

October 2019

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# THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



# TRINITY TIMES



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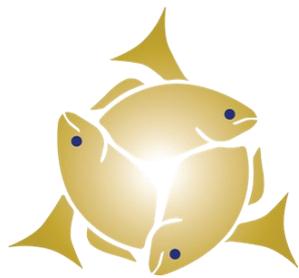


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We welcome back Patrick from his sabbatical and this magazine includes some of his insights about his time away.

We were also very sad to hear of the death of Andrea Blood and have included tributes to her.

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 **November 2019** edition and will be in church on 27 October

**The copy date is 11 October**

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 :- "Destination Reached" - Patrick and Paul beside a sculpture of monks carrying the coffin of St Cuthbert, in Lindisfarne parish church. Courtesy of Revd Patrick Taylor.

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## SABBATICAL: A JOURNEY INTO SPACE



It's (genuinely) lovely to be back in the parish following my three month sabbatical. Everyone has been warm and generous in welcoming me and I'm very grateful to all those who stepped up to cover my absence, especially Steve who, by all accounts, has done a great job in leading the parish and keeping the wheels on the tracks.

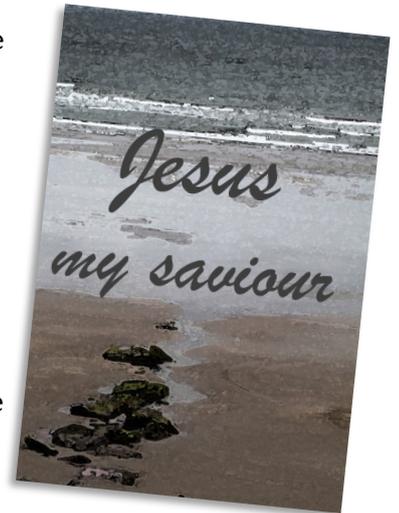
When people ask me how it's gone, I struggle to give a brief and coherent answer as there is so much to say. The short answer is that it was a wonderful time of rest, renewal and even personal transformation. Perhaps I can expand on that now.

When the anniversary of the moon landings was marked I could relate to the weightlessness of Space. The first thing I experienced during my sabbatical was an almost physical sensation of the weight and pressure of parish life being lifted from my shoulders. I felt lighter without the burden of the constant demands of tasks to be completed, expectations to be met and difficult decisions to be made, which come with being vicar of a busy parish.

This gave me space to ask some searching questions of myself. I reflected on how I react to pressure and saw again my tendency to protect myself, put up barriers and try to avoid being vulnerable. I faced up to my own need to be liked and successful. I also considered the effect my desire to be in control can have on the people around me, and saw again how important it is that my family life is not relegated to second place after the needs of the parish.

One of the speakers on a retreat I went on used a phrase I've heard before, but it resonated with me in a new way: "Let go and let God". I felt strongly called by God to let go of my need to prove I can do things (and even better than the last time), to let go of my reluctance to be open and vulnerable, lest I should get hurt or no longer be in control. And beyond this lay a challenge I was almost unable to face, which was Jesus saying to me, as he said to the rich young man in the bible, "are you prepared to give up the things you value the most in order to follow me?". For me that means giving up my desire to control how I spend my time and focus my energy. It means seeking to minister to others and serve the Kingdom, rather than trying to boost my own ego or serve my own reputation.

Jesus is *The One who Saves*, his name coming from the Hebrew and Arabic word for salvation. One of the books I read gave me a profound insight into what this means for us\*. The root of the word actually means 'to make spacious'. In other words, Jesus *makes space* for us to live the life we were created for and to enjoy the freedom he gives to us.



The moon landings were a journey into what we call Space. My personal journey has been a discovery of an inner space where the burden of the demands placed on me by others, and by myself, have given way to a greater sense of my dependence on God and commitment to follow Jesus in every part of my life.

The reality of being "back on the job" has now hit home, but my hope and prayer is that I continue to experience the openness to meeting God in new and fresh ways that I found on my sabbatical, and that I can inspire and help others, weighed down with the burdens of their lives, to find that liberating space which only Jesus can provide.

*Patrick*

\* *Turned by Divine Love* by Bishop John Stroyan

## WORSHIP NOTES



The season of **Harvest Festivals** is upon us. Luddington enjoyed their festival service on 29 September and there will be special services at **Clifford Chambers on 6 October (9.30am)** and **Holy Trinity on 13 October (10am All Age Eucharist)**. We give thanks to God for the ways in which we are so abundantly blessed. We shall also be reflecting on the fragility of creation and our responsibility to be careful about the resources we use and the footprint we leave behind. Donations for the Stratford Food Bank will be welcomed. Please see the pew sheet for details on the sorts of items required.

We will continue to explore **The Sermon on the Mount** at Food4thought, 10am on 27 October. We shall be considering

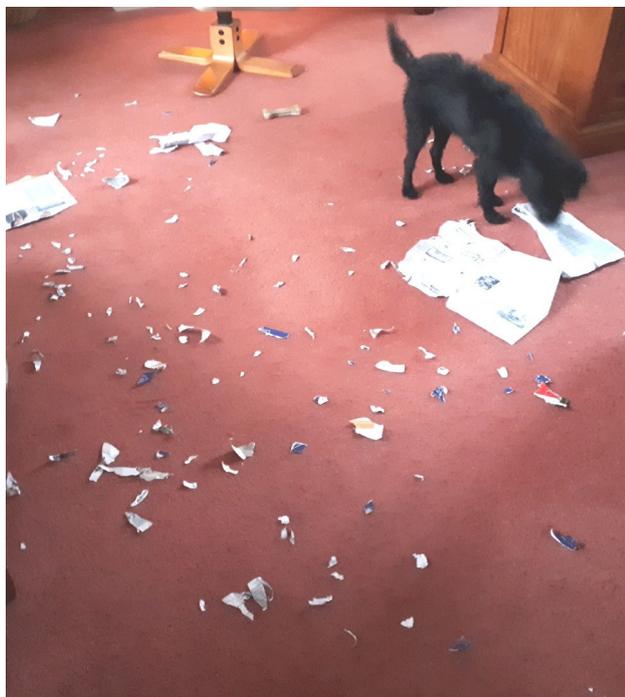


Jesus' famous saying, "Seek first the Kingdom of God... and all these things

will be given to you as well." This service provides an opportunity for extended teaching within the context of a less formal celebration of Holy Communion, with music led by an instrumental group (the choir return for BCP Holy Communion at 6pm).



*Patrick*



Is this Trinity Times' fiercest critic?

