

April 2020

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# TRINITY TIMES



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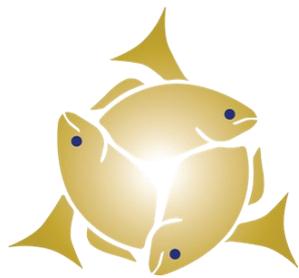


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In Trinity Times this month we go to Kenya, have access to Paul Edmondson's sermon, meet a Valued Volunteer and read some of the comments that visitors to our church have made

**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

Remember we love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below. However, we reserve the right to edit anything that is sent to us and the editor's decision is final.

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 **May 2020** edition

**The copy date is 17 April**

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](mailto:timestrinity@gmail.com)**

The Annual Subscription to Trinity Times for 2020 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

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Bishop John and Patrick

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## CHANGE



I have been delighted to see the daffodils and tulips springing up despite the heavy rains earlier in the year, especially as some came up in places that I did not expect them to! Yes, I thought I knew where I had planted the bulbs, but it was so long ago when I put them in the soil, that I had forgotten which ones were where. Then to my surprise, I discovered that my neighbour had planted new daffodils in the border where our two gardens meet: what a treat it was to see something unexpected and shared.

Over many years we have got used to the fact that numerous plants die back in the autumn and perhaps disappear all together over the winter, only to reappear again in the spring. This sort of change is normal and to be expected, but some other types of change are harder to accept.

We will all grow older both when we are children and as adults, but day by day the changes can be so little that they can be almost imperceptible, a few centimetres in height or a few more grey hairs. But if we are lucky nothing too dramatic to worry or concern us. Some changes are for the better and improve our daily lives; perhaps we have made new friends or discovered the benefits of changes in our diet, where we now feel fitter and healthier than ever before.

The disciples had begun to get used to the itinerate life of a follower of Jesus, but then he predicted a change so dramatic that they could not begin to accept it. In fact, Peter said “No Lord, this cannot happen to you”, when Jesus told them that they would be going to Jerusalem where he would be arrested, condemned and then crucified.

They did not know what would happen next, but we do, as our faith is one of death and resurrection. To really appreciate what they went through, I would recommend we all try to watch as many of our live streamed Holy Week Services as possible, so that when it finally arrives, we can experience the pure joy of Easter. Everything seems brighter and fresher when you emerge from the limitations and deprivations of a Lent where you have given something up; or travelled on a journey of discovery to a deeper spirituality through devotional reading.

Like a garden where old shrubs or trees have stopped being fruitful and now need to be dug up to make way for fresh new plants, so in the church we are going through a process of reviewing some of our activities, to see which are still bearing fruit and where our efforts are reaping rewards. Some may be worth laying aside, so that we can take up fresh challenges which will be worth pursuing, as we see how God is at work in new ways and new places.

If you have a vision for different ways in which we as a church can continue to see “Lives changed through God’s Love”, please let a member of the PCC or Leadership Team know, especially if you can give time and effort to making it happen.

May you have a blessed Easter.



*Kay Dyer*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

In just a matter of a few days so much in our lives that was familiar has changed or stopped happening. We don't know how long this will last or what might happen next. Most of us are used to living fairly predictable lives where we feel we're in control (most of the time!) of what's happening to us. But much of this has been suddenly stripped away and we are anxious about what the future will hold and whether we can do anything to change it.

I have a small card with a prayer printed on it which I've kept by my bedside for many years. The words are taken from the service of Compline which is said just before going to bed and includes an appeal to God that "we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest upon your eternal changelessness." In all the change that has happened so quickly, in all the worry and concern, God remains constant and stays with us. As Hebrews chapter 13 verse 8 reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever."

In these remarkable times where our lives feel so different, hold onto the things that haven't changed: cherish time with your loved ones or their voice on the phone; enjoy seeing the spring blossom and the promise of summer; accept each day as a gift to be lived to the full as much as you can; hold onto what you believe in; be kind to others.

Much has changed for the Church too and we had the odd experience last Sunday of a service with just three people present, but live streamed. Public worship may have been suspended, but we haven't shut down. We're just being the Church in different ways and still doing what has always been at the heart of who we are: praying and caring for others, especially the most vulnerable in our communities. People are meeting God in new and creative ways and concern is being shown for neighbours in a wave of caring outreach.

In his poem, *Peace*, Henry Vaughan who lived not long after Shakespeare, writes of God as the "one who never changes". He has a vision of heaven where, "above noise and danger sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles. "This is not fanciful escapism, this is about the God who "in pure love descended" when Jesus was born into this unpredictable and changing world. Our hope is not that things will stop changing; our hope is that, in the middle of change, God who remains the same will always love us.



It can be easy to focus on what we've lost and to get frustrated that we can't be in control of things we used to take for granted. But change brings with it new opportunities for living and loving, and whatever happens as this crisis unfolds, the most important things, like faith, hope and love, will never change. May there be an abundance of these in your life at this time.

*Patrick*



Lord Jesus Christ  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
**Amen.**



## PCC report: 10 MARCH 2020 by Ruth Poulten



Ideas to develop Holy Trinity Parish Centre as a community facility fit for modern use, were encouraged and explored at the recent PCC meeting.

In small groups, members were asked to think about what activities they would like to see at the building in five years' time, how plans would fit in with the Parish vision and purpose, and the financing of any approach.

Following the brainstorming session, Parish Operations Manager Andy Winter was tasked with creating a volunteer project team, to further examine suggestions.

### News in brief

Treasurer Mike Warrillow took PCC through the 2019 Annual Accounts, which details the reach and impact of Holy Trinity. PCC approved the financial statements, with Reverend Patrick Taylor thanking Mike for all his hard work.

Members of the congregation are being urged to complete an online survey about Holy Trinity's Parish values of holiness, hospitality and humility. The deadline for completion is Sunday 5 April. Paper copies of the survey are also available at the back of the main church building.

Twenty-five youngsters (aged 11-14), including many from Holy Trinity, attended a joint Youth Service at St Andrew's, Shotton, at the beginning of March. It was a collaboration between churches in the Fosse Deanery and more services are planned for the future.

