'speedy' world – *Rest and Renewal* – and Hothorpe will be our exclusive sanctuary for the two days away from the trials and tribulations of our everyday lives. To help us all to attain that elusive rest and spiritual renewal will be the Revd Paul Swann, an 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 our ever-changing world and our responses to those changes. There will be light entertainment on Saturday evening, which may become somewhat raucous if Phil reprises his wonderful poem "Cecil was a caterpillar..." oh, how we hope he will!

Saturday afternoon will be free to explore the countryside around Hothorpe, browse the shops in nearby Market Harborough, just 'rest' and read in the hotel's lounge, or join in the organised events at the hotel (work in progress!).

Of course, while we are listening to our speakers, taking advantage of being able to 'unwind', there will be lots for the children to do with Phil in charge, and I'm sure Phil will be very grateful for any volunteers among you who are willing to help him.

Hothorpe Hall is a *Christian Guild* hotel in Theddingworth, Leicestershire, close to Market Harborough. We will have exclusive use of the Hall, in which 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.

In our article earlier this year we committed to trying to make paying for the weekend easier, and less heavy on our pockets all at once. For next year, therefore, payments may be made four times over the coming year, ie a deposit of £50 per adult this month (September 2019) and three further payments in December 2019, March 2020 and September 2020. The full amount for the weekend, including all meals, morning coffee and afternoon tea, from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon is £180 per adult. The maximum amount payable for families will be £400. This year there will be the ability to pay your deposit and balances directly into the church's bank account (the details will be on the booking form) and we will be happy to email booking forms to you.

*cont.....*

## Rest and Renewal *cont.....*

We do appreciate that there may be members of our congregation who will find the payment difficult to find, but who nonetheless would welcome, and benefit from, the opportunity to take part in the weekend. To this end, we are setting up a *Support Fund* in order to enable these people to attend. We are asking if those of you who are able may give an additional entirely voluntary gift aided donation towards this fund. There will be specific GiftAid envelopes for the Support Fund available in church and in the Parish Centre. If, on the other hand, you would like to benefit from the Fund, please take and complete a booking form, ticking the relevant box – all information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

If you have any queries at all about booking or indeed anything else relating to the weekend, please contact Hilary Newman on [hilnewman1945@gmail.com](mailto:hilnewman1945@gmail.com) or 01789 296771.

Booking forms will be available each Sunday at the back of church, and ongoing further information will appear in the Pew Leaflet.



## QUEEN ELIZABETH I GRANTS YOU AN AUDIENCE

Historian and performer Lesley Smith brings Elizabeth I to life at Holy Trinity Church, Saturday 28 September 7:30pm.

There is no doubt that Elizabeth I had one of the most profound effects on English and European politics of any British ruler. The Protestant queen in the cold bed was given a matter of months on the throne by Catholic observers of the day, believing she could not hope to survive. Instead, Elizabeth went on to rule England for nearly forty-five years, mostly in peace. Her passionate belief in the English people and her lack of martial ambition combined with a brilliant mind and outstanding political skills made her hugely successful, confounding all her critics.

Here is a chance to meet Her Majesty at her political zenith and already an icon in an English psyche. This glittering presentation will transport the audience back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare, on England's voyage into the Renaissance.

Lesley Smith is the Curator of Tutbury Castle, a medical historian holding an M.Phil in Tudor medicine and has also been the resident historian on the TV programme *Most Haunted*.

Lesley is kindly doing this performance to help raise money for Holy Trinity Church. If you can't come yourself, please encourage your friends. It's an incredible evening that will be talked about for years to come.

Tickets £10 available from Holy Trinity Shop or online through the Church website [www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org). Please note that this performance is intended for audiences over the age of 16.



# FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC AGM

Friday 21 June



Photographs by Harry Lomax



## The Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity Church – Part 3: Transformation to Clopton Chapel

*This six-part series by Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald examines the changing fortunes of the Lady Chapel over the past 600 years and how it might be restored to its original function.*

if it fortune me to decesse upon Stratford upon Avon in the countie of Warr. or in that countrey than my body to be buried in the parish church of the same within the chapell of our Lady, betwene the altar of the same and the chapell of the Trinite next adjoyning therunto ordeyned, and tombed after the discrecion of myne executours. And I will

Following the Reformation, the Lady Chapel was transformed into the Clopton Chapel. Already the tomb of Sir Hugh Clopton, with stone canopy above, had been installed before his death in 1496, effectively separating off the chapel area from the nave. In his Will, Clopton stipulated that it should lie between the Lady Chapel and the Trinity Chapel, which was apparently by the pillar at the northern end of the rood screen. Clopton was hedging his bets in case he died in

Stratford, but actually he died in London and is buried at St Margaret's, Lothbury.

Subsequently the tomb of William and Anne Clopton, with their recumbent alabaster figures, was placed against the north wall in 1596. Then an elaborate canopied tomb was fitted to the east wall of the chapel in 1629 for Thomas Carew, Earl of Totnes, Master of the Ordnance for James I. The panel on the front of what was once the altar to Saint Mary now displays cannon, cannonballs, barrels of gunpowder, flags and a musket in a bombastic glorification of war. The chapel also contains memorials to later Cloptons, and associated hatchments that hang on the wall of the north aisle (currently removed for conservation).



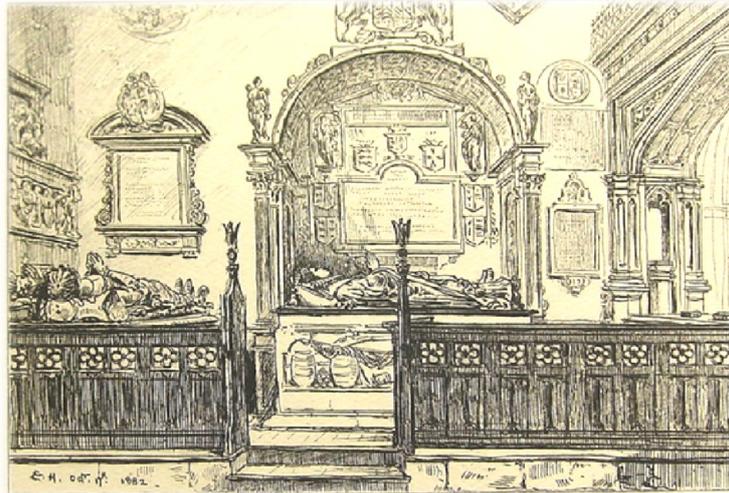
*Upper section of the Clopton Chapel, as it is today, filled with tombs*

The Clopton tombs are incongruous in the space that was previously a sanctuary for the Blessed Virgin. To quote Martin Gorick: "The statue of Mary, a feminine symbol of holiness, humility and hospitality was thrown out as idolatrous – and ironically, in her place, we now have even bigger graven images, this time distinctly masculine symbols of wealth, power and military strength."

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a three-foot high wooden fence fixed along the edge of the upper (tomb) level, with a central opening having two steps, all in the same decorated style as the adjacent choir stalls and the pews in the nave. This reduced the area allocated to the chapel but gave a clear view from along the north aisle to the tombs. The lower area, in front of the fence, appears to have been left open.

