

September 2021

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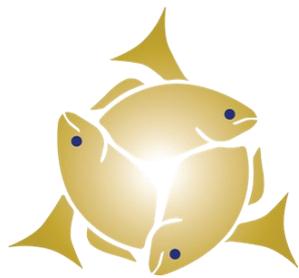


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This magazine includes a letter from Bishop John about an event for the whole diocesan family called *Great is thy Faithfulness*. There are also articles from the Friends of the Music about meeting together again, notes from Beckey Barton on the parish picnic and information about a new book called *Exploring Shakespeare's Church*.

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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 **October 2021** edition  
**The copy date is 13 September**

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

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front

cover :-

*Confirmation Candidates with Bishop John  
and Revd Patrick Taylor*

*Photograph by Harry Lomax*

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## LEADING A BALANCED LIFE



We begin this month with a Day of Prayer. If you missed it you can still set aside some time yourself to listen to God and consider your priorities for the coming months. It was not until I was forced to stop at the start of the lockdown and cancel much of the contents of my diary, that I realised just how out of balance my life had become. It could be so easy to keep adding new things into my schedule, without taking out those meetings or activities which were no longer serving their purpose. Of course, for some people it might have become too quiet, especially if shielding oneself or a loved one, I

realise our lives are all very different.

I always looked forward to September as a time to rush back to all the things that I had stopped for the school holidays and get ready for Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance and then the lead up to Christmas, but this year is different. I think I am not alone, in looking at trying to get a better work life balance and making more time for loved ones, friends and neighbours. Making those vital phone calls to keep in touch, emailing those we cannot visit and maybe sending the occasional letter.



Roy Lodge writes in this magazine about the importance of emotions, and I have noticed that the busier I become, the less room there is for feelings. It can be just about constantly doing things, with there being no time to be still. On Sunday 12 September at 5pm in Church we have our first Choral Evensong of this term and whether you think this is your kind of worship or not, I would urge you try it at least once, as the beauty of the music really does calm the troubled soul and leave you in a better place to start the week.

Having spent sixteen years of my life teaching in Further Education I could not resist spending some of the holidays looking at a free FutureLearn Course about Dementia. There are lots of free courses on all sort of topics that you might enjoy studying during the darker evenings. I hope this course will have helped me to understand more about the symptoms of dementia and how to welcome those with this condition into our household of faith, as we look at continuing to become a more inclusive church.

Every blessing for the autumn.

Revd *Kay Dyer*

### Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;  
his faithfulness continues  
through all generations.

# WORSHIP NOTES September



## 5 September 10am Holy Trinity Blessing of Bags Service

As the new school term begins, we invite those at school to bring their book bag or rucksack to be blessed. Any adults who have a bag or case of some kind associated with their work are also invited to bring it in so that we can ask for God's blessing for you in your work.

## September 10am series: Being the Household of God

Through the rest of September we will be exploring what it means to be a part of God's Church. The themes each week are as follows:

- 12 September **All Ages Together**
- 19 September **A Household of Faith**
- 26 September **Finding our Identity**

## Harvest Festival Services

Around this time of year we thank God for the provision of our food, pray for those who work to make it available to us and reflect on our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation, especially in the light of the climate change crisis. The dates of our Harvest Festival services in the parish are as follows:

- All Saints' Luddington** 26 September
- St. Helen's Clifford Chambers** 3 October
- Holy Trinity** 10 October

Donations for Stratford Food Bank of non-perishable items will be received at these services. Please see the pew sheet for further details nearer the time.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary (50 years) of Roy and Kay Dyer on Saturday 2 October 2021



It does not seem over fifty years since Kay and I first met at a dance evening.

Kay was a computer shift leader with an IBM mainframe system at The Shire Hall Warwick. and I was a toolmaker at a well known manufacturer of compressed air instrumentation in Shipston on Stour.

At that time Kay was a cub scout leader in Lillington. I was a member of The St. John Ambulance Brigade. Therefore you will not be surprised to read that for our first date I turned up at Kay's home, to her Mum and Dad's

- surprise, in an ambulance going to a fireworks display in a pub garden down the road, little knowing that we would have our wedding reception in the same pub.
- The week before our Anniversary we will go back to St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington to attend their morning service. This was Kay's childhood church and where we were married.
- We are due to be at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 3 October, where Kay will preside at the 10am Holy Communion Service.