PCC approved the proposal of two posts: Assistant Director of Music and Organist.

Holy Trinity's safeguarding action plan was agreed and is due to be submitted to the Diocese.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2020.

## LETTER FROM PATRICK

Dear Parishioners,

These are bewildering times and we are holding you all in our prayers as we try to make sense of this new, unknown landscape in which we find ourselves and we have been working hard to set up a system of pastoral support contact groups.

The reading at morning prayer from Exodus seemed very appropriate as it described the struggle of God's people to escape from a place of suffering, and to take a leap of faith by setting off for the Wilderness, not knowing quite where they would end up or how long they would be there. "I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt" said God, in what feels like a promise to us that we will find a way through all the anxiety and confusion of our current crisis. And God's assurance to his people then remains true for us today: "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12). We are not alone as we try to make sense of this and deal with the practical challenges of all the restrictions now in place.

Prayer lies at the heart of our Christian life and although we can no longer gather in church to pray, the Leadership team are continuing the pattern of daily Morning (9.15am) and Evening (4.15pm) prayer for the whole parish. We are recording these and you can listen to them on the parish website. Do please listen and join with us at the start and close of the day as we continue to seek God and serve others at this time.

May God bless you all.

*Patrick*

# PAUL EDMONDSON'S SERMON

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, 1 MARCH 2020, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I love Lent. I love its stretching simplicity through the last, long shadows of winter into the lengthening of sunlight with the spring, and the abundance of new life at Easter. The word Lent comes from 'lengthening'. Lent is a time of renewal, of growth in the natural world, and of growth in ourselves.

As a church, we've decided to focus on John Stroyan, the Bishop of Warwick's book, *Turned by Divine Love: Starting Again with God and with Others*. I've been asked to speak a little about the opening chapter. It's a deeply reflective book which seeks to slow us down as readers. One of the book's many riches is the tapestry it weaves throughout of quotations from scripture, the saints, and great Christian writers, poets, and artists. It's also beautifully illustrated, and the first picture is of a young Moses, obeying the voice of God, and taking off his sandals before the burning bush. The first chapter is called, 'Turning aside: to look and see.' Bishop John calls us all to do what we see Moses doing in that picture: to look, to listen, to pay attention, and – especially for Lent – to grow.

'There is always more growing up in Christ for each of us to do,' writes Bishop John (p.19, alluding to Ephesians). 'There is more growing in the knowledge and grace of God for each and all of us to do' (p.19, alluding to 2 Peter). In today's gospel reading we catch a glimpse of Jesus himself growing, being formed spiritually – in the wilderness. He is tempted by the human desire to control and to achieve, and prove certainty: to turn stones into bread, to demonstrate his power by being miraculously rescued, to take control of every one of the world's kingdoms. Jesus resists. He knows that the opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is certainty. So Jesus turns away from certainty and instead devotes himself to faith in his Father: the word of God is as bread to him; he will not put God to the test; and he will worship only God, rather than the world. As Christians we are called to do the same.

How?

While I was reading Bishop John's book, and wondering about what Lent might have in store for me, how I might approach it, four things were given to me in prayer: shedding, listening, loving, and praying.

Lent is about 'shedding'. Open your wardrobes and give away to charity shops the clothes you have stopped wearing or no longer like. Get rid. Open your cupboards and do the same with objects, crockery, kitchen and bathroom utensils, and DIY tools. And, yes, do the same with (gulp) your bookcases. Keep the books you truly love (they're easy to spot); give to charity those you're unlikely to read again, or unlikely ever to read (remember life is short), and trust that whatever decision you make will be the right decision. But 'shedding' is also about going into the wilderness, the desert, a place to find out more about ourselves, as Moses and the Israelites did, as Jesus did. The desert experience, writes Bishop John, is about 'facing the truth, of entering more fully into the truth, the truth that sets us free.' (p. 24). It's about finding the inner monk or nun within us. 'Monk', observes Bishop John, means 'alone'. We all know that we need to be alone with God, and Lent is an opportunity for us to make that happen.

Lent is about 'listening', listening to God through scripture or through other writings we might read with a loving and worshipful intention. For me Lent will in part be about reading C. S. Lewis, whom I see as a fellow disciple. We can listen to God through other people. Look into another person's eyes when he or she is talking to you, watch the other person's mouth move, be attentive to what they say, and ask whether God has things to say to you, *is* saying things to you, through that other person. God does speak to us like that. Listening requires silence, a sense of awe, like Moses before the burning bush. Bishop John quotes the painter Vincent Van Gogh who in a letter to his brother writes, 'We must admire more. Most people do not admire enough.' Listening requires that we admire more, that we see the beauty around us. And we can turn that admiration into our worship of God.

*Cont.....*

*Paul's sermon cont.....*

Lent is about 'loving.' Jesus realises in today's gospel that a life of faith in God is a life that recognises God's word as the bread of life. Jesus is the bread of life, and shows us what it means to love. Lent is a time for us to pay attention to all of the love that surrounds us, to give thanks for it, to cherish it, to pray that it might deepen. And to deepen our love of God's word, of Christ in scripture, and of the Christ within us. It's a time to remind ourselves that there is an even greater love for all of us.

Lent is about 'praying'. Bishop John presides over the ministry of Spiritual Direction in our diocese. He is a great advocate and teacher of the importance of contemplative prayer, and of slow, meditative prayer. The first chapter of his book is partly about the need for us to be silent in prayer, to feel the love and be silent. Living out the gospel among our communities is always more powerful than our seeking to convert anyone; love and prayer always come first. Prayer is the making of the bread, the making of the bread of our inner lives. Bishop John reminds us that, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we need fresh manna – fresh bread, fresh prayer – for each new day (p. 22, alluding to Exodus).