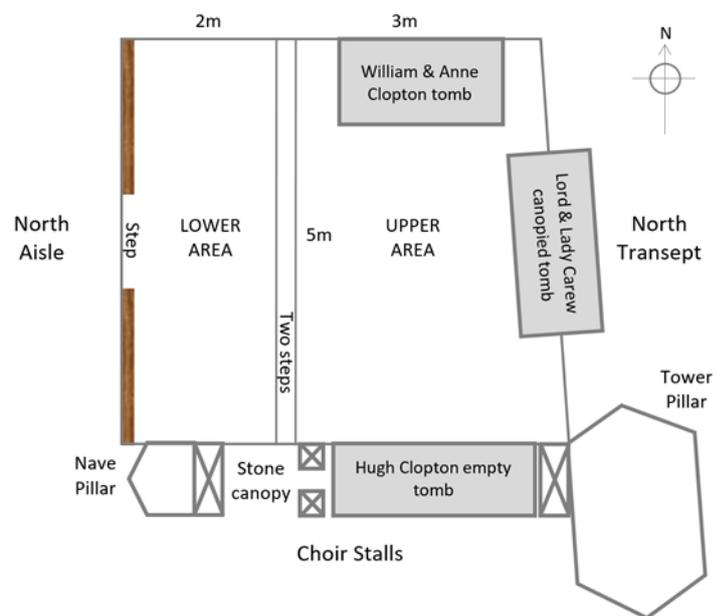
*cont.....*

The Lady Chapel *cont....*



Drawing of the Clopton Chapel by Edward Hull (1882)

The floor area of the Clopton Chapel is approximately 16 feet (5 metres) square. Below the wooden screen there is one step up from the nave floor to the lower area of the chapel, which is 6'6" (2 metres) wide, then two further steps to the upper area where all the Clopton tombs are located, which is 9'6" (3 metres) wide, increasing on the nave side with the oblique angle of the transept wall. The lower section of the chapel contains nothing of significance and is used at the present time for the storage of spare pews.



The next part of this series will look at further changes to the Clopton Chapel that took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



## ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

Clifford Charities will have a vacancy in a one-bedroomed cottage from November. The application form states: Clifford Charities provides housing for people in need in accordance with the charity's Governing Document. Almshouses are available to those who are poor and in need. The charity's definition of "in need" is "that an Almshouse is available to an individual or couple with a need to live in the village". This could be a need to live near family members or friends who live in the village. An Almshouse could also be provided to a "key worker" who needs to live within the area and provides a service to the village. The Trustees' modern interpretation of "poor" is "that a suitable applicant does not have sufficient income or capital to own a property within the village". Applications should be sent to the following address by 30 September:

Clifford Chambers Charities, Taymar, Campden Rd. CV37 8JA



The lecture room at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust was packed one day in the summer when Harriet Walter came to talk about “gender in Shakespeare”. Her focus – as one who has played many Shakespearean and other “women’s” roles, but also for example, Henry IV and Prospero – was on whether the way Shakespeare drew characters and used language made it possible or worthwhile for women to play men’s parts (or vice versa).

A controversial topic! It is easy to accuse the RSC and others of simply being trendy when they play around with gender roles in this way. Harriet admitted that some plays, and some parts, if treated in this way, did not work and could simply look trendy for the sake of it. But in other cases she felt there could be a powerful point. Not just about fairness (Shakespeare wrote very few parts for women, so they get less than their fair share of playing him!) It is also about the complexities of a character, who is always far more than his or her gender. Harriet talked about working on the character of Prospero and discovering so many things, including her own “masculine” side, which she had hoped to project to the audience.

Her view was that a good actor ought to be able to play **any** part, whatever the gender, age, race or anything else, and discover and project herself or himself a little more in the process. There may be some limits; I cannot personally see Ian McKellen playing Juliet any time soon! But her central point was that the gender of a character, or of the actor playing that character, is only one part of their identity, and that the good actor should be able to **become** another person and persuade the audience to suspend their disbelief and think that Harriet really **is** Cleopatra – or Henry IV. Not all were totally convinced, but maybe she had a point.

Why do I write on this? Partly because Roy Lodge challenged me to! But also because this happened in the same week as Jenny Rowland and Diane Patterson helped us, on the Sunday morning, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s admission to the priesthood. You can argue whether women bring special gifts to that role simply because they are women. But Jenny’s and Diane’s argument was that they are **people**, called and gifted by God, who happen to be women. As St Paul said, “worldly” distinctions between men and women, Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free people, and so on, may be real, whether the result of their natural make-up or of the accidents of history – but “all are one in Christ Jesus” and they are given gifts and calling as **people**. I have heard one remarkable theologian speak of pastoral ministry (whether men’s or women’s) in ways which perhaps were only possible for someone who had personally given birth and fed children at the breast. But even she is not “a woman priest” but simply an outstanding priest, whose ministry happens to have been shaped by her experiences, including some specific to her gender.