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

### Holy Trinity Church



**Sunday 6 October - 16th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Choral Evensong

**Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10**

**Sunday 13 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Harvest All-Age Service

6.00pm Evensong

**Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10**

**Sunday 20 October - 18th 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 27 October - Last Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

**Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10**

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

**Sunday 6 October 9.30 Harvest Festival**

**Sunday 13 October 9.30am Holy Communion**

**Sunday 20 October 9.30am Morning Worship**

**Sunday 27 October 9.30am Holy Communion - Traditional**



### All Saints', Luddington

**Sunday 6 October 9.30 Holy Communion BCP**

**Sunday 13 October 9.30am Holy Communion**

**Sunday 20 October 9.30am Holy Communion**

**Sunday 27 October 9.30am Holy Communion**



## CHRISTMAS CARD AMNESTY



Although it is still only October, we wanted to remind people about the Christmas Card Amnesty. Rather than sending cards to members of the congregations, people are invited to make a donation towards our Christmas charities and have their name printed in the December/January edition of Trinity Times. More details in the November edition.

## TRINITY LADIES

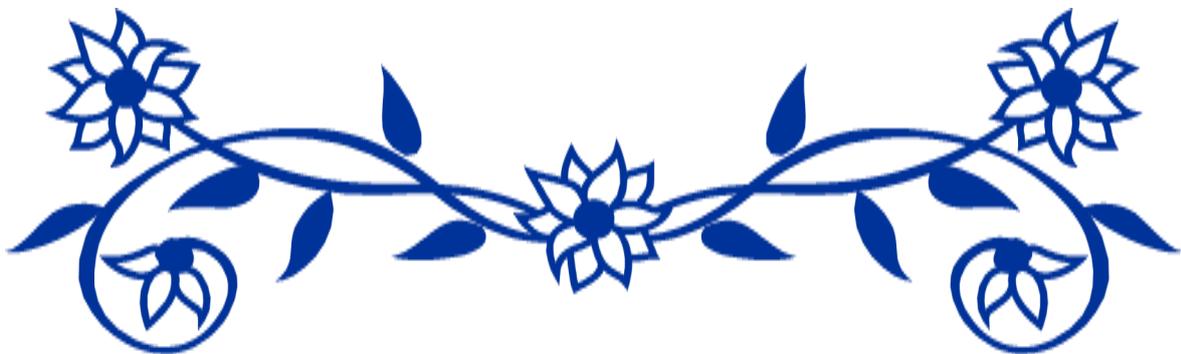


On Wednesday 16 October we are having a talk about fraud given by a member of the Nat West Bank. This is something we should all be on our guard against. Please come and join us.

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



## 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



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



With the beginning of the new academic year, things are getting busy again. It's now over a year since we began the new style TrinityCentre@10 service. It's great to see how people have embraced the new service. Now that we're more comfortable with the format we're wanting to reach out to new people. If you know of someone who would prefer an informal style of worship, perhaps they are looking to take the first steps on their journey of faith and are looking for a way in, please tell them about the TrinityCentre@10 service. It isn't just for children and families, we have a variety of ages at the service and all are welcome.

It's great to see so many coming to both of our Toddler Groups, the Ken Kennett group on Tuesday mornings (9-10:30am) and Trinity Tots Thursdays (1:30-3pm). Over the summer holiday we added to our toys at Trinity Tots, including a few new cars. We are still desperate for helpers at Trinity Tots, if you think you could help once a month on a Thursday afternoon, please contact me ([phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org))



At our HolyTrinity@Rosebird service this term, we're exploring the lives of the Saints. We began in September with St Columba, in October we're discovering about St Catherine, in November St Francis and in December who else but St Nicholas. It takes place at the Rosebird Centre (by Waitrose) on the third Sunday of every month, breakfast from 9:30am and the service from 10:00am.

Following on from the Blessing of the School bag service, we've another all age service on 13 October at 10am for Harvest Festival. It's lovely to see the different parts of our church family coming together at these services and I hope that you'll be able to join us for this service.

Our Youth Group is continuing this term, which is for children aged ten and upwards. We have a chance to play some games including pool, air-hockey or table football, then an activity or opportunity to explore aspects of our faith and most importantly finish with some food! This term the group is meeting on

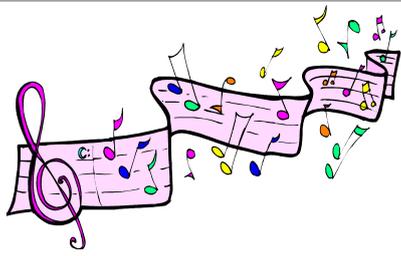
## HARVEST SUPPER



Tickets are now on sale for our Harvest Supper on Saturday 12 October in the Parish Centre, doors open at 5:15pm and the entertainment begins at 5:30pm. This year we're serving pork baps, with all the trimmings, (there is a vegetarian option), followed by a choice of desserts. Tickets are £5 each or £3 for children under 12, please provide your own drinks. We can only seat a certain number of people in the hall so don't delay getting your tickets, available after the 10am services or from Chris Cottrell 01789 204273 or email [cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com](mailto:cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com).

For the entertainment this year we're harvesting the talents from amongst our congregation. If you would like to perform a song, read a poem, deliver some jokes or whatever you'd like to share, let Phil know before the event; you can either sign up in church or email [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org).





## Notes from the Friends of the Music

As many of you will already be aware, Friends of the Music work very hard to promote, develop and increase awareness to the wonderful beauty of music, with all its facets and qualities.

The fruits of much of their hard work can be enjoyed every week at the "Soundbites" series of concerts which Friends of the Music promote.

However, no matter how good those concerts are, and no matter how much work goes into producing a series of weekly concerts, such as Soundbites, we, in the Friends, can blow our own trumpet as much as we like about the concerts, but they are not promoted for our enjoyment, they are promoted for as wide an audience as possible, and if that audience isn't enjoying them, then all the hard work, promotion and developing them is futile!

To gauge current feeling on what our present audience feel regarding "Soundbites" we asked several regular attendees to give us their feedback on "Soundbites". Their comments make for some really enjoyable and interesting reading. This month we publish one response, and over the coming months we hope to be able to bring you more comments, good and bad.

If you still haven't managed to get along to one of our Soundbites, please do give it a go! The Soundbites series of Concerts are held every Wednesday throughout the year (with a break for Christmas and New Year) @ 1.00pm for 30mins, with tea, coffee and sandwiches available from 12.30pm.

Take a break from work, come and go as you please during your lunch hour, enjoy beautiful music, performed by very talented performers, of all ages, in the calm, peaceful and historic surroundings of Holy Trinity.

Enjoy the article.

## A Soundbite



It was a funny day. It was lunchtime. The selected sandwich and cake looked pretty good and provided a helpful balance either side of the paper-plate.



Negotiating the milk into coffee was going to be tricky; cup and paper-plate in one hand and milk poured from the other. Six years of Soundbites has given me some skills.