One final reflection for Lent. Bishop John recalls visiting the Sinai desert, and 'being warned about the scorpions and snakes we might encounter [...] but many of us were more concerned about the "snakes and scorpions" we might discover *within* us.' This reminds me of the extraordinary moment in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, when, after having murdered King Duncan, and his friend Banquo, Macbeth turns to Lady Macbeth and confesses, in his wilderness: 'Full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife.' Lent might well be a time when, during our own retreat into the desert, into an aloneness with God, we become aware of some of our own inner scorpions, the *un*love inside us, and the greater love for which we hope. Those scorpions are in each one of us. Shakespeare knew that.

Lent is a time for growing, for our inner lives to be lengthened with the growing sunlight. What will you shed? How will you listen more? How will you cherish even more the love that surrounds you, and deepen your awareness of the even greater love? How will your prayer life deepen? Bishop John's book, and indeed Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, are good places to start.  
Amen.

Paul Edmondson



*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*

*John 14:27*

### Contemplative Prayer Group

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

**Everyone is welcome**

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

**Cancelled until further notice**



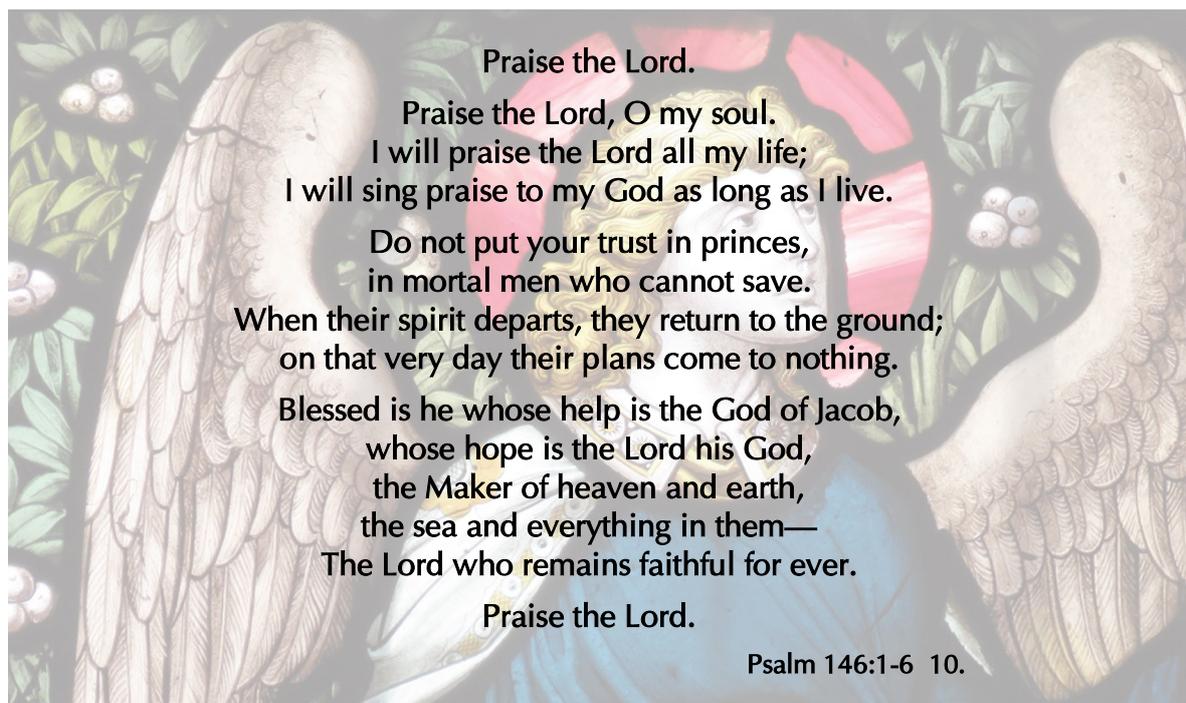
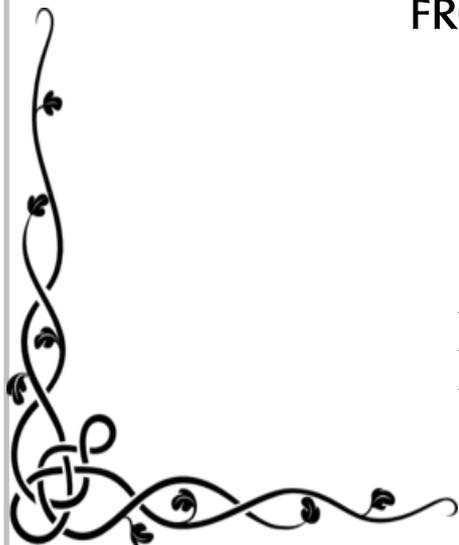
## FROM THE REGISTERS MARCH

Christenings

Weddings

Funerals

9 March	Freda Douthwaite
23 March	Fiona Southall
25 March	Lyndon Fisher
27 March	Fred Brown



Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.  
I will praise the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortal men who cannot save.  
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is the Lord his God,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea and everything in them—  
The Lord who remains faithful for ever.

Praise the Lord.

Psalm 146:1-6 10.

From the visitors' book.

We wish the world could be as peaceful as this church - Carole from Kent

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## IN ICELAND - 3



In this final piece describing a journey in Iceland we visit some of the vibrant new churches with their futuristic architecture. Although Iceland remained neutral in World War II it was occupied by British and American forces and played a strategic role in the Battle of the Atlantic. For this it was recompensed by the building of its first major airport at Keflavik and the asphalt road encircling the island. Most other roads are still gravel tracks. Actually the occupation helped Iceland to take a giant leap into modernity, economic prosperity and independence from Denmark. It was never bombed but the rebuilding of churches in post-war Europe undoubtedly inspired new and imaginative architecture in Iceland.