I could write a lot more about the ways in which gender roles and distinctions have changed, and are changing, in society and in the Church.

But the coincidence of these two events in one week – Harriet’s talk, and the celebration of women’s ministry – reminded me forcibly that we should look behind the outward appearances and roles of men and women, and all the other distinctions that we so easily make, and acknowledge their gifts simply as people.



## Notes from the Friends of the Music



Music at Holy Trinity has many facets and features and the Friends of the Music are actively involved in supporting, developing, encouraging and funding the musical life of the church.

Previously our "Notes" focused on the Choir of Holy Trinity and the work of the Friends in relation to maintaining the very high standard of Soundbites each week plus all the concerts and recitals that are held within the church.

One area of the music at Holy Trinity which often gets overlooked, because it takes place in the Parish Centre and coincides with worship in the church, is the "Trinity Centre @10 " service.

This is a blossoming and quickly developing area of worship within the musical family of Holy Trinity. It is both encouraging and inspirational to all involved. Music at this service, just as in the Church, is also a very important and crucial part of the worship. The contemporary style of music played and sung brings those involved into the closer presence of God and like the more "traditional" mode of worship across the road, it too has the aim of praising, thanking and glorifying God.

Friends of the Music have been able, both in the past and currently, to support some of the needs of "Trinity Centre @10" music projects and needs. The following Article is an update on the progress and development.

### Trinity Centre @10 Service

The services in the Parish Centre have developed during the few years they have been running. Of particular note is that they are now approaching the first full year since a second Communion service was added on the third Sunday, alongside the existing communion service on the First Sunday, which is supported by the music group. There are also two (or three) shorter format services on the other Sundays each month. There are regularly congregations of more than fifty people of all ages attending these services. With this change came the focus of ensuring an equality between the all the Services on a Sunday regardless of location.

It was identified that in the absence of the music group the short format services were often weak. Music was generally sourced from various internet sources, which provided a limited choice, often of a poor quality and lacked consistency. A fantastic solution was found with the Worship Backing Band DVDs of Split Tracks, which provide a consistent presentation and high quality of production as video files, which can easily be incorporated into the PowerPoint slides and to which the congregation can sing. We are grateful to the Friends of Music providing funds to support the purchase of these DVDs, which now provide a permanent resource for years to come for the whole church.

It was also identified that further resources were going to be required to support the change in services, specifically as the resources would have to be shared on the third Sunday Service in the Parish Centre and the Rosebird Service. We are currently fundraising to have a permanently installed PA system in the Parish Centre to support all the services and users of the hall during the week. We are again grateful to the Friends of Music for providing funds towards this as well as fundraising from parents and other donations. If you would like to support this fundraising effort please contact Phil Harper.

Just recently we have had some of the children playing, and singing, for a song during the service. It would be great to have the resources to allow the children to play more often.



## PCC REPORT 9 July



A series of approvals for some exciting plans for our Church building took up the bulk of the agenda at PCC.

The first of the proposals to be supported was to replace the current grand piano with a new concert piano following a donation to The Friends of the Music after the tragic death of Rohan Stewart MacDonald. Director of Music at Holy Trinity, Benedict Wilson, said, "The purchase of a piano would be appropriate because it would fully represent Rohan, the musician and his extraordinary talent as a pianist."

A bench in memory of Rohan and funded by The Friends of the Music will be taken from the 'concept' stage, following the backing of PCC. In order to accommodate the bench in its proposed location, (behind the trees on the path leading to the North Transept door) PCC is considering removing a tree once the local council has been consulted.

An ambitious plan to restore the North Transept has been given the go ahead. PCC approved the recommendation for an architect to develop drawings aimed at making the space an integral part of Holy Trinity Church. There is a wide-ranging list of requirements and considerations from various user groups.