*Roy Dyer*

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER



### Holy Trinity Church

#### 5 September - Trinity Fourteen

10am - Parish Eucharist - Blessing of bags  
5pm - Holy Communion

#### 12 September - Trinity Fifteen

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Being the Household of God - All Ages Together*  
5pm - Choral Evensong

#### 19 September - Trinity Sixteen

10am - Parish Eucharist - *A Household of Faith*  
5pm - Holy Communion (BCP)

#### 26 September - Trinity Seventeen

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Finding our Identity*  
5pm - Taize Service

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

#### 5 September - Trinity Fourteen

9.30am - Holy Communion

#### 19 September - Trinity Sixteen

9.30am - Holy Communion



### All Saints', Luddington

#### 12 September - Trinity Fifteen

9.30am - Holy Communion

#### 26 September - Trinity Seventeen

9.30am - Harvest Festival

THE BISHOP OF WARWICK  
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**To: all Clergy, Readers and Churchwardens**

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you are all well and able to enjoy some well-earned rest this summer after a difficult year.

I am writing to invite you to an event on 25<sup>th</sup> September at Coventry Cathedral for the whole diocesan family. Entitled '*Great is Thy Faithfulness*', the event is an afternoon for us to explore and reflect on God's faithfulness in the midst of extraordinarily challenging times. We will be using spaces in the ruins and in the new cathedral, giving people of all ages the opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness in prayer, lament and praise.

The day will start at 12 noon with the Litany of Reconciliation. This will be followed by a welcome and introduction offering prayer stations with activities and opportunities to be still and listen to God. Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch. The afternoon will finish with a Eucharist at 2.30pm.

*Great is Thy Faithfulness* is a wonderful opportunity for us as a diocesan family to gather together once again and spend time with God.

Please put the date in your diary and advertise as widely as possible in your context.

More information about the event will soon added to the diocesan website - [www.coventry.anglican.org/great-is-thy-faithfulness/](http://www.coventry.anglican.org/great-is-thy-faithfulness/)

With warm good wishes and prayers,

+ John

## PCC report: Tuesday 6 July 2021



Capital spending projects for the next five years were the focus at the latest PCC meeting, giving members much to consider as Holy Trinity continues its lockdown recovery.

Treasurer Mike Warrillow took the PCC through the detail. When considering what projects should be prioritised, Mike said, "The key item is, what do we think the budget and surplus will be? I've had to make many assumptions on this and are included as a suggested starting point. From our current position, we will make a £46K loss this year and a £50K surplus next year, with the big difference being visitor income as visitors return and increase in number. But we should also approach the Friends of Shakespeare's Church for funding."

David Austin, a representative of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church who was present, said they would be pleased to be able to support. "Trustees would welcome the prospect of a project that FOOSC could fund. We would like to use a bequest that we have received and undertake something that is exciting and that we would use effectively to drive fundraising and donations. We urge the PCC to come forward with a flagship project – something like the Choir Vestry and Song School would be very interesting. We want to really start generating funds for Holy Trinity and it would be helpful if you came forward with three projects."

PCC were asked to vote for three Capital Spending Projects from the options presented, via an online link.

### **Proposal for a new name for the 10am Service at Holy Trinity**

Reverend Patrick Taylor informed PCC about a proposal for a new name for the 10am Service. "As the 10am service is now a combination of two previous services -the Parish Eucharist and TrinityCentre@10 - we need a new name. We've had lots of suggestions, but I do think we need to give ourselves time to think about them and digest the ideas. As members of the PCC, you are here to represent the whole Parish and the congregation on this matter and they need to be consulted. I would encourage you to have conversations and return to this to make a decision in the future."

### **News In Brief**

PCC voted to adopt the policy for Church benches in Holy Trinity churchyard and to invite the village churches to adapt the policy for their own purposes.

PCC approved the proposal to formally swap the usage of the properties at Coopers Close and St John's Close as the Associate Vicar's house.

PCC were also overwhelmingly in favour of adopting the new Terms of Reference and a proposal for PCC representation on the Standing Committee. An election will take place on 28 September to fill the one remaining place.

The new 5-year parish strategy will be considered at the PCC Away Day on 18 September.

The next regular PCC meeting is on 28 September.

Ruth Poulten

## **Misspelling from a presentation to the PCC**

"The Fiends of Shakespeare's Church".

## FROM THE REGISTERS - JULY-AUGUST

### CHRISTENINGS

11 July Autumn Aurora Cranmer  
8 August Ava Felicity Russell  
22 August Douglas Webb

### WEDDINGS

17 July Mark Hibberd and Alice Fitzgerald  
24 July Kelvin McIntosh and Pauline Newbury  
24 July William Noble and Emma Davies  
31 July Jonathan Tilford and Julia Snodgrass  
31 July Edward Inns and Kate Keogan  
6 August Andrew Cummins and Laura Place  
7 August Mark Attrill and Victoria Emslie  
7 August James Gray and Catherine Gray  
10 August Simon Ainsworth and Macey Greene  
12 August Elliot Francis and Anna Newbold  
14 August Samuel Bridges and Hannah Hawley

### FUNERALS

7 July John Davis  
16 July Brian Desmond Barker  
16 July Jean Barron  
27 July Millicent Mary Gray  
28 July Eleanor Janet Browne  
5 August Jean Rees  
16 August Sheila Margaret Maiden  
16 August Daphne Joyce Conway  
19 August Robert Caleb Burrows  
24 August Charles Edward Cliff (Ted)



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## FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC CONCERT

The Friends of the Music were delighted to be able to put on the first chamber music concert for eighteen months on Monday night, 6 July.