It was a Wednesday in Holy Trinity Church. I was looking forward to enjoying my pre-concert lunch. My anticipated relaxation was interrupted by a voice. "Just the person I was looking for." The milk disaster avoided, I looked behind me but the voice seemed to be addressing me. "Write me 500 words." "Why and what for?" A naïve question? "On Soundbites" came the reply.

It was only as I was munching through the cheese and pickle that I began to wonder about the 500 words. What for? Why me? My anxiety was short lived. David Laverty arrived. Perhaps to allay my concerns he came bearing a paper gift. Eight centimetres by two and a half centimetres of lined paper contained a name and an email address for those 500 words. At this point I should mention, for those with an allergy to S I units, that the size represents three inches by one inch. "It is for Trinity Times" David explained and then added helpfully, "no hurry." My heart sank; all those talented readers, who can write brilliantly, scrutinising my modest 500 words.



*cont.....*



### A Soundbite *cont.....*

It would be unfair to say that my enjoyment of the next thirty minutes of splendid organ playing was crushed by thoughts of the task ahead; dented perhaps. The talented sixteen years old gave a very accessible and enjoyable program that lasted just on the allocated half hour. The music transported my thoughts away from the impending 500 word task.

At the end, the Chairman of the Friends of the Music spoke, warmly and well, congratulating the young musician. We were reminded that the lunchtime concerts were free but that donations were much appreciated.

I said a silent thank you to Jo Walker, to Rebecca Mills and to the many other helpers who put in so much effort to ensure that these occasions happen. I reflected how wonderful it was that the lunchtime concerts happen every week not just providing a platform for many young musicians but, for us, creating a forum to meet with a sense of Christian fellowship and to explore hidden opportunities for outreach. I breathed a 'Hurrah' for the Friends of the Music.

At times I have heard strong criticism of the church and its failure to provide opportunities for young people, for its failure to enhance community activities and for its failure to extend our Christian outreach. It is at such moments that I remember and thank God for Soundbites.

Philip Cheshire

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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**



Courtesy of Abi Chapleo

## TRIBUTES TO ANDREA BLOOD



I first met Andrea when Lilian and I started attending services at Holy Trinity around twenty years ago. Along with her friend, the late Jan Craven, Andrea gave us an early and warm welcome. This was soon followed by an invitation to the Welcome Lunch. It was a kind of instant friendship, including unexpected birthday cards and Christmas cards.

Soon afterwards I joined the regular Friday morning Bible Study Group at The Parish Hall, led by Jan and with Andrea doing the readings. This further developed my life-long interest in The Bible.

I would often address Andrea as "my Christian Sister" because it was so easy to slip into discussion about aspects of The Faith, or to seek her guidance or observations on various matters.

My visits to Andrea over the last year or so would start with a bit of a catch up on family and church related news and then we would share a Bible Study followed by prayer. There was a heightened awareness of the presence of The Holy Spirit and I would leave on a spiritual high.

There was a fun side...Lilian and I will never forget her sixtieth Birthday party where we were greeted by Andrea wearing skin tight silver lame tights and a silver shoulder length wig! It's true!

A lovely person who was quick to witness to her total reliance on God. Amongst her last words that I recall were, "I am God's daughter and I put my trust in Him....I have God's peace." Graham Hopkins.

Andrea was a person of quiet faithfulness and devotion to God. She lived out her faith through a deep life of prayer and service of family, friends and people in church and wider community. She was a huge support to me when I was Vicar in Stratford, never afraid to quietly question or challenge if she saw something that needed changing or doing, and always willing to go the extra mile herself in mission and ministry. I remember her coming to me after a Parish Awayday with a calling to begin a daytime Lay Chaplaincy in the church. She'd prayed it through and followed it through with my encouragement and that ministry, led by Andrea but involving many others, was a blessing to untold numbers of people.

As she bore her illness with such honesty and faithful courage, may she now know the joy of her Lord in all its fullness and the life and liberation of heaven. The Venerable Martin Gorick.



Courtesy of Abi Chapleo

I remember how kind Andrea was when I joined Holy Trinity. She went out of her way to be welcoming.  
Diane Edwards

Rick and Andrea were among the first friends we made at Holy Trinity when Bryan and I, newly married in 1975, came to live in Stratford. Andrea's support for all our family remained constant. Latterly, working with her on the Parish Prayer diary, Andrea's wisdom, ability to listen and respond to other people's needs and her unshakeable belief in prayer all helped to deepen my faith. Christine Cottrell

A dear friend since 1974 and my spiritual helper. Her love for the Lord shone out and she always had time for anyone she met - in church, in the street or in the supermarket! I will miss her being a part of my life. Margaret Sullivan

Andrea set up and administered the Lay Chaplaincy because she cared about people not being alone in times of distress. She wanted everyone to know that Holy Trinity was where they could come to find strength in Christ's love, and feel that they are cared for.

She supported the team to be able to do this, and we continue and expand the work in her memory. When she knew her time was limited, she handed over her duties and made sure the team would continue to run and be well organized.

Her first thought was always for others. She will be greatly missed and we owe her so much. Anne Blair

Andrea was one of life's genuinely good people in this world and I will never forget her. I remember the occasion when I was shopping in Stratford and suddenly felt very poorly, unable to get home, or phone home. Out of nowhere Andrea suddenly appeared and, seeing my distress, found me a seat, went for her car and drove me home. I told her that she was my guardian angel that day! Heather Bridgewater



Andrea with her teddies  
Courtesy of Abi Chapleo

Andrea was a remarkable, friendly, caring and inspirational lady who touched many lives, including mine. She welcomed me at a Holy Trinity Coffee morning over four decades ago and has been a wonderful, supportive and loyal friend ever since. I will miss her greatly. Tina Hillyard

Whenever we came to HT, even before moving to Stratford, Andrea always spotted us. Her friendly welcome and enthusiasm for mission and prayer led both of us into involvement with the Healing Prayer Ministry and the Lay Chaplaincy which we were glad to be part of for a while. We appreciated her dedication, leadership and genuine concern for people. She was truly open to the Holy Spirit. Her faith was infectious. We need more like Andrea. Revd David and Barbara Ellis

Andrea founded the Click and Chatter group and seldom missed a meeting. She provided the mugs/coffee/tea and milk and made sure that we all had a wonderful time. We knitted sheep as small gifts to be left at every house during the wanderings of Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve and Andrea made a stable to house the figures when they arrived. She was a wonderful Christian lady, forever showing the love of God in her life, and will be sorely missed by us all. Felicity Howlett.