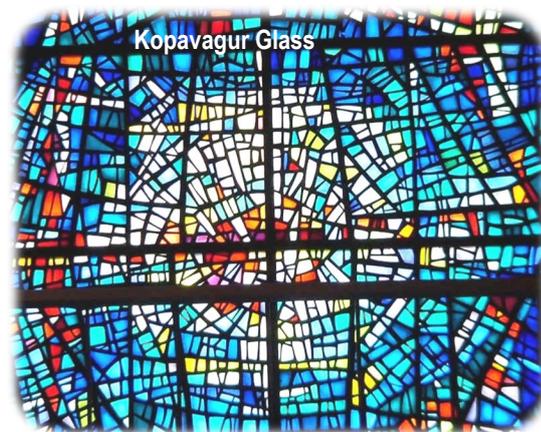
The use of kaleidoscopic coloured glass in such places as the new Coventry Cathedral and the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral clearly influenced the design of Skálholt Cathedral whose windows are so positioned as to allow radiant colour to fall across the mosaic mural of the risen Christ (a treasure in itself) on the east wall, with light also shining through the altar panels and wonderfully on the font and all down the nave when the sun shines. They were designed by a woman, Gerur Helgadóttir.



There is another link with Coventry at Akureyi Church in Reykjavik. In anticipation of the bombing, the stained glass of the old Coventry Cathedral was removed intact and some of it dubiously ended up in the hands of a London antique dealer from whom it was bought and shipped to Iceland. It was eventually incorporated in five windows and some free standing panels at Akureyi, and all this without informing or consulting Coventry. To overcome any lingering guilt that the Church in Iceland might have felt, the renowned Coventry Spirit of Reconciliation sprang into action. In 2009 a delegation from Coventry Cathedral was warmly received at Akureyi. A replica of the Coventry Statue of Reconciliation was presented and close bonds were established. The full intriguing story of these events as recounted by Canon Kenyon Wright can be found at [www.historiccoventry.co.uk](http://www.historiccoventry.co.uk).



Another modern church at Kópavogu, designed to make the best use of modern glass, perches on a mound of volcanic rock in a conservation area to the west of Reykjavik. The windows here create a lovely mystical atmosphere. The sanctuary is rimmed by jewelled glass and the several alcoves down each side of the church are beautifully framed in the same way.



Bustada Church also makes a dramatic impact. The main window speaks of the light of Christ shining through thorns, pain and brokenness. All the modern churches have fine acoustics and are well used as popular venues for concerts and drama. Although 85% of Icelanders are still registered as church members, the coming of prosperity has sadly diminished the number of worshippers. We can but pray that the atmospheric witness of Iceland's churches and cathedrals, as in Britain, may one day help to rekindle the faith which was the rock foundation of that land.

NEXT MONTH: FINDING FAITH IN THE CARIBBEAN

## Our Mission to Kapsabet, Kenya

A link between the Diocese of Coventry and the Diocese of Kapsabet was set up in 2019 to forge greater ties in Education, Health and Christianity. And boy what they lack in Education and Health is made up by their love of Christ and His teachings! We could learn so much from them as they put their Christian values first in their lives.

Kapsabet is a rural municipality of perhaps 80,000 – but the town itself is probably smaller in size to Stratford - and lies six hours by road North-west of Nairobi. It is on the equator but it rests about 2,000 metres above sea level and the climate when we were there was superb.

A team of four people, led by Revd Michael Brandsma, vicar of St. Mary's Atherstone, Dianne Stenning, Dave Marshall and Richard Hartley, left Birmingham airport via Dubai and Nairobi to arrive in Kapsabet Diocese. And we certainly knew that we had arrived! The wonderful welcome at the airport set the scene and was a taste of what was to herald us everywhere we travelled - one of joy, smiles and singing.

The Anglican Church of Kenya in Kapsabet is headed by Bishop Paul. There are nine churches in the diocese that is probably the size of Yorkshire.



Bishop Paul and the Provost Revd Dr Christopher Seury and the team.

Apart from the town itself which is pretty basic there are huge areas of tea plantations and small farms. It is a very poor area with lots of subsistence living. Pumped water in rural areas is limited. There are many children with happy smiling faces. Church going is the norm (80% of the people are Christian) and when Dianne and I went to church on Sunday to give the sermons, there were one hundred and thirty people aged from five to eighty-five who sang and smiled and prayed with a fervour I had never before experienced. The whole service lasted three hours and included auctions of fruit and vegetables to raise money for the church, a baptism, much singing of gospel songs and two sermons as well as Holy Communion! It was a wonderful feeling of companionship, worship and unity in Christ.



We visited four schools – two primary; one senior and a village school. And the welcome from all of them made us feel humble and quite emotional. With the first school in particular the children were from a poor area of Kapsabet. They had so little and had waited for us for over an hour. As we ran on Kenyan time that seems to be well over an hour later than normal time. After the speeches (and everyone in authority seemed to give a speech) we presented some pens and crayons. Yet the cheers and clapping from them was louder than adoring fans at a pop concert in this country. At the end of the ceremony we were mobbed with everyone wanting to shake our hands and in the case of Dianne feel her blonde hair and touch her skin. Our hearts went out to them – they were happy and quiet and attentive sitting on the ground for forty-five minutes in addition to the hour they had been waiting for us to arrive. Imagine that happening in England!

## Mission to Kapsabet cont.....

The next day Dianne and I made a personal visit to the school where our hosts had educated their children. There were prayers and four hundred children put their hands together, closed their eyes and prayed. This was an unofficial visit so we had not planned to bring gifts of stationery. We gave what little we had but were so moved that we went to the local stationery store and bought a thousand further pencils and crayons.



One of the groups of happy smiling children

There is so much that needs to be done to help these school children in their future battles against drugs and glue sniffing and to be brought up on Christian values. We pray that funds from the Kenyan government and overseas aid will find their way to them in the form of better equipped schools. (Parents even have to buy the desks that they sit on in their very basic classrooms). We pray also that ACK will minister to these children and continue to support and encourage them in

Christian values before the power of social media and TV adversely affect them.

Next day we visited the local prison and met the women prisoners and some of the men who were segregated only by a thin wall. It seems that most of the women had been found guilty of selling illicitly brewed alcohol. Some had their babies with them as they sat on rows of benches listening to Michael's words. All were well behaved and knew the songs we sang. Again all very emotional and humbling. As for the men, they sat quietly in the hot midday sun listening to the evangelical sermon given by Michael. At the end about 80% of the prisoners raised their hands and stood up as they accepted Christ.