### Pews and Chairs

The Chair Replacement project has made further progress, with PCC approving the selection of the Eton Chair. Members of the congregation had been asked to try out three styles of chair in recent months, with the Eton a clear leader based on this consultation. Church Warden Rhod Mitchell confirmed a number of other aspects, "Both the side aisles will retain the existing pews and fronts with twelve each side. The pew fronts to the centre nave will also be retained for use in civic functions. In total, we are looking at removing and selling eleven long and four short pews together with approximately one hundred and ten Victorian Chairs, with the proceeds going to support the new chairs."

### Finance

PCC heard how there was a deficit in the parochial fund for the first half of the year, but the restoration fund is doing well.

### News in brief

PCC approved two resolutions regarding the reporting of safeguarding and serious incidents to the Charity Commission.

There will be five new Willows Scholars starting in the Choir in September.

Holy Trinity Church will be taking part in a Fun Day on 21 July on the Green in Justins Avenue as part of our Mission & Outreach.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Saturday 21 September.

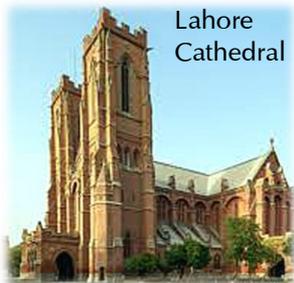


New piano

Photographs by Harry Lomax



## SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS IN LAHORE by Revd David Ellis

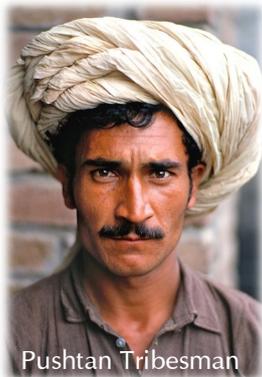


Lahore Cathedral

Our exploratory journey through Pakistan now brought us to Lahore, capital city of Pakistani Punjab, where we made our home at St Hilda's Guest House. Here we shared the company of Christians of various cultures and countries who like ourselves were seeking the insights of being the Church in a 98% Muslim environment. There was much discussion but no agreement about whether the Christian approach should be of dialogue, evangelism or indifferent co-existence!



One of the guests was Tamohar Jan, a member of the Pushtan tribe of the North West Frontier Province, forerunners of the Taliban. Unfortunately I don't have a photo of him - only a picture of a Pushtan of similar appearance.

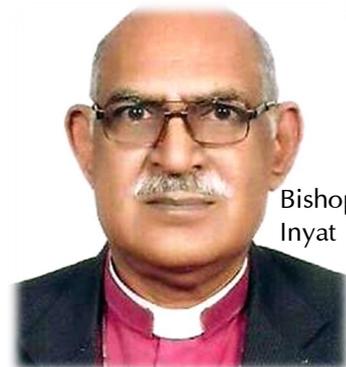


Pushtan Tribesman

He told us how when he was studying English at Lahore University he was required to write a dissertation on some person whose life had changed the course of history. Surprisingly for an ardent Muslim he chose to write about Jesus (yet Islam does reckon Jesus, 'Isa,' among its important saints). Tamohar asked a Christian friend to suggest some good books on the subject. Tongue-in-cheek his friend promptly suggested Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! Tamohar told us that when he reached the Beatitudes in Matthew chapter five he stumbled upon the word 'Blessed' and enquired what it meant. He was told, 'Blessedness is the experience of knowing the unconditional favour of God resting upon you. It is the personal awareness of God's love and grace.' To know such deep satisfaction of the soul, he had to confess, was the longing of every Muslim and perhaps of every faith

seeker. It made him keen to explore the whole of the New Testament. St Paul's distinction between law and grace in his Letter to the Romans was for Tamohar a profound disclosure. No longer did he need to strive to please God. Through the death and resurrection of Christ he could be a new man, a son of God, motivated not by subservience but by gratitude and praise. He was baptised and all his family with him but sadly could no longer safely live among the Pushtans. After training at a Bible School he came to Britain and began a mission among Asian immigrants in Southall, founding a Sunday school for five hundred children and travelling the land with a healing mission.