Click and Chatter



Andrea on the Click and Chatter stall at the Medieval Fair.  
Courtesy of Abi Chapleo

"When I moved to Stratford over fifteen years ago, Andrea was one of the first, together with Jan Craven, to welcome me and to make me feel part of the Holy Trinity Church family. Even during her final illness, she always managed to show a warm interest towards others in Church". Judith Dorricott

## TRIBUTES TO ANDREA

Andrea was a founding member of the Welcome Team, a wonderful leader for several years, and a constant support to us all until the end. She had a unique ability to connect with newcomers and regular congregation alike and worked tirelessly to care for people not only at church but also in the community, spreading the love of God to everyone. We have much to live up to. She will be sorely missed but always have a special place in our hearts. Helen Warrillow

Andrea was one of the first members of Holy Trinity I met. She was so welcoming and helpful and will remain in a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers will be with her family and friends and for all of us at Holy Trinity who have lost a true kind and good friend. Eve Archer

Andrea with her grandchildren

Courtesy of Abi Chapleo



Andrea's funeral was taking place at the time of going to press and so there will be a full write up next month.

Andrea took me under her wing when I moved here ten years ago after the deaths of my parents. We met regularly for tea and chat, although I did most of the talking as Andrea had a way of drawing you out. I would take almond thins - her favourites. This last year I would think of Bible stories and challenge her to build them in Lego - Noah's Ark was a particular success. Maureen Clayson (non-church goer).

My earliest recollections of Andrea were over thirty years ago when working at Thomas Jollyfe School. I met Andrea, who was a parent of three children, there. I was also Clerk to the Governors, of which Andrea was one. We used to sit together at the school sports days keeping the records of the results. I always knew Andrea to be a community minded person who was keen to do something for the Clopton area. She was so pleased when the refurbished Ken Kennett Centre was opened recently to provide a focal point for the Clopton community, including the Holy Trinity activities there. I will always remember our last meeting when I visited Andrea in The Bentley Nursing Home. Lilian Hopkins.

## TRUST THE WAY!

### Patrick reflects on his pilgrimage along St. Cuthbert's Way with Paul Edmondson.

The St. Cuthbert's Way pilgrimage was a highlight of my sabbatical. The sixty mile route starts in Scotland and finishes on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Paul and I covered about fifteen miles a day over four consecutive days which was quite demanding, especially when your walking partner can keep up a pace as brisk as Paul's! But we were blessed with mostly wonderful weather and fabulous scenery, especially on the section over the Cheviot Hills.

As with any pilgrimage, the journey itself was the point as much as the destination. I learnt more about myself and my relationship with God over those four days than I expected to. The route is very well way-marked, and so we rarely needed to consult the map. As a result, whenever we saw a marker we would say, "Trust the Way!". It became a sort of mantra for the walk, but also caused us to reflect on what it means to trust The Way, Jesus, in our lives. I was often tempted to stop to get the map out to check where we were and where we were heading, but was persuaded to let go of my need to check every detail and rather to get my head out of the map and enjoy the view. I realised that anxieties about what we're experiencing in life and what might happen in the future often get in the way of looking up and seeing the wonderful things God has already provided for us, if we "Trust the Way".



#### Day 1 Melrose to Jedburgh



Melrose

We began in Melrose where Cuthbert was a monk as a young man. A stiff climb took us up over the Eildon Hills, onto one of the most scenic parts of the the walk which followed the river Tweed. We stopped at a weir to pray, Paul having suggested that



Tweed



Steps

we follow the Benedictine pattern of praying the office at noon (Sext) and at 2pm (None) in addition to morning and evening prayer. "Do we

really have to stop so often to pray?" I heard a voice in my head saying, "We've still got a long way to walk and this won't get us there!". However, the discipline gave me a new perspective on prayer. We all have our own agenda of what we want to do and accomplish in a day. When we stop to pray, before anything else we are making a statement that there is something more important than myself. We acknowledge that the needs of our own ego are secondary to God's will for our lives and the needs of others, and so turn our hearts to God, even if for a few minutes.

#### Day 2 Over the Cheviots to Kirk Yetholm



Cheviots

This was the most spectacular section. We didn't see another soul up on the hills, it was just us and the skylarks. As I wrote in my journal, it felt like being in heaven, with birds singing as though they were the angels! This was the highest point on the pilgrimage and also marked half way.



Highest point and halfway



Welcome Refreshment

## TRUST THE WAY!



### Day 3 Over the Border To Wooler

Another stiff climb and we were back in England. Some tough moorland walking in mixed weather, but we kept our spirits up with a stirring rendition of the hymn "Hills of the North, Rejoice!"



Border



Holy Communion

### Day 4 St. Cuthbert's Cave and Lindisfarne

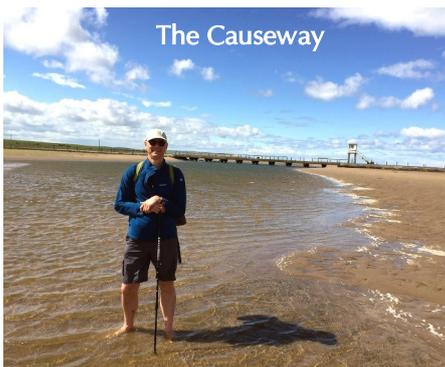
The route takes in St. Cuthbert's Cave, a place where his body rested when it was taken from Lindisfarne on a journey which ended in Durham Cathedral (where he rests to this day). As it was Sunday, we decided to celebrate Holy Communion in the cave, and a couple who were out walking took up our invitation to join us. It was a simple and beautiful moment of encounter with Jesus in one another and in created things.

A short climb afterwards and we caught our first glimpse of Lindisfarne -we knew we were nearly there!

We were required to ring the signal box for permission to cross the main line.



Trainspotter's dream



The Causeway

The last 3 miles of the walk were across the sands, following the Pilgrim's Path marked by posts (and running parallel with the causeway). The timing of the tide was just



The Pilgrims' path across the sands

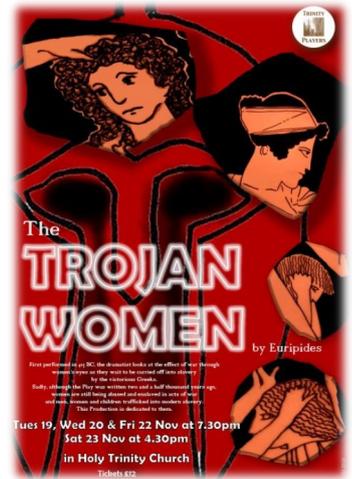
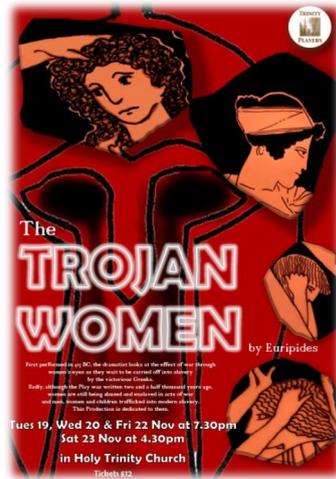
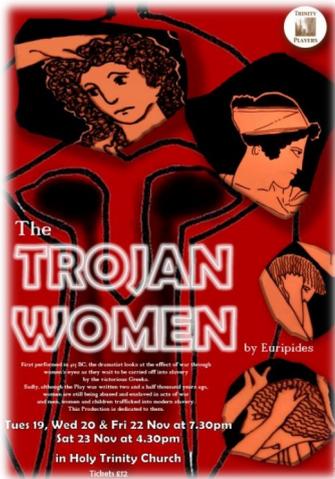
right and we followed tradition by walking this final section barefoot. It was a wonderful sensation (although a bit muddy in places) and Paul and I felt very much at one with God's creation and St. Cuthbert.