Dianne presenting gifts of soap to the prisoners

One day we drove probably thirty five miles to the Nandi Hills. The Nandi Hills would be described in the UK as an area of outstanding natural beauty. The views were stunning - areas of sugar cane and rolling hills and mountains as far as the eye could see and in the middle of all these, small villages with people living not far above the poverty level, but they smile and laugh and seem very happy. We could learn a lot from them and we need to think very carefully as to how best we can assist.

Then onto a modern tea plantation which was all very well run, with modern plant, that employed eight-thousand pluckers. It is one of the main suppliers to Taylors of Harrogate and if the cup of tea we drank is anything to go by, I would recommend them; it was delicious.

I could write much more but to end I should ask "So what have we experienced?" The answer is: the overwhelming welcoming of all those we met was so uplifting; the ceremonies at every occasion; the huge meals we experienced and the rapidity at which they came (one day, we were offered – and ate – three lunches at different venues!); the crusades that were held and led by Michael. But above all it is the willingness to worship and learn more of Christian matters. We could do well to follow their example.

Suffice to write that for all of us, it has been a life changing experience. We cannot sit back and let this experience fade away. God called us to go for a purpose. It wasn't a holiday. I believe He will guide us further to serve Him in this wonderful part of Kenya.

Richard Hartley



**Your Church  
Needs YOU!**

# '40's Fun!'

Saturday 9th May - 3pm until 5pm

Holy Trinity Church

Stratford Upon Avon.

Tickets £5, £3 children.

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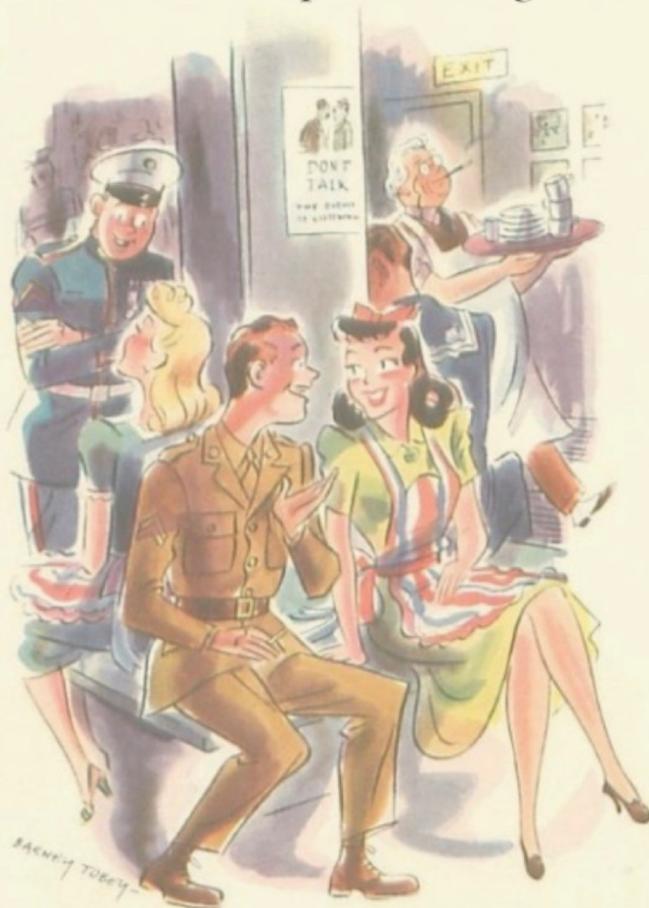
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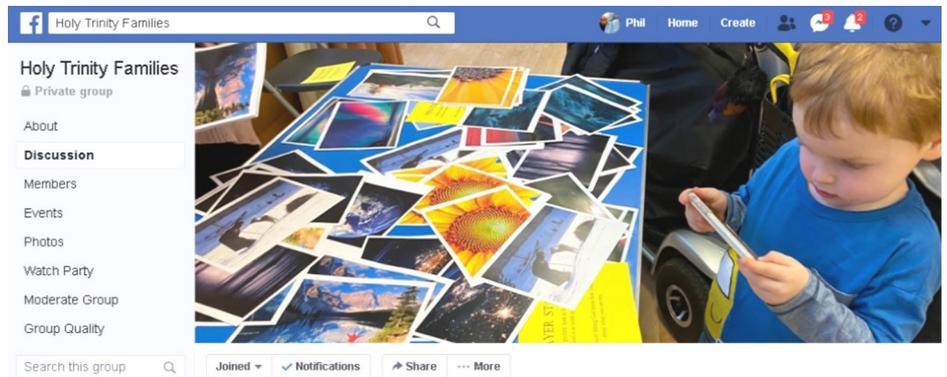
***To take place if things are back to normal by then.***

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

To echo the words of the Archbishops, and you've probably heard elsewhere, "Church isn't closed, it's just changing." And the same is true about our work with children and families. Although the toddler groups and informal services may be on hold, we are looking at new ways to reach out and engage, particularly online. Over the coming weeks and months we'll be creating our own resources, but in the meantime I'd like to point you towards some places to start.

Our Church Facebook page will be updated with things that are taking place, including the Live Streaming of services. Even if you don't use Facebook, you can see what we've posted and watch services from the homepage of our Parish website [www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org).

We've also set up a group on Facebook for families to keep in touch with each other and share ideas of things to do. It's called **Holy Trinity Families** and can be found at [www.facebook.com/groups/2672415659658821/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2672415659658821/). A group has also been set up for *Trinity Tots* and *Stay and Play* at Ken Kennett. On there we're



putting different ideas of what to do

with pre-schoolers, and again supporting one another. You don't have to usually attend either of our toddler groups to join. It's called **Trinity Tots @ Holy Trinity & Ken Kennett** and the web address is [www.facebook.com/groups/1057173027973473/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1057173027973473/)

Some people may have heard of Nick and Becky Drake, they wrote some of the songs we sing, such as *I am a city on a hill*. They have started doing a live family praise on their YouTube channel. You can search for **Worship for everyone** or the address is [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdG65ilYw00](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdG65ilYw00) and there's a new service every Wednesday and Saturday at 4pm.