The almost capacity audience in Holy Trinity provided a warm welcome to the Warwick Piano Trio (Lynn Arnold: piano, Roger Coull: violin, and Nick Roberts: cello) who were performing works by Beethoven, Arensky and Brahms.

Beethoven's Piano Trio Op1 no 1, with its energy, wit and warmth, was followed by the Arensky Piano Trio in D minor Op 32 - unknown, it seemed, to many of us in the audience - a gloriously lyrical piece with the themes moving seamlessly between the three instruments, ending with an explosive finale which enthralled the listeners.

During the interval, the bell-ringers team arrived to ring out the bells seventy-three times, to celebrate every year of the National Health Service: it was an odd but rather moving addition to the music.

Brahms's Piano Trio in C minor op 101 was a romantic masterpiece, blending the three players together in a warm union of dialogue, the different instruments winding in and out of each other with consummate ease. It was clear to tell that the Warwick Piano Trio enjoy playing together.

The audience undoubtedly appreciated the performance, and are looking forward to the restarting of the regular lunch time Soundbites concerts on Wednesday 8 September at 1pm.

Josephine Walker, Chair, Friends of the Music





## TOGETHER AGAIN

by Carolyn Laverty

As the Summer term came to an end and Covid restrictions had eased, the Friends of Music organised a ten pin bowling evening, as a way of reuniting the choristers, some of whom haven't been singing since before Covid took over our lives. Accompanying adults and children had lots of fun seeing one another again.

We now look forward with hope and expectation to resuming singing in September, with renewed energy and enthusiasm.



Photographs courtesy of Carolyn Laverty

## August's Eco-chat - Planting Trees locally.

The August zoomed ecumenical Stratford Eco-chat meeting was full of ideas and information. These related to combatting the effects of the Climate Emergency, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing human experience by planting trees.

Ros Anscombe, from the Heart of England Forest (HoEF) gave a comprehensive presentation. Felix Dennis (1947-2014), a Dorsington landowner, successful publisher (some of us may remember his notoriety in the 1960s over the magazine "Oz") poet and lover of trees, had a vision to bring back woodland to the landscape as a haven for wildlife, and for people to enjoy.

The HoEF was founded as a charity in 2003, originally called the Forest of Dennis. It aspires eventually to plant 13 million native broadleaf trees on land on the Warwickshire/Worcester border. 1.9 million have already been planted, and the 2 million target should be achieved during next winter's planting season. This makes a big contribution towards the 11 million trees our Prime Minister has pledged to plant in Britain by 2022. The context for this is that Britain's tree cover is among the lowest in Europe, at 13% (compared with France - 31%, and Sweden - 68%) of the landmass, with native broadleaf woodland at only 1-2%. However this has improved since 1919 when it was only 5% due to high demand for timber in WWI.

There are many reasons to encourage increasing woodland cover in our time. We know now that rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels from many different sources is a major contributory factor to climate change, and that trees, by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and storing it while releasing oxygen, both restore the air we breathe and reduce pollution by filtering it. By absorbing water and tethering the soil with their roots trees also reduce the danger of flash flooding.

Woodland provides locations for people to take exercise and experience the natural world; important for our physical and mental health and sense of well-being. The connection with nature reminds us that our human lives are just a small part of the totality of life on God's earth, and so influences our values, and those of following generations.

Trees provide habitats for multitudes of wildlife, especially native broadleaf trees. Oaks support more biodiversity than any other British tree, including almost 300 insects, which in turn are a source of food for other animals. The other species planted in HoEF include, birch, alder, cherry, hornbeam, rowan and field maple. 10% of these are saplings from their own nursery at Coughton Park. The trees and shrubs are planted close together to grow in groups with closed canopies, as we envisage a forest. Margins are left for the benefit of wildlife, and fruiting trees are planted on the edge as a food source for birds and mammals. Hedgerows are also incorporated to provide food and shelter.

The land for the steadily enlarging forest is acquired as it becomes available. The intention is eventually to join up several existing sites to form a green corridor for wildlife and a recreational resource for the population of the urban areas of the West Midlands. Once purchased, the land is assessed for its suitability for various purposes. The head foresters design the forest to replicate what would have grown there centuries ago, in the forests of Arden and Feckenham. As well as the trees, there are large areas of grassland with wide rides to bring light into the forest. Some of these will become wildflower meadows which encourage breeding pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Ponds and a wetlands area are also being developed to encourage frogs and newts, dragonflies, fish and wading and other water-based birds. Some of these, like the curlew and yellow wagtail, are currently declining species.