As Paul reflected, "Walking the St Cuthbert's Way was a great time of blessing - over the moors, through woodland, alongside rivers, and, finally, across the sands to Lindisfarne. We spoke a lot about the Faith, about life, politics, and we very often remarked on the beauty of the natural world."



Weary Pilgrims

We were met on the island by Laura, Beatrice and Edmund who had travelled up separately. Parting ways, Paul and I rejoiced to have completed this small part of The Way in our lives.



## THE TROJAN WOMEN by EURIPIDES

In 416 BC the Athenians laid waste the Island of Melos, killed the men and boys and enslaved the women and girls. Euripides may well have been influenced by this act of war in presenting, the following year, the suffering of the women, captured by the Greeks after their ten-year siege of Troy, as they face deprivation, slavery, rape or death.

The English translation first came to prominence in 1905 when the classicist and pacifist, Gilbert Murray, produced it as a protest against the imprisonment of women and children in the British concentration camps during the Boer War. Both sides mounted influential productions in the First World War and subsequent versions have been based on Hiroshima and the Algerian, Vietnam and Biafran Wars among others.

Nothing has changed. At least 10-12,000 women were treated as sex slaves during the Bosnian Conflict. In 2014 ISIS overran Sinjar, killed the men and boys and took some 5-7,000 Yazidi women into slavery claiming that, under Sharia Law, they were spoils of war. In the same year, Boko Haram abducted 276 girl students in Chibok, Nigeria. Despite an outcry worldwide, half are still unaccounted for.

Even more concerning and challenging, there are an estimated 13,000 slaves in this country today, living and working in plain sight: we have all seen them; we have all benefited from their labour. Many have been trafficked into this country but one quarter are British, primarily vulnerable children and adults.

If we sometimes feel helpless when atrocities take place in other countries surely, as a church community, we can play a part in pressing for concerted action against slavery in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain and in supporting the victims, for whom life after freedom is often fraught.

With the Authorities overstretched, short of money or caught up by their own bureaucracy, there is work to be done by Faith Groups. The Church of England is active through the Clewer Initiative: [www.theclewerinitiative.org/about-us](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org/about-us).

Trinity Players are dedicating their production to all victims of slavery and trust that it will encourage us to consider how we might respond to their plight. Revd Paul Edmondson will preach on the issue of slavery at 10am on Sunday 17 November, prior to the performances on 19, 20, 22, at 7.30pm and Saturday 23 at 4.30pm.

Tickets, £12, are available online at [www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org) or, from 1 October, the Church Shop. Seats are unreserved.

Following the production, The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern (retired Bishop of Derby) will be speaking on 27 November at 7.30pm about the issue of Modern Slavery. Alastair founded the Clewer Initiative, and as a member of the House of Lords he worked on the Select Committee for the Modern Slavery Bill 2015. He has represented the Church of England on the issue with the Pope and other Church leaders across the world. This will be a fascinating evening not to be missed.



**FROM THE REGISTERS - SEPTEMBER**

**Christenings**

8 September Taron Moorman  
Florence Chamberlain  
Samuel Thomas



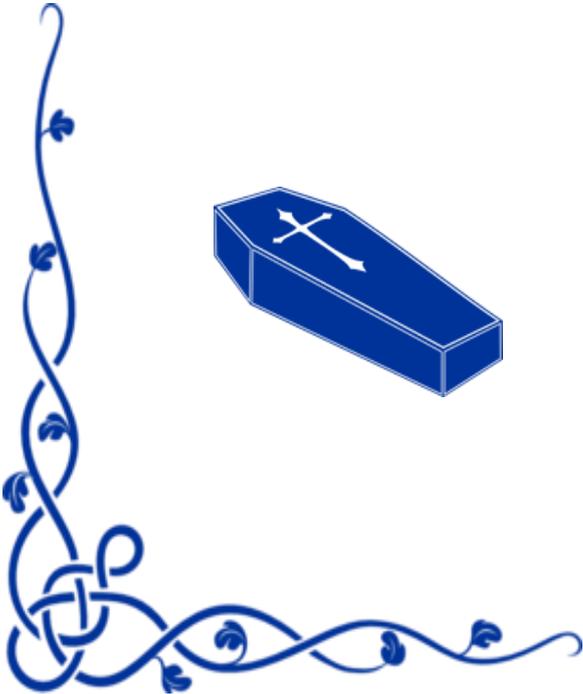
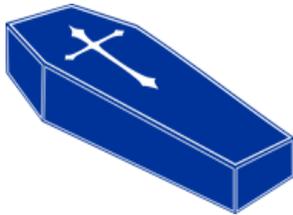
**Weddings**

7 September Paul Woosey and Sarah Wilson  
Blessing 14 September Lawrence Stanley and Natalie Parker



**Funerals**

4 September James Chalmers  
19 September Andrea Blood



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Following the dramatic political events of October, the latest big issue to hit us as citizens is the review of HS2, the huge high-speed rail project which was meant to transform links between London, the Midlands and the North. It may not affect many readers directly, but there are areas in south-east Warwickshire where it is already having a huge impact, with people unable to sell their houses as they face the prospect of massive engineering works and fast trains at the bottom of their gardens. Maybe some of us know people in this position. So how to decide where we stand?

There is a positive case. The need for economic growth, especially in the North, which might be helped by this project. The recognition that, as we face climate emergency, rail is far more friendly to the environment than the seemingly endless growth of car and air travel.

There is a negative case. Many would say that, whilst we certainly need to rebalance the economies of northern and southern England, overall economic growth is the last thing we need if we are to respond to the climate emergency. The rising costs – can our nation afford them, even if there could be big economic benefits in the long run, when there are so many other claims on our limited public resources? And, last but not least, the immediate effect on the environment, not just for those living nearby but for all of us; the loss of open land and trees will not help with the climate emergency, even if the result is to take cars and lorries off the roads



How do we balance these? As something of a rail enthusiast, I rejoice that we are taking more seriously the opportunity of expanding and updating our rail network after decades of neglect. But those other issues worry me a lot. If it were not for the huge twin uncertainties of Brexit and (ultimately far more serious) climate change, I could accept that we should put up with short-term suffering – for which those most directly affected will get some compensation – for the sake of long-term gain. But we are entering an age where all the old assumptions about our economy are put into question, and maybe that is a good reason for holding back on big projects of any kind.