To help with our worship planning we usually use **Roots on the Web**, a subscription website. However, as worship services and groups of all kinds are currently suspended, Roots is offering free resources for people to use at home. They can be found at [www.rootsontheweb.com/](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/)

Finally, if

you're looking for a real challenge someone has produced a list of over 100 activities to do at home. Can anybody manage to do them all?

If anybody comes across a particularly good resource, please let me know. I've currently got my mum, sister and niece searching the web, but if you see anything online or just an idea you have drop me an email

[phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)

*Phil Harper*

### 100+ INDOOR ACTIVITIES a

#### CRAFTS

MAKE PAPER AIRPLANES  
SALT PAINTING  
MAKE SUNCATCHERS  
MAKE SALT DOUGH  
MAKE SPONGE STAMPS  
MAKE A CEREAL BOX AQUARIUM  
MAKE SCRATCH ART  
MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARKS  
PAINT PET ROCKS  
MAKE RECYCLED CRAYONS  
MAKE PAPER BOATS  
FINGER PAINT  
MAKE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS  
MAKE A BIRD FEEDER  
MAKE PAPER BAG PUPPETS  
MAKE HANDPRINT ART  
MAKE A SCRAPBOOK  
DECORATE T-SHIRTS  
MAKE A THANKFUL JAR  
PAINT LEAVES  
MAKE A TIME CAPSULE  
MAKE BUTTON ART  
PAINT WITH WATERCOLORS  
COLOR IN A COLORING BOOK  
MAKE PAPER CRAFTS  
BUILD A CARDBOARD CASTLE  
MAKE TISSUE BOX MONSTERS  
MAKE A TOILET PAPER ROLL BUTTERFLY  
STAMP WITH CELERY  
MAKE CHALK ICE  
MAKE PUFFY SIDEWALK PAINT  
DRAW A SELF PORTRAIT  
USE RUBBER STAMPS  
DO SCRAPER PAINTING  
PAINT A RECYCLED JAR  
MAKE SUPERHERO COSTUMES

#### ACTIVITIES

MAKE PLAYDOUGH  
MAKE SLIME  
MAKE PLAY MUD  
MAKE RAINBOW RICE  
MAKE FAKE SNOW  
MAKE A SENSORY BIN  
MAKE A SENSORY BAG  
BUILD A FORT  
HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT  
WRITE A STORY  
MAKE ICE CREAM IN A BAG  
MAKE GUMMY BEARS  
MAKE FRUIT ROLL-UPS  
HAVE A MOVIE DAY  
PUT ON A FASHION SHOW  
BAKE CUPCAKES OR MUFFINS  
DO YOGA  
BUILD AN OBSTACLE COURSE  
MAKE DINNER TOGETHER  
PLAY WITH MAGNETIC TILES  
BUILD SOMETHING WITH LEGO  
USE DOT MARKERS  
BUILD A STACK OF CARDS  
PUT ON A PUPPET SHOW  
MAKE A TREASURE HUNT  
INDOOR BOWLING  
LEARN TO DRAW  
PUT ON A PLAY  
MAKE INDOOR HOPSCOTCH  
DO A FAMILY CHORE TOGETHER  
HAVE A DANCE PARTY  
HAVE A TEA PARTY  
PLAY WITH WATER IN A BIN  
SET UP A PLAY STORE  
MAKE A SOCK TOSS GAME  
MAKE PERLER BEAD ART  
WRITE IN A JOURNAL

#### GAMES

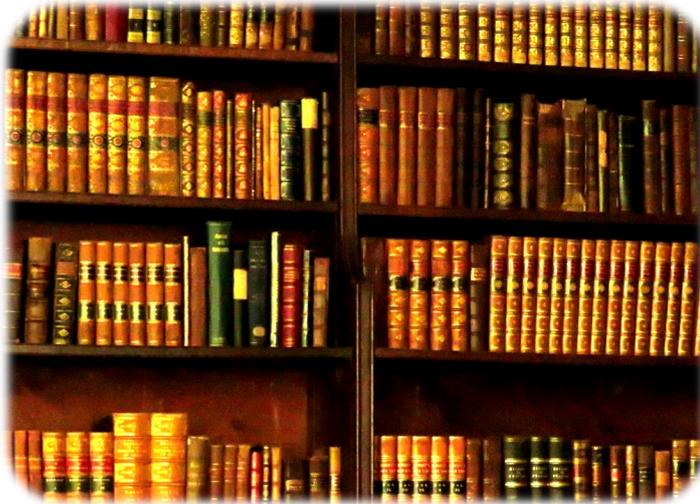
PLAY WOULD YOU RATHER  
PLAY I SPY  
PLAY SIMON SAYS  
PLAY BOARD GAMES  
PLAY HIDE AND SEEK  
INDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT  
PLAY BINGO  
PLAY CARD GAMES  
DO A PUZZLE  
PLAY CHARADES  
BUILD YOUR OWN GAME  
PLAY FREEZE DANCE  
PLAY HOT POTATO  
PLAY MARBLES  
KEEP THE BALLOON UP  
PLAY DOMINOES  
PLAY HANGMAN  
PLAY TIC-TAC-TOE

#### EDUCATIONAL

READ BOOKS  
DO A SCIENCE PROJECT  
LEARN ORIGAMI  
LEARN ABOUT A NEW ANIMAL  
LEARN A NEW CARD GAME  
LEARN TO SEW  
LEARN TO KNIT  
DO BRAIN TEASERS  
LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE  
LEARN ABOUT A COUNTRY



One church activity which is rarely reported in these pages is the Novel Theology group. Their discussions are rarely dramatic or colourful; the eight or so of us get on quietly, month by month, discussing a great variety of books in the light of our faith. But sometimes our deliberations seem all too relevant to that faith and to the society we live in.



The book for March was William Golding's classic *Lord of the Flies*. Those readers who know this book will recall that it is a terrifying picture of social breakdown, where a group of children are stranded on an island and rapidly descend into rivalry, violence and murder. We don't need to watch the news to see the relevance of that; but Golding's writing is brilliant, and, even though the book was fairly familiar to most of us beforehand, this reading left us deeply scarred.