We found much evidence of courageous Christian witness in Lahore which is probably no longer possible today. We visited the leading Charismatic Renewal Church which was supervising six congregations spread throughout the city without church buildings. There seemed to be no distinction between Anglican and Roman Catholic Charismatic congregations – all joyfully one. We joined in the celebration of Holy Communion on the open street, singing their new songs to the guitar and teaching them some of ours. Later we visited Bishop Inyat and his wife to take tea in the grounds of the Cathedral of the Resurrection. He told us that a year earlier the Pakistani government had changed the official rest day from Sunday to Friday while allowing Christians to be free to attend worship up to 11.00 am on Sundays. This had resulted in



Bishop Inyat

markedly increased congregations at the time, but Islamic extremism will undoubtedly have taken its toll.



Badshahi Mosque

In the very hot sun, topping 100°F, we visited the Badshahi Mosque, the largest in the world, accommodating one hundred thousand standing or kneeling. It proudly exhibits some relics of Mohammed, including his undergarments! From there Fr Bernard and I took a three-wheeled scooter taxi into one of the teeming bazars in search of the elderly father of a parishioner back home. We found him but as he had gone to sleep on his one good ear

there was no waking him that day!

Next month: How we crossed, despite suspicious interrogation, into India and were garlanded at the Golden Temple, the very heart of Sikhism.

## The gravestones of Holy Trinity

The majority of gravestones in the churchyard of Holy Trinity, in the main dating from the 18th and 19th century, are conventional standing stones, some with shaped tops and varying degrees of carved ornamentation, and crosses. There are also table tombs, plus those which might be described as lower variations of same. In some instances these are little more than slightly raised ledger stones, which are also plentiful, and are in many cases slowly sinking into the soil. In addition there are a few pedestal and obelisk style monuments, mostly of relatively small or medium height, with one or two notable exceptions.

In 1978 the pupils of Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls undertook a survey of the inscriptions on approximately 600 gravestones in the churchyard. It was a remarkable achievement, and much of the information would have been lost if this work had not been carried out at that time, since there has been a subsequent appreciable deterioration in the legibility of many of the inscriptions. In 2009/10 a photographic record was made of all extant stones, with the aim of matching the images to the appropriate grave in the survey.

As for the inscriptions, disappointingly the words recorded on the gravestones in Holy Trinity churchyard contain little to match the gems which can be found in collections of epitaphs. All the stock phrases are here:

*To the loving/sacred memory; In loving/affectionate/beloved remembrance; and Here lie the remains/ the body.*

*Many are said to be not dead but merely sleeping, or not lost but gone before.*

Sadly many stones have little space for verses, having to accommodate a long list of the departed.

Quotations from the Bible abound - variations on *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord* being particularly popular, along with quotations from the Psalms.

The youngest are remembered with the sweetest verses -

*This lovely bud so young and fair  
Called hence by early doom  
Just came to show how sweet a flower  
In Paradise would bloom*

and the particularly appropriate -

*Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God*

Children are sometimes mentioned - *3 children who died young* - but are not named, and presumably they died at birth or soon afterwards.

It is noticeable that the name of a woman in a solitary grave is usually followed by *Wife/widow of*, but never *Husband of* in the opposite case. *Relict* is the term sometimes used alongside the name of a woman who was a widow at the time of her death.

Many stones give details of the various relationships of those interred, with a surprising number of first and second wives and their shared husband in the same plot.

A few include biographical details:

*For 25 years second master of the Grammar School in the town*

*Who for 38 years was a devoted and faithful Secretary of the Bank of Avon Lodge of Odd Fellows*

*One of the Brethren of The Earl of Leicester's Hospital, Warwick*

*Clerk of the Peace of the County of Warwick for 52 years, Town Clerk for the borough of Stratford upon Avon for 40 years*

*Late Officer of Inland Revenue*

Sometimes the biography seems to relate more to those left behind:

*Daughter of Benjamin Faulkner Esq late of Little Chelsea in the County of Middlesex*

*cont.....*

One of the most impressive monuments in the churchyard records the interest of a young man in the study of botany, *'who attained considerable proficiency, but unfortunately died too young to leave any lasting record of his labours'*. Apart from his memorial, that is. Perhaps surprisingly in Stratford-upon-Avon, his is the only stone to include a quotation from the *Sonnets* - a line from number 94.