*Cont...*

*August's Eco-chat - Planting Trees locally cont...*

Some areas are developed for agroforestry, a practice mixing forestry and agriculture for the benefit of people, wildlife and the environment. Trees and crops may be grown together, for example, or animals such as sheep and cattle allowed to roam, feed and shelter in woodland areas.

Success stories in recent years include the increase of purple emperor butterflies, great crested newts and birds of prey, all now breeding in the forest.

Unlike some other nature-based projects, as a matter of principle the HoEF does not offer a carbon-offsetting scheme. The Trustees wish all management decisions, habitat creation and restoration planning to be influenced only by the objectives of the charity, and free from commercial pressures. It is also impossible to determine at the time of planting exactly what potential any tree has for carbon storage, as there are so many variables influencing its growth.

The HoEF has educational, research and charitable arms. Events such as guided walks and rural craft workshops are held from time to time. Areas of the forest are open for public access every day. Many

volunteers are involved and more are needed for help with everything from tree planting (heavy work in winter weather) to research and publicity. A taster volunteer event is to be held on Wednesday, 6 October at Coughton Park from 9.30am – 2.30pm. Becoming a Friend of the Forest offers a magazine and car parking permit. Financial donations are, of course, welcome, and HoEF was the Stratford Methodist Church's charity for August this year.

The website is [www.heartofenglandforest.org](http://www.heartofenglandforest.org)

Tricia Hall-Matthews



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### Eco-tips from recent weeks.

- Avoid using insecticides. Pollinating insects and insectivorous bird numbers are worryingly reduced.
- Preserve water. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- The blister packs our pills come in - made of plastic and metal foil CAN NOW BE RECYCLED! They are accepted at pharmacy departments in Superdrug.
- In hot weather take your re-fillable water bottle out with you, rather than buying water in single-use plastic bottles.
- Gardeners - avoid depleting carbon-capturing peat bogs by using peat-free compost.
- Every time you reach for your car-keys ask yourself "Do I really need to make this journey by car now? Could I walk? Cycle? Car-share? Combine it with another journey? Do something else instead?".
- Delete old emails. Storing them in 'the cloud' uses energy.
- Reduce the single-use plastic in your shopping by buying fruit and veg loose where possible. Re-usable net bags are available to hold them in.

# TEARS AND THE PLACE OF CHRISTIAN EMOTION

by Roy Lodge

The opening ceremony of the Olympics in Tokyo in an almost empty Olympic Stadium had to reflect the wider world and the deeply troubled preparations. It paused for a moment's recognition of those who have lost their lives to Covid-19.

We come to great films and plays and novels not just because they entertain but at their best, because they stir deep emotions within us. They make us laugh, or cry or gaze in wonder. They capture all of human life. You could say much the same of the Olympics. "Britannia rules the waves – but cannot hold back the tears" Such was one of the many headlines on the day when Britain achieved, in one day - subsequently referred to as "Magic Monday" no less than three gold and two silver medals. But there it was on camera for the world to see – Olympic champions Tom Daley and Matty Lee in floods of tears. It was Daley's gold - alongside Lee - in the 10m synchronised platform dive that tugged hardest on the heartstrings.



However – and this was the cause of wonder and media amazement – floods of tears, not because they had lost, but because they had won.

This summer we are witnessing Tokyo syndrome, which seemingly affects steadfastly stoic athletes and seems potent among traditionally uptight Brits. Tears are flowing from swimming to rugby and rowing. So whatever happened to the "stiff upper lip" for which the Brits since the days of Empire, have been so renowned? Some would say, perhaps "gone with the Empire" and no bad thing at that, while others might contend, with something of Stoic nostalgia, that we lost the Empire precisely when we lost that British control of emotions for which men, at least, were once renowned. What was quite clear from Tom and Matty's tears and sobbing was the fact that after all the incredibly pent up emotions to the build-up to their final dive, the tears were not tears of sorrow and grief, but rather tears of relief and release. In victory or defeat, joy and despair, emotions which have been repressed in the Covid era are getting an overdue airing. After all it is tears and laughter that constitute our distinctive humanity – our passionate humanity. It's almost impossible to imagine the tension involved in the international limelight of professional athletics, and especially at the Olympic level.

Yet tears of release are the salvation of those for whom tension and restraint have become a way of life. Such tears are spoken of by Tertullian, the Church Father of the second century, who speaks of "the baptism of tears". Many people experience the "baptism" or "release" of tears and do not know what it is, ignoring it for the wonderful blessing that it truly is for those who receive it.

Then there are other tears of grief and remorse. King David, in the Old Testament, pours out his heart at the death of his son Absalom – tears of grief - while Peter, in the New Testament went out "and wept bitterly" after he had denied Jesus during his trial "three times". I'm sure there are times when tears are not only appropriate, but also are our salvation, God alone knows what we would do if we could not weep and weep bitterly at such times. Nothing to be ashamed about, there.