There is no sense of the presence of God in the book, and only a few signs of goodness of any sort; but devilishness is certainly there, and in a bizarre

way it could be said that Beelzebub, the Lord of the Flies, gets a walk-on part. There is no climate emergency, and no coronavirus, but there is the hint of nuclear war, and enough horror otherwise to show a true hell on earth. The picture of human nature is all but hopeless, until rescue comes (too late for some) in the form of a passing naval ship.

This emphasis on struggle and violence as at the heart of our nature mirrors the work of the French scholar Rene Girard, on which one of our number, the student of French thought Paul Gifford (a Reader at St Peter's, Wellesbourne), has recently published a book. The Roman Catholic theologian James Alison, who is sometimes mentioned from our pulpit, has taken Girard's insights into the "original sin" portrayed by Golding, and woven them into a theological understanding of Jesus as the Scapegoat who ultimately absorbs human jealousy and violence into the very heart of God. And at this season of the year, that could hardly be more relevant.

But we know that that is not the end of the story. Just as I was finishing my own re-reading of Golding, I spotted a newspaper despatch from the well-named (for Tolkien fans) Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos, said to be the worst such camp in the world. Hell on earth – and yet a place where extraordinary generosity flourishes, redeeming the horror. Just so, we believe, Jesus absorbs all the hells of humanity – and then proves that love is stronger than death.

I was reminded of another book, *True Resurrection* by the late great spiritual writer H A Williams, in which he demonstrates how new life can break through in extraordinary places. His parables often have nothing obviously to do with "religion", but a great deal to do with God and with humanity as created by God. It is sometimes hard to believe this, but the fact is that Golding's picture of natural savagery really is not the last word.

Books – whether novels, spiritual essays, poetry or anything else – can show us a lot about ourselves, including many which are not at all "heavy". Most of the books we read in Novel Theology are, at first glance anyway, a lot lighter than the ones I have mentioned, but they can still help us to dig deep. I hope some readers might want to explore for themselves this small and slightly obscure aspect of our church life.



## TRINITY LADIES

Because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

all meetings are cancelled until further notice.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you all a Very Happy and Blessed Easter.

Gina Lodge

Chairperson

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

all meetings are cancelled until further notice.



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## VALUED VOLUNTEER - HARRY LOMAX (often called H)

This is the first in an occasional series on our Valued Volunteers - featuring people who spend much time and effort helping in our three churches, but whose work is sometimes "unseen".

*In what areas of church life do you undertake voluntary work?*

I'm a member of the welcome team and a sidesperson, and have helped the verger close the church on Sundays. I try to document church life in images, and to produce photographs for other voluntary team events, or anything the Vicar needs! I've been involved here ever since joining the church in the early 2000's.

*What motivated you to become a volunteer?*

My career was as a professional photographer so I just continued (although I wasn't used to photographing people until I did so in church). To me, the welcome team is extremely important as we try to assist those 'tasting' church life. If I am on the north door, I can answer questions from the general public, and encourage people to come in and take part. Closing the church on Sundays is difficult as the volume of tourists, especially in the summer, is incredible and turning them away - with tact - has to happen.

*What gives you greatest pleasure?*

As a photographer, taking images is high on my list, but I think being part of the welcome team is higher.

*What attracted you to our church?*

It is such a friendly and welcoming church. When I first came, Jan Craven and Andrea Blood were enthusiastic and supportive towards me.

*Do you have a favourite hymn?*

It has to be "Abide With Me". It's always sung at the opening of the Rugby League Cup Final. When this hymn is played at Remembrance Sunday, I have to compose myself as it reminds me of fellow soldiers killed or severely maimed. I was lucky, but many of my fellow soldiers have died or were badly injured or suffer from PTSD.

*Is there a bible passage that uplifts you?*

I think that the presentation of the baby Jesus in the temple and the reactions of Simeon and Anna is a very moving passage.

*Tell us about yourself.*

I was born in Runcorn, Cheshire, which is now on the bank of the Manchester Ship Canal. As children, we would all swim in it - how on earth we never came down with some dreadful disease I will never know! During the war, like all the kids then, I would push an old pram to the local coal merchant to get our ration of coal. My father was a regular soldier in the far east with the 14th Army at that time, so I hardly knew him. We lived with my mum's parents and I remember my granddad had been gassed in the first world war so was in very poor health. Bath time consisted of a tin bath in front of the fire - it was me first, then mum, then gran, then the whippet, then granddad. In the back yard, we kept a few hens and a massive cockerel that used to frighten the life out of me.

*What about your family?*

I was a soldier when I married Ellen and we had two girls, Helen and Andrea, both born in BMH Hanover, Germany. We moved back to the UK, then to Singapore and then back to the UK again, obviously living in married quarters. While I was in northern Ireland, Ellen found a large old house with about 1/2 acre of land. It needed a lot of work, but we decided to buy it and we ended up with a house, four geese, six hens, rabbits, ducks and fish - as well as our labrador. Both my girls are now married with families, and Helen is a professor at Northampton University. This house was important to me as it helped me to recover from the wounds I received in northern Ireland.

*Cont.....*

*Valued Volunteer—Harry Lomax cont.....*

*Tell us about your working life?*

I started out as an apprentice fitter with ICI Castner Kellner Works outside Runcorn, but I quickly realised that working with the poisonous substances made there was not for me, so when my apprenticeship finished, I joined the army (Royal Artillery) and left as a Warrant Officer fifteen years later - the only reason for leaving was the education of our daughters. One of the things I did in the army was photography so I wanted to pursue that; however I had no business experience, so I joined Courage, the brewers, as a district manager. I then became a full-time photographer and specialised in architectural and industrial work (mainly interiors) until I retired.



The start of the Coventry Sports Stadium.

*What brought you to Stratford?*

A lot of my work was in the Midlands and the north, as well as on the continent and in the USA. I moved here as a result of my divorce - I was never at home, such were the demands on my time. Ellen was a social worker, which is a job I totally respect. Their workload is enormous and they get a lot of flack if things go wrong!