A few have a more heartfelt and personal flavour:

*Affliction sore, long time I bore  
Physicians were in vain  
Till God did please to give me ease  
And free me from my pain*

There are tragedies recorded - brothers aged 27 and 24 who drowned under very different circumstances only a year apart; and twins who both died within a few months of their birth. And the young man *'late of HM Royal 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars who died on his passage home from India'*.

Familiar poetry is represented by a couple of lines from Thomas Gray's *Elegy* written in a country churchyard, heavily edited to omit intervening references to *mouldering heap* and *rude forefathers*.

A few names merit mention. Were the parents of Orlando John Mills inspired by Shakespeare's character in *As You Like It*? And was George Waterloo Wakefield named for someone who took part in that famous 1815 battle? He died in 1865, aged 27.

If you should happen to come across a party of visitors keen to see the famous grave at a time when the church is closed for a service or event, perhaps direct them to the other grave of William Shakespeare - that is, William Shakespeare Payton, who lies close to the south east corner of the churchyard.



The original survey identified two stones dating from the late 1600s. One, a flat ledger stone, has disappeared beneath the grass since being photographed in 2009. In that grave resides John Sharp who died on 19th February 1694. But the elder of the two stones still survives. The inscription reads:

*Here lieth the body of Mary the wife of James Southam  
who departed this life the 10 day of September ano dom 1682  
Also here lieth the body of Mary the daughter of James Southam  
who departed this life the 21 day of November 1682*

*A daughter of Abraham here doth lye  
Returned to the dust  
Whose life was hid in Christ with God  
In whom was all her trust  
Who wisely wrought while it was day  
And in her spirit did watch and pray  
To hear God's word attentive was her ear,  
Her humble heart was full of holy fear.*

The lettering is scarcely legible today, as indeed is that of many of the inscriptions which the pupils of the Girls' Grammar School saved for posterity.

A further old stone, from 1690, has recently appeared in the new kerb section assembled adjacent to the church's level access door via the 2015 extension.

Full details of names and inscriptions, distilled from the 1978 survey, and the photographic record, can be seen in a file usually on display in the church alongside one containing information on the stained glass windows.

# RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE FOR CHURCHES IN STRATFORD UPON AVON

## 19 MAY TO 30 JUNE 2019

The final meeting of the Retreat in Daily life took place on Sunday 30 June at the Methodist Church. There were eight pilgrims from five different churches, so the event was truly ecumenical, and six trained prayer guides. Participants had met with their prayer guides once a week during the six week period to discuss their daily prayer during that time.

At the meeting there was a very moving time of sharing of the experience. All the prayer guides expressed what a privilege it had been to share journeys with those they had accompanied. The pilgrims said that they had experienced a deepening of their relationship with God, and also appreciated trying out new ways of praying. Some had found this challenging and others exciting.

They all appreciated being listened to and encouraged on their spiritual journeys. All agreed that it was a worth-while experience, enhancing their relationship with God and making them feel more fully alive.

All participants wanted to continue to try to find space to pray each day. There was the suggestion that some might want to find a Spiritual Accompanier and they were recommended to look on the Coventry Diocesan website for information about this. There are also a number of apps on the internet which can be used to support our daily prayer. Examples are *Pray As You Go* and *Sacred Space*.

We are grateful to the Methodist Church for allowing us to use their premises for the opening and closing meetings of the Retreat.

John Hall-Matthews



## BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

Another social event has been enjoyed by a good cross section of the congregation!