For the stiff upper lip can be our undoing, and has little or nothing to do with Christian behaviour. Rather, it's another unfortunate example of that apathy, which is in such stark contrast to sympathy, so supremely manifested in the humanity of Jesus, who is on record as weeping at least twice in the New Testament record of his brief life. One of the many telling scenes in the movie *The Passion of the Christ* is in that scene when Christ falls for the first time with his cross on the way to Calvary. At that point, there is a poignant flashback to a scene in his childhood, when as a little boy, Jesus runs into the garden, trips and falls and burst into tears, only to be picked up and comforted in the arms of his mother, Mary.

Of course such an insight would be abhorrent to Roman stoicism, to Jews and Greeks alike: blasphemy to the former and foolishness to the latter. Yet to those seeking salvation, Paul would contend, such is the essential fabric of redeemed humanity, supremely displayed by the suffering Christ – the crucified God.

*Cont...*

And here is the rub. It is tears and laughter that constitutes our distinctive humanity – our passionate humanity, which a compassionate God now owns and has taken unto himself, in Christ, the God/Man. Even that Stoic and Scottish philosopher Hume contends: “Reason is, and ought only to be, the slave of the passions, and can never pretend to any other office than to serve and obey them”. (Treatise upon Human Nature).

I would want to hazard that Jesus also laughed, for laughter and tears are not opposite extremes, but rather closely allied expressions of the inexpressible. Have these Games become an unexpected parable of psychological health?

The integration of psychology and spirituality, of reality and aspiration, is a slow journey; a cheerful marathon rather than a frenetic sprint. And, along the way, as in the hurdles, pole vault, or rowing, there is no journey that is free of failure and pain. We face our challenges in life as best we can, while accepting our limitations as humans. Helen Glover the mother of all comebacks who came fourth in the rowing pair final was not worse in Tokyo than in Rio: its just that others were better. Hard work was helped by luck in Rio; but the same hard work without luck in Tokyo meant disappointment.

Integration means a life that is constructed as much around defeat and hurt as around attainment and joy. And perhaps this is why living the Olympics and Paralympics can be so healing. In the stadium, as in our lives, defeat and hurt jostle with attainment and joy, all part of the whole. How could anyone win without someone else losing? For Adam Peaty to have his hour, others had to forego theirs.

And we must somehow allow it all, aware that nothing puts out our inner fire. Throughout the Games, nothing puts out the Olympic flame; and nothing can extinguish ours.

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## Back to Serious Singing and a New Season

**Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society** is planning another lovely collection of choral works for their new season, which begins on Monday 6 September 2021. After the enforced Covid-19 break from singing, the choir is itching to return to serious in person singing and training. This season is especially exciting for the Choir as a new Music Director has been appointed. Stephen Dodsworth, the Choral Society's long-standing and highly valued Conductor retired in 2021 after thirty-one years of service, conducting one hundred concerts, including four premieres, ten Messiahs and nineteen Christmas Preludes. Finding his replacement has been a rewarding experience with so many wonderful Musicians keen to take the position, but the final choice for the post of Stratford Choral Society Music Director is Oliver Neal Parker. Oliver is currently Head of Vocal Studies at Cheltenham Ladies College, and in his twenty years music experience he has conducted many choral societies and orchestras. He also works as a professional singer and arranger.

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society will start their new season with the lovely Brahms's German Requiem Concert on Saturday 20 November 2021. Have you a sneaking ambition to learn some of the great Choral works? Well, now is your chance to do so! So are you a Tenor or a Bass, Soprano or Alto? Or even don't know? Be assured that under the enthusiastic and professional baton of Oliver Neal Parker and in the friendly, hardworking atmosphere of this longstanding choral society you will have a thoroughly rewarding experience. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Shottery, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9HQ from 7.30pm – 9.15pm, starting on 6 September.

Further information about the choir and how to apply to join can be found on the Website:

[www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk)

or by emailing Membership Secretary: Carol Jackson at [straforad.choral@gmail.com](mailto:straforad.choral@gmail.com)



Photograph by Phil Harper

## HOLY TRINITY PARISH PICNIC

It was a beautiful day for our Holy Trinity parish picnic on 25 July. After the threat of a rainy break in the midst of the heatwave that was July, we were blessed to have warm weather without getting burned for our parish picnic. The vicarage garden was the perfect setting to catch up with friends, old and new after the easing of the lockdown restrictions. Many thanks to Patrick and Laura, Ed and Bea, for being such wonderful hosts.

The garden was full of older people (ie. anyone over 20!) sitting around chatting and catching up,

whilst the young, who still have energy, bounced on the trampoline and played football and video games. A game of 'People Bingo' helped us to mingle and find out all sorts of fascinating things about each other that we may have otherwise never learnt; it was a great conversation starter... Although, it started so many conversations that I'm not sure that anyone actually finished the game!