It depends on our values. We surely want to see prosperity in our nation, and we surely want to see justice in the distribution of that prosperity, including between the various regions of the country – and HS2 just might contribute to both of these. But above all we surely want true well-being; and that is far more than prosperity, and even economic justice is only a part of it. Would HS2 increase well-being – not just for some but for all? It seems to me that that is a legitimate question to ask, as Christians concerned for the well-being of our fellow-citizens (Jeremiah 29:7).

There may be alternatives, such as making sure that our existing rail system functions properly (which it appears not to be doing at the moment) and upgrading it where we can. At the very least, I suggest, we should ask our political leaders to give extremely serious examination to such options, before a final decision is taken on HS2.



# THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN



The Children's Society works tirelessly to help all disadvantaged children, working in close partnership with the Church of England. Their mission statement says 'We fight for change, supporting disadvantaged children to have better lives. We are building a country where children are free from disadvantage.' The Society not only works directly with thousands of children each year but also campaigns vigorously to pressure government for change, where policy and legislation does not protect all young people and children. For the last fourteen years they have been producing their 'The Good Childhood Report', with around sixty seven thousand children being involved in the research. The report helps to identify trends in children's well-being over time, local and national variations within the UK, international comparisons and variations in well-being between children with different characteristics and circumstances.

If you would like more information about the work of the Society or to read 'The Good Childhood Report' then please visit their website at [www.childrensociety.org.uk](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk).

Church congregations around the country, including our own churches of Holy Trinity, St Helen's and All Saints' provide crucial financial support for the ongoing work of the Society. This includes Houseboxes, Christingle Services and direct support via direct debit.

Houseboxes are a simple way for people to contribute towards the Society's work. Boxholders keep a small collection box in their home and throughout the year put loose small change into the box (although we have no objection to larger value coins and notes!). Once a year we hold a box opening event, when the boxes are emptied, the contents counted and passed onto the Society.



**This year's box opening for all our Box Holders is on Saturday 9 November, in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, between 9.30am and 12noon.**

House boxes are a crucial part of the Children's Society fundraising activities. If anyone would like a box, or would like any further information, then

please do not hesitate to contact Paul Lageu (01789 298302 or [paullageu@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paullageu@hotmail.co.uk)).



Paul Lageu



Christingle Services were introduced into the UK (from Germany) by The Children's Society 50 years ago.

**Holy Trinity is holding a Christingle in church at 4pm on Sunday 8 December. All Saints' Luddington are also holding a Christingle at 3.30pm on Sunday 15 December.**



## SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTERS IN AMRITSAR by Revd David Ellis



Should we risk a venture to Amritsar? In Lahore we were near enough to the Indian border to make an unscheduled visit to the Golden Temple, the world centre of Sikhism. But entering India impromptu might be tricky. I am writing about the adventures of four men, working with ethnic minorities (including Sikhs in Huddersfield) who set out to explore the spirituality of Pakistan. With me were Fr John Gott (RC school chaplain), Fr Bernard (Anglican monk) and Harry Crivan (Glaswegian Jew).

At Lahore station we flattered a policeman sufficiently to be allowed to photograph the magnificent beast of a steam engine whose driver proudly invited us on to the foot plate to show off his cab. The passport controller, a formidable woman, noticed that three of us bore the title of 'Reverend' and demanded to know the purpose of our visit. Were we missionaries? No new missionaries could enter India. Despite our explanation that our visit was brief and educational she confiscated our passports and kept us waiting for two hours. In the end the humour of Harry the Jew saved the day. 'If these men are missionaries, Ma'am,' he said, 'they are no good at their job. I've been with them for three weeks and I'm still a Jew!' At this Madam laughed uproariously and flung our passports back at us. How precious is the gift of humour in diplomacy and for that matter in interfaith relations too!



Arrived in Amritsar we had nowhere to lay our heads. Better try the bishop, but he was away. His servant directed us to Fr Timothy, the jovial and bearded principal of the RC St Francis' Boys Academy. He kindly provided us with beds and the following morning the parade with banners and drums of two thousand boys on their sports field, dressed in their smart uniforms and many with red turbans, was quite spectacular. We joined Fr Timothy for Holy Communion in the school chapel and after breakfast we were each allotted fifteen sixth formers for open discussion. The boys were so full of questions that our sessions lasted all morning. Then, summoned from nowhere, Professor Pritam Singh arrived to take us on a tour of the Golden Temple.



Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak in the 15<sup>th</sup> century as a rebellion against Islam. Ten successive gurus over two centuries were eventually replaced by a book, the Guru Granth Sahib, which sits enthroned on an elaborate cushion in the heart of the temple, to which Prof Singh led us. All day long over loud speakers the holy book is read to the city and, come evening, it is reverently carried to its resting place. Sikhism is monotheistic and even uses a form of baptism. By now we were used to walking around holy places in bare feet but here ritual washing was also required. We were garlanded like VIPs and given holy handkerchiefs for our heads. We

were shown the lavish treasures of decorated swords and fly whisks before being invited to the free food service where we sat crossed-legged on the floor to receive a dubious but generous mess of curried minced goat meat, sweet rice and chapattis.

The Sikh museum in Amritsar is a grizzly exhibition of paintings of the martyrdom of Sikhs at the hands of Muslims and Hindus, with people being boiled alive and sawn in two, a horrid perpetuation of ancient hatreds. Christianity too, through the crusades, the inquisition and more recent times, is not without the bloodstains of vicious acts of inhumanity. We visited the Jallianwala Bagh where General Dyer, suspecting a major threat to British colonial rule in 1919, ordered his troops to fire on a defenceless crowd, killing over four hundred, a massacre never forgiven or forgotten. The bullet holes remain in the walls round the square. To the Indian mind British rule and Christianity are interwoven, hence the suspicion of our passport controller.

*cont.....*

## Spiritual Encounters cont.....

At Jalunda, a quieter place some way out of Amritsar, we enjoyed a blessed time of worship with a joyful and thriving charismatic Christian church where the focus and medium was not religiosity or even a holy book but the Lord Jesus. Exploring other faiths does much to re-evaluate your own and to give you a thankful heart.

NEXT TIME: We stay with a famous Pakistani pop singer at Gujranwala.



### CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

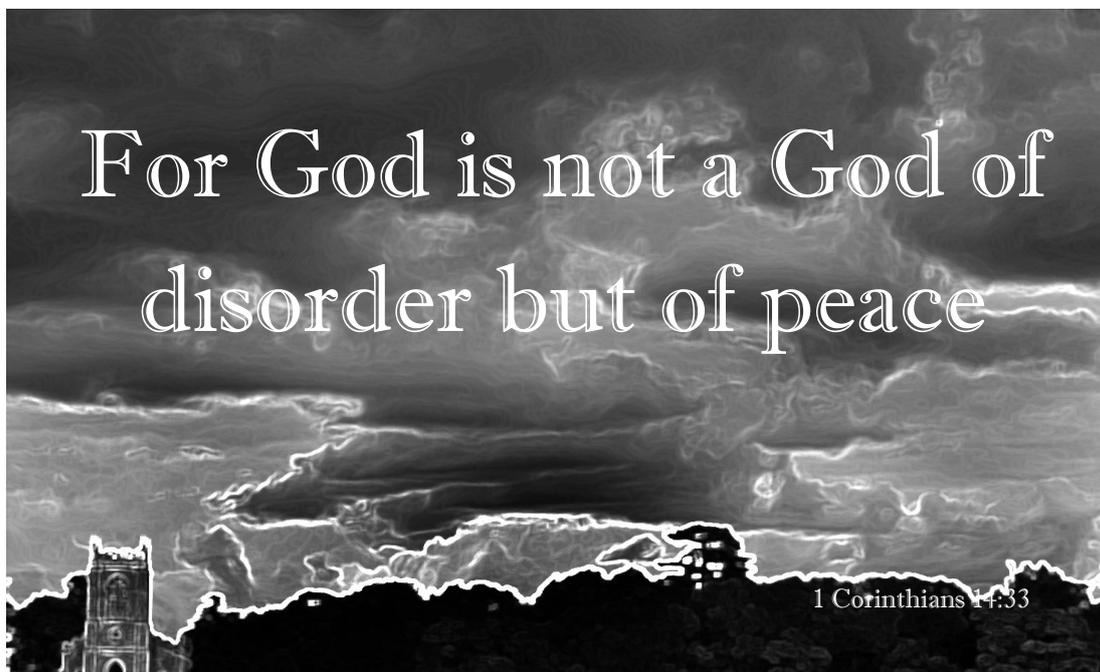


The baroque group, Cabinet of Curiosities, is back at Holy Trinity in November with a programme of music by Handel, titled *How Händel lost his umlaut*. Directed by Clive Letchford who was acting Director of Music before Benedict, it will also feature as soprano soloist Rebecca Mills who is currently Interim Director of Music

We tend to think of Handel as being a very English composer, but in many ways he was anything but. Born in the middle of Germany in the town of Halle on 23 February 1685 he was baptised Georg Friederich Händel. After a short time in the north at the opera house in Hamburg, he travelled around Italy for three years. After his appointment as Kapellmeister to George, Elector of Hanover, he was immediately off on his travels again, this time to London where he was to base himself for the rest of his life. He was soon followed by George who had succeeded Queen Anne to the British throne.

How English was this cosmopolitan composer we know as Handel? In this concert, we hear some of his music for orchestra and voice from all three countries, familiar and less familiar. We hear extracts from contemporary accounts as we discover *How Handel lost his umlaut*.

The concert will be held on Saturday 2 November at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. The concert is hosted by the Friends of the Music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection which will go towards supporting the outstanding musical tradition at Holy Trinity.



## The Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity Church – Part 4: The Clopton Chapel in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

*This series by Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald examines the changing fortunes of the Lady Chapel over the past 600 years.*

Up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the boundary of the Clopton Chapel was at the edge of the upper floor level. But in 1905 the Churchwardens granted permission to Reverend Francis Hodgson (then Rural Dean of North Kington and owner of Clopton House) to erect a wooden screen separating the Lady Chapel from the North Aisle. This enclosure effectively enlarged the chapel and created a private seating area for the Hodgson family. The privilege lapsed following the death of Revd Hodgson in 1930 and the breakup of the Clopton estate, but the screen remains.



THE CLOPTON CHAPEL, TRINITY CHURCH, STRATFORD ON AVON.

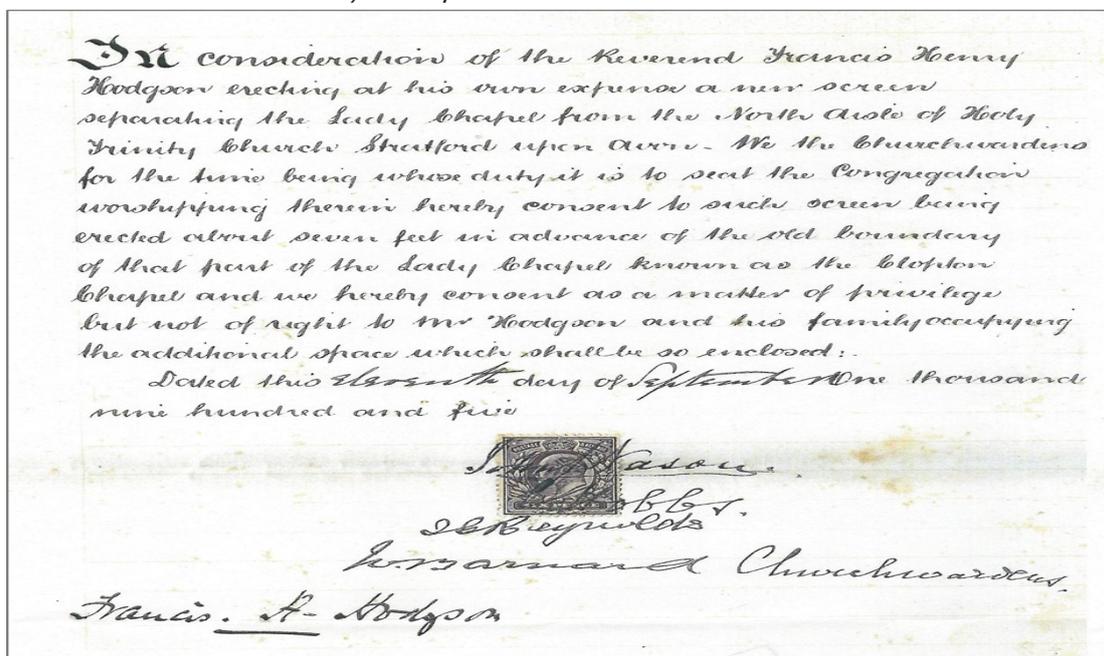


H. Baker, photo.

(left) Postcard, posted in 1904; (right) Photo in guide book by Harold Baker, 1908