The atmosphere was relaxed and informal with plenty of food for everyone, and Benedict expressed his appreciation at having the opportunity to thank the congregation for his leaving gift and good wishes.

Sunday 14 July will be remembered by many as the day England won the Cricket World Cup, and yet another epic Wimbledon men's final. Luckily for everyone who attended the Bring and Share Lunch in the Parish Centre we were home in time for much of it; but with full tummies and happy hearts, having enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with old and new friends alike.

Thank you to everyone who quietly helped to tidy up at the end of the event, allowing us all to head off and enjoy the rest of the day!

Marion Mitchell



Photographs by  
Harry Lomax



# HOWLERS!

## ONE LINERS:

**A MAN** entered his church magazine's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns in the hope that at least one of them would win. Unfortunately no pun in ten did!

*Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels.*  
Tim Vine

Five out of every three people have trouble understanding fractions.  
Ken Dodd

**CORRECTION** sent to members of the Real Ale Society in Leicester: "As one or two eagle-eyed members have pointed out, there was a minor error in the previous newsletter. I would like to confirm that our next meeting will feature a pub crawl rather than a pub brawl. *Radio 4 News Quiz*

**Notice to passengers in Liverpool: Mersey ferries are cancelled today because of bad weather. A replacement bus service is operating.**

Day programme for people studying for a Royal Society for Public Health Level 4 award in managing food safety. Day One: 9.30 Introduction – your role in food safety management, food microbiology and food caught disease. 12.30 Lunch. 1.30. Food poisoning.

*Sign outside camping shop in Lytham, Lancs: Now is the season of our discount tents*



"I don't mean to sound ungrateful Fred, but when I asked for something to represent farming in the community..."

 Cutting from *The Journal*, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, about a local school: The overall picture for the once failing school is promising, apart from its imminent closure."

On-line review of paper sandals: "Good. I bought them for my mother. Sturdy, but still attractive." *News Quiz*



"The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven, says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers."

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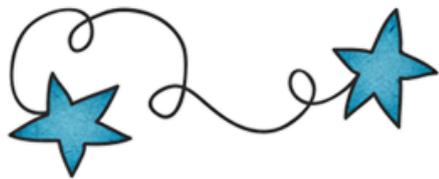
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# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town*

*Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

*Tel. 01789 266 316*

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

## Leadership Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
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
Church Team Leaders:	David White and Sherron Guise		
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
Interim Director of Music:	Rebecca Mills		
Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598	heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org

## Church Wardens

Hilda Craig	01789 551 234	Paul Lageu	01789 298 302
Hilary Newman	01789 296 771	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	Alan Haigh	01789 290 128
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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## SOCIAL TEAM EVENTS



### Treasure Hunt & Afternoon Tea Saturday 14 September from 2pm

A special treasure hunt around Old Town from 2pm. Clues suitable for all ages. Followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Centre 3-4:30pm. There is no charge for this event (although donations welcome on the day). However, to help us with catering you will need a ticket. Available after the 10am service or contact Chris Cottrell (01789) 204273 or [cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com](mailto:cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com)

### Harvest Supper Saturday 12 October

For this year's Harvest Supper we're having a hog roast. Tickets are £5 adult, £3 children under 12. These will be available from 14 September and places are limited. Doors open at 5:15pm, with the entertainment beginning at 5:30pm, please bring your own drinks. For the entertainment this year, we are having a Harvest of Talents. We'll be putting together a cabaret of entertainment from our own congregations, sign-up sheets will be available before the event. Time to get practising your party piece.



## CHURCH HAPPENINGS



There was a combined Methodist and Anglican service on 30 June and Revd Dr. Israel Selvanayagam preached the sermon. He is from the church of South India and is currently serving as a minister in the Methodist circuit.



On the 25th anniversary of the Ordination of Women Priests the service on 7 July was celebrated by Revd Jenny Rowland and the preacher was Revd Diane Patterson



Benedict Wilson, director of music, pictured here with Revd Patrick Taylor and Revd Kay Dyer at his last service in Holy Trinity Church on 14 July.