So much of the Christian faith centres around food, and sharing meals together. As Patrick said in church on the morning of the picnic, the shell is a symbol for our journey of faith, as the shell was used as an essential drinking vessel for pilgrims. As we need water to survive, and journey through life, so we also need food, and as food nourishes our bodies, so fellowship with The Holy Spirit and with our Christian brothers and sisters nourishes our souls.

Social events at church, particularly those that revolve around a meal, are vitally important for the health and growth of relationships within every church family, and we have waited a long time, hungry and thirsty for fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters, during what seemed like a never ending pandemic. What a joy it was to be able to come together and feast again on such a glorious occasion!

Many thanks to all who were involved in planning, organising and making the event a success.

Becky Barton



Photographs by Harry Lomax



# CLIFFORD CHAMBERS WALK

Saturday 25th September

At 9am join the community in Clifford Chambers to explore the local area and identify small mammals with wildlife expert Nick Martin.

Booking Essential. e-mail Julie at [julie.renfrew1@gmail.com](mailto:julie.renfrew1@gmail.com)



Join us at 10:30am in Clifford Chambers Village Hall for coffee followed by a 90 minute walk through the parish

Please book for coffee and the walk via the church website, the link in the pew leaflet, or use the sign-up sheet in church

If you need a lift to this event, or if you are able to offer a lift, please contact Chris on 01789 204273

Please note, the walk may not be suitable for all abilities. Please contact Chris or Julie for more information



## SOCIAL TEAM UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 25th Explore Clifford Chambers on Foot  
(see separate notice)



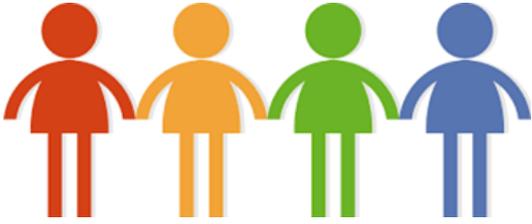
Oct 10th. Harvest Bring and Share Lunch in  
Parish Centre.  
(More details to follow)



November Ten Pin Bowling at Leamington/Spa  
(if sufficient interest/ to be confirmed)



## TRINITY LADIES



I am delighted to tell you that Trinity Ladies will commence again on Wednesday 15 September at 2 p.m. Maureen Beckett has agreed to come and speak to us on 'The Alms Houses'.

It will be lovely to see you all again and I hope that as many members as possible will feel comfortable to join with us. New members are very welcome, just come along on 15 September.

Sadly I have to tell you that there are a few members who will not be with us namely Jean Barron who sadly passed away recently and Edith Brooks, Ann Harding, Freddy Reynolds who are now in Care Homes.

Sian Wade and Marilyn Shorey have not been well for some considerable time but we hope and pray that they will be well enough to join us in September.

We will have a raffle and tea and cake as usual.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

With good wishes

Gina Lodge  
Chair



## FAREWELL TO THE NEWMANS



Steve and Hilary Newman, who have lived in Stratford for many years and have been regular attenders in church, left the area in August to live in Lancashire, nearer their family. Not only did Steve edit this magazine for many years, but he was also a creative writer for, and member of the Trinity Players, with whom he performed multiple times. For some years, Hilary



arranged the Parish Away Weekend, was part of our wonderful Welcome Team, and in recent years has organised the flower teams, producing some superb displays especially at Christmas and Easter. Their hard work for the church community over the years is greatly appreciated and members of our parish wish them well in their new home.

Photographs of Hilary and Steve from Trinity Players productions.  
Hilary from "Andromeda" and Steve playing *Wall* in "A Midsummer Nights' Dream"



I wonder where we will be on the pandemic by the time you read this? The restrictions have been lifted, but for how long? And local infections rose markedly over the summer. So I am far from sure that we should simply go back to living as before. In parts of the world the pandemic is still causing illness and death on a large scale. And, as the World Health Organisation has said, nobody is safe until everybody is safe – and how long with that take, and is it even achievable?

I have recently been browsing through old editions of this magazine. One day I found an article which I wrote many years ago, at the time of a swine flu scare, on the subject of “Risk”. Most of us misjudge the risks we take in daily life. Some, which seem to loom large, are actually very small – and vice versa. Mostly, at least where risks are large, we take evasive action – like driving, or crossing a road, with extreme care. But some risks, even if they may be small in statistical terms, are hard to avoid completely. And Covid, so infectious and potentially dangerous, is an obvious case.

We have been bombarded daily with statistics which claim to show us just how great the risk is. Sometimes it seems absurdly low; I was staggered by a claim that, even if you meet an infected person and breathe their air face to face for several minutes, the chances of your catching the most infectious variant may be as low as 12.5% - certainly not negligible, but hardly sky-high, and largely avoidable. At other times, when reproduction rates and other data are quoted, the risks seem frighteningly high. And it only takes one or two people from an area (in this country or elsewhere) where the pandemic is still raging to turn very low risks into rather high ones.