The document below is held in the Shakespeare Centre Archives, reference DR243/49. It reads:  
*In consideration of the Reverend Francis Henry Hodgson erecting at his own expense a new screen separating the Lady Chapel from the North Aisle of Holy Trinity Church Stratford upon Avon. We the Churchwardens for the time being whose duty it is to seat the Congregation worshipping therein hereby consent to such screen being erected about seven feet in advance of the old boundary of that part of the Lady Chapel known as the Clopton Chapel and we hereby consent as a matter of privilege but not right to Mr Hodgson and his family occupying the additional space which shall be so enclosed.*

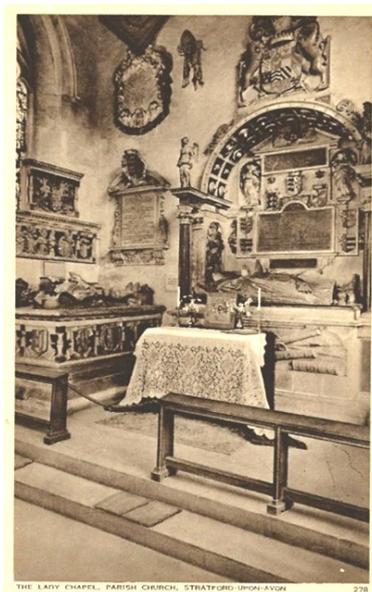
*Dated this eleventh day of September One thousand nine hundred and five.*



## The Lady chapel *cont.....*

As part of the refurbishment of the chapel, the ornate low wooden fence was removed and two new stone steps were laid across the full width of the chapel. A simple free-standing wooden rail was placed on the top step. The new high wooden screen was placed a further six feet into the nave, enlarging the floor area of the chapel to accommodate six fixed seats (*sedilia*) for the Hodgson family.

The arrival of Revd William Gardner Melville as vicar in 1908 affirmed the high church orientation of Holy Trinity. The postcard of the Lady Chapel (left) from about 1912 shows an altar table positioned directly in front of the Earl of Totnes tomb. The enlarged detail reveals that it was dressed with a lace cloth, on which were placed two candlesticks, two vases of flowers, an open bible, and a framed icon of the Madonna and Child. Clearly at this time there was a concerted effort to reintroduce devotion to Mary within this austere area of the church.



*(left) Postcard of Clopton Chapel in 1912; (right) Enlarged detail showing the altar setting.*

Hodgson's high wooden screen, fixed onto the edge of the step of the lower area, as shown in the picture below, has remained in this position to the present day. Because of its height, in combination with the stone canopy above Hugh Clopton's empty tomb, the wooden screen has the effect of enclosing the space and discouraging entry by worshippers. A gate across the opening is kept closed to prevent visitors from entering. It is a cold and sepulchral corner that detracts from the spiritual warmth elsewhere in the church.



*Photograph of the Lady Chapel in a church guide book by Beatrice and Percy Home (1924)*

The next part of this series will consider the place of Mary in the Anglican faith of today.

## BLESSING OF THE BAGS



Our all-age Eucharist Service on Sunday 1 September included the special ceremony of Blessing the Bags, which marks the beginning of the new academic year.

As well as children from infant and junior schools, and those starting a new term at senior school, adults and retired members of the congregation brought their bags to be blessed by our Vicar. The bags are symbolic of our lives and, through them, we can bring to God the problems we are anxious about.

Louis Barnard brought his school bag and says he found this ceremony really important as, with his GCSE's behind him, he starts the VI form at school.

Rebekah Davies, who is an Intern at the Heart of England Forest Charity says that she takes her backpack to work five days a week, and this is an opportunity to bring her working week, in the backpack, into church. This way she feels that the two parts of her life are joined up.



Matt Chapleo brought his rucksack with him to be blessed. He is a keen mountaineer and explains that climbing can be a dangerous sport. In the mountains, he has time to reflect on life and while scaling heights, he feels very close to the Lord.

Musicians who play and sing at the All-Age Service.



# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

## ONE LINERS:

Did you hear about the semi-colon that broke the law? He was given two consecutive sentences.

Talking of which... the world tongue-twisting champion just got arrested. Word is he is going to get a really tough sentence.

I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves.

A perfectionist walked into a bar ... apparently the bar wasn't set high enough.

*Spotted in Church newsletter:* This month we give special thanks to all the volunteers in our community, especially those who drive the elderly from their homes.

*Sign outside a post office spotted by a listener to Radio 4's News Quiz:* Please do not tie dogs to this handrail. It is for elderly people.

From a Thanet Tourism newsletter announcing a *Sewers Open Day* at the Comfort Inn Hotel in Ramsgate: "Feel the water ... and other drop in events." Not to be outdone, a poster displayed at the Liverpool Maritime Museum: The Cruel Sea—Free drop in event.

Old age is just a question of mind over matter. It you don't mind, it doesn't matter.  
*CP Grey opticians, Chapel Street.*

Wedding dress size 16 — £75. worn once.  
Big mistake. *From Daily Mail seen in local paper.*



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PERMITTED  
ON THE  
HIGHER  
LEVEL**  
*Sign in John Lewis  
café in Solihull*

**Out of the mouths...**  
A little child in church for the first time watched the ushers passing the offering plates. When they got close to his pew, the child piped up loud enough for everyone to hear, "Don't pay for me Daddy. I'm under five."

  
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**QUEEN MOTHER'S  
CLOTHING GUILD**

This year's Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 22 October from 10.30am to 12 noon in Holy Trinity Parish Centre lounge. I am very much looking forward to seeing all our members there.

For further information, please telephone Eithne Mulryne on (01789) 205774.

With very best wishes,  
Gillie Jackson




# 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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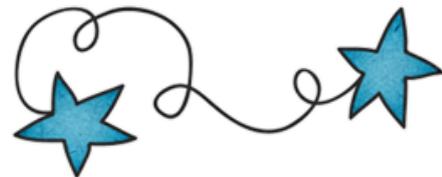


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At the All-Age service on Sunday 1 September we wrote prayers about our anxieties and fears on the back of sad faces, offered these to God, and later they were disposed of by being burnt.

Photographs by Phil Harper



On Sunday 8 September We marked the retirement of Stephen Dodsworth. The vicar, on behalf of the church and congregation, presented him with a cheque and thanked him for his long and dedicated service to Holy Trinity

Photograph by Harry Lomax

From Stephen Dodsworth.

Dear Friends,  
I was overwhelmed at your generosity and the lovely *farewell* you gave me on my last Sunday as a member of the music staff. My time at Holy Trinity has been rewarding in so many ways but especially spiritually, musically and the warmth of support and friendships made.  
As ever, the words *thank you* carry insufficient weight adequately to express one's gratitude but they are said both heartily and sincerely: THANK YOU.  
With very best wishes,  
Stephen.