*Do you have any hobbies or pets? And what about your leisure interests?*

I wish I had time for a hobby but photography takes up all my time, and as for pets, I make it a rule that I do not want anything that relies on me for its survival. I am a great music fan, mainly classical and especially Mahler, but I will listen to most genres. I mostly enjoy factual books, film and plays (but also science fiction and horror films) and, despite living in Stratford, I am not really a Shakespeare fan.



Harry Lomax

# MACBETH

presented by Anarke Shakespeare

In addition to productions by Trinity Players, our church also occasionally plays host to other dramatic offerings. One such was the Anarke Shakespeare company's production of "the Scottish play" from 7 to 11 March.

An initiator of this, herself playing Lady Macbeth (and several other parts) on this occasion, was Elena Pellone who played Hecuba in Trinity Players' production of *The Trojan Women* last autumn. I cannot call her the "director"; this company's speciality is playing **without** a director (and with very limited rehearsal), as was probably the case in Shakespeare's day, and this particular production was an exercise towards Elena's doctoral thesis at the Shakespeare Institute. In other words, the players involved here form a true "collective" without the guiding hand and spirit of a single individual.

I was curious to see what difference this made in practice to the performance. I certainly would not have known that this was directorless if I had not been told! It compared well, in its coherence, to the productions of many strong and famous directors. The eight actors, mostly playing several parts, generally appeared to inhabit those parts well and respond to each other naturally and appropriately. Some of them were a little defeated by Holy Trinity's famously unforgiving acoustic, and there was the odd missed cue – which might have suggested a case for more on-site rehearsal. The absence of any scenery and minimal changes of costume, combined with all that, might at times have made the play a little hard to follow for anyone unfamiliar with it – though most of the respectable (40+) audience on the first night clearly knew it well enough. But the evident enthusiasm of the actors, combined with the suitably *noir* atmosphere of a candlelit church, made up for these small deficiencies, and the final product would have done fair credit even to the RSC.

Behind the scenes, however, the feel of playing in this way must have been very different to what prevails in the RSC or indeed Trinity Players. Actors are used to the dreaded "giving of notes" after a rehearsal when the director gently (or not so gently) guides her actors back to her own vision of how their parts should be played. No doubt these gifted players "gave some notes" to **each other** from time to time; but the final impression is of a truly collective performance.

I could not help thinking that this might be one of the many lessons which the wider world can offer to the Church, even recalling it to its own ideals. St Paul in his letters was often tempted to "give notes" (sometimes rather sharp ones) to his congregations, but his ideal for the Church as the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12 and elsewhere is much more collective than hierarchical. Whilst vicars these days rarely "give notes" to members of their flocks (unless sermons count!), churches can sometimes become too dependent on official leadership, rather than on the Spirit guiding the community as a whole. Even in a parish like ours, with a strong ethos of fellowship and shared decision-making, it is good at times to be reminded just what it means to be one body in Christ. Most human organisations need some kind of structure of authority and accountability, and most plays can benefit from a skilled director. But it is the shared spirit that ultimately matters. Those eight actors, mostly young, certainly had that spirit. And we can learn from them.

*Anthony Woollard*

From the visitors' book.

I came in memory of my high school teachers who introduced me to Shakespeare

Eugene from Oregon

# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

'... er, the good news is the youth group has made a great start by pressure washing the west window'



**Noises Off!** Vicar from the pulpit: 'I would be grateful if the member of the congregation who keeps calling out, "Praise the Lord", would kindly cease and remember that this is the House of God.'

'I was going to tell you a joke about a bed. But I can't. It hasn't been made'

 **The Vicar** had his bike stolen. The police duly recovered it and the overjoyed cleric immediately pedalled down to his church to thank God for its recovery. He went in to pray. When he came out the bike had gone again. *More offerings from Christian Crackers by Phil Mason and enjoyed by Kate Corfield*

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From a Bristol actor's Facebook page.  
**Hi everyone.** I'm looking for two male actors aged 18-25 for a 30 second film about a guy who gets the power to turn people into packets of crisps. Shooting Tuesday afternoon. You won't be paid, but there will be snacks provided.

**Vacancy for a refuse collector: No special training required. You pick it up as you go along.**  
*Daily Mail*

Where were you when man first walked on the moon? As the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 approaches, we want to hear what it was like to witness it from earth. If you are under 18 you must ask your parent or legal guardian for permission.  
*The Times*

**Notice spotted on a website for a festival in Hastings: "We regret to inform you that the umbrella parade has been cancelled due to bad weather".**

Passage from a solicitor's letter: "We apologise for the typical graphical error in our previous correspondence."  
*The Times*

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*This will only happen if things have returned to normal by then.*

# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town  
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG  
Tel. 01789 266 316*

## 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 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, Sherron Guise, Ian Meeson and Sarah Cushing		
Parish Administrators:	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316	rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	
Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316	wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz	07784 312 387	douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org
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
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### *The Three Days.*

*Friday was the darkest day  
On that hill so far away.  
Jesus hung on a wooden cross  
His head was pierced with a crown of thorns,  
His bleeding side, his dry stony mouth  
And his gentle face now grey with pain.  
His fathers will he knew he had done.*

*The darkness came  
Day turned to night  
And in that darkness Jesus died.*

*Saturday dawned  
Quiet and still  
The turmoil passed, and the crowd had gone.  
Mary his mother bowed down with grief  
Her son lay dead  
A rock tomb his bed.*

*Sunday dawned  
The third day.  
alleluia - He is Risen  
Not dead  
But Risen.*

*He did this for us  
To take our sins away,  
To heal the world.  
Oh, let us pray  
They will be done.*

*Wm Smith*



When Bishop John came to give the talk at Food4thought on 23 February he brought with him an original icon of the Transfiguration. He encouraged us to see the light of the glory of God present in our lives and in creation, just as the disciples saw the glory of Jesus on the mountain top. "Your struggles and my struggles yesterday, today and tomorrow -all is held within God's good and perfect purposes, in the transfiguring love of God."