In this situation, I observe two reactions.

Some people – even if vaccinated – are tempted into FOGO (fear of going out) to keep any risk at rock-bottom. That of course has a very bad effect on our social life (including our life in church) as well as on the economy and more widely. But it is understandable, just like refusing to cross main roads when there is not a car in sight (some maniac may come round the corner).

Others are just the opposite. Over the summer, I saw less and less distancing (and was effectively pushed off pavements more times than I care to count). After all, why should such small risks prevent us from going about our business normally, walking or running as and where we choose? If others choose to get out of the way, ducking into an alley or walking in the road, that is their business! Equally understandable, if not very courteous.

We may find, as time goes on, that “normal” life really does become safer and more natural. Or it may not, and we cannot wholly rule out a further lockdown, however much that is resisted.

For my part I shall continue to be cautious – and to smile warmly at anyone, particularly amongst the young, who is thoughtful enough to practise distancing and/or masking. The risk may become much smaller, and we may learn to live with it, just as we have with the risk of flu. And treating strangers like potential weapons of mass destruction is not very conducive to a good society. But caution and courtesy should, I suggest, continue to be our watchwords. As someone said, “This is not about me, it’s about us”.



# A Review of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*

by Steve Newman

*A New Production by Trinity Players, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, July 2021*

*"Destiny waits in the hand of God, shaping the still unshapen: I have seen these things in a shaft of sunlight."*

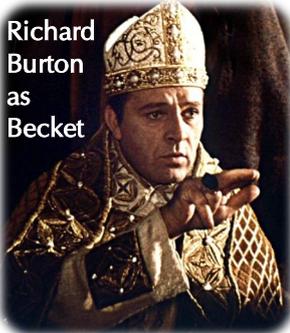
I have to admit I'm not the biggest fan of T. S. Eliot, I much prefer Walt Whitman, a poet Eliot never seems to have read, or if he did, never allowed him to enter his strictly controlled literary world.

As a poet and playwright, Eliot, in the 1930s, could do no wrong, although the likes of other verse playwrights, John Drinkwater, and Christopher Fry, gave him a run for his money. But Eliot always kept ahead until the newer, clipped journalistic style of novelist Ernest Hemingway eclipsed all styles.

Only in post 1945 Britain did we see Eliot rise again (being the top editor at Faber and Faber helped) alongside the new realism of Terence Rattigan that would enrapture British theatre audiences until John Osborne put a spanner in the works.

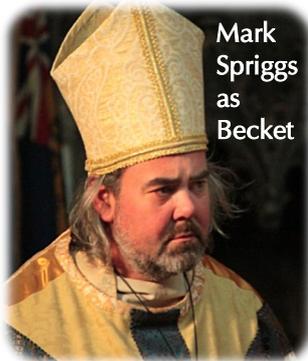
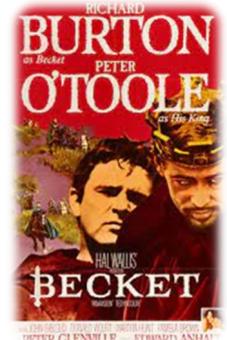
And today we are still the better for T. S. Eliot's work, with his plays, *The Cocktail Party* (a great influence on Harold Pinter), and perhaps more so, *Murder in the Cathedral*, that has been continually re-sprung for new audiences, not least the church circuits. It must still earn the T. S. Eliot Estate, and Faber, a great deal of money.

Of course the play was also given a much needed cinematic boost back in 1964 when the Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton film, *Becket*, was released.



Richard  
Burton  
as  
Becket

Although the film, directed by Peter Glenville (with a screenplay by Edward Anhalt, from Jean Anouilh's play) was well received it is now, sadly, almost forgotten, but there can be little doubt that Burton's portrayal of Becket is one of his very best screen performance. And having watched the film recently I have no hesitation in saying that Mark Spriggs' tremendous performance of the 12th century Archbishop is on a par with Burton's as he brings the often stiff Eliot dialogue to fully fledged poetic life. When Mark enters the rest of cast



Mark  
Spriggs  
as  
Becket

move up a couple of gears. The real Becket must have had that same effect on his clergy and congregation back in the 1170s. How Henry must have hated his old drinking and whoring partner for his popularity and, as Henry saw it, his treachery.

In Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* that 'treachery' and Becket's licentious past is made public when he is confronted by the four Tempters who, like Scrooge's ghosts, take great pleasure in reminding the religious usurper of his less honourable activities in the King's employ. But unlike Scrooge, Becket does get his ghosts all at once in a hail storm of eloquence and spite by Kevin Hand's deep excoriating voice that threatens real violence; followed by Tim

Raistrick's calm cruelty, and John Ryder's trembling scariness, and not least, the peripatetic loucheness of Ian McClean who, I think, was the only Tempter that Becket looked in the eye. It is a great scene where Mark's Becket barely shows the internal pain of his newly discovered Christian faith as he is scoured brutally by Eliot's verbal acid: as before a crucifixion. Very powerful.



A Review of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* cont...



The three Priests of the Cathedral, played by Brian Russell, David Thurburn-Huelin, and Ed Mulryne, are wonderfully convincing, with Brian forever restless and fearful in his 'support' of Becket (there is a hint that he might have wished Becket had never returned), and his insistence that Becket must now flee again and leave them all in peace; David's long serving priest appears to be a man of stoicism (albeit worn a bit thin over time), but nevertheless prepared to stick with Becket



if he has to; and then there's Ed, an excellent young actor, whose misogynist priest's lack of experience, and quick tongue, has landed him in the middle of something he'd never quite bargained for: death. But like his clergy companions he still pleads that his boss must flee, if only to protect himself, and by so doing the Christian Church. Becket is not going anywhere of course, and realises there is only death - something he desires. The three actors worked very well together, with Brian's somewhat frenzied finger pointing demand of a Messenger (played strongly by Saul McDougall) who, earlier in the play, had come with news that Becket was returning from France after seven years in exile, insists to know: "Is it war or peace?"



Eliot's adherence to a classical chorus is perhaps a bit dated now, but is, nevertheless, a device that can work well, and in this production it does work well, but only because the actors playing the Women of Canterbury have to fight valiantly against the dead acoustics in the nave of Holy Trinity. Actors Chrissy Hofstetter, Orion Johnson, Margot McCleary, Lori Shanebrook, and Helen Warrillow, deserve three cheers for their performance.

Sam Bridges original music is dynamically thrilling, as is the singing of half a dozen members of the choir. Together they created a true sense of place, and time.



The killing of Becket by the four Knights (the same actors who played the Tempters) is done with real elan and



balletic energy.

The brutality of the killing is followed by an Orwellian spin as each Knight, in turn, expounds directly to the audience that the responsibility for the killing of Becket is not that of the Knights, or the King, but of the victim.

But the heart of the play is Becket's Christmas sermon, which Mark delivers with a controlled, yet passionate, integrity that is one of the most moving pieces of theatre you're ever likely to hear, and an example for every priest to follow.

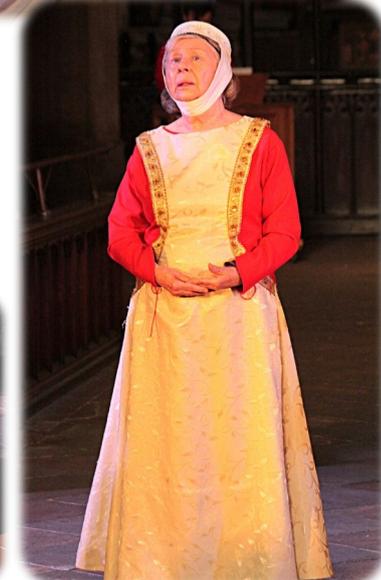
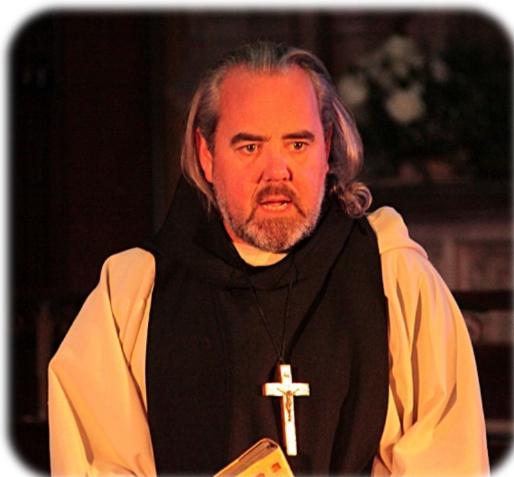
*...at this same time of all the year that we celebrate at once the Birth of Our Lord and His Passion and Death upon the Cross. Beloved, as the World sees, this is to behave in a strange fashion. For who in the World will both mourn and rejoice at once and for the same reason? For either joy will be overborne by mourning, or mourning will be cast out by joy; so it is only in these our Christian mysteries that we can rejoice and mourn at once for the same reason...*

Becket welcomed death, which is to this day commemorated in Holy Trinity Church by a Becket Chapel, constructed a hundred years or more later by a future Archbishop of Canterbury, John de Stratford.

Cont...

A Review of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* cont...

The show was a massive task, and, in the end, a huge artistic success for director Ursula Russell. The original performance dates in 2020 had to be cancelled, with rehearsals moved online. That the show survived at all is testament to Ursula, the cast, lighting man Tony, dressers, costume and props makers whose skills and sheer determination were in every word, move and gesture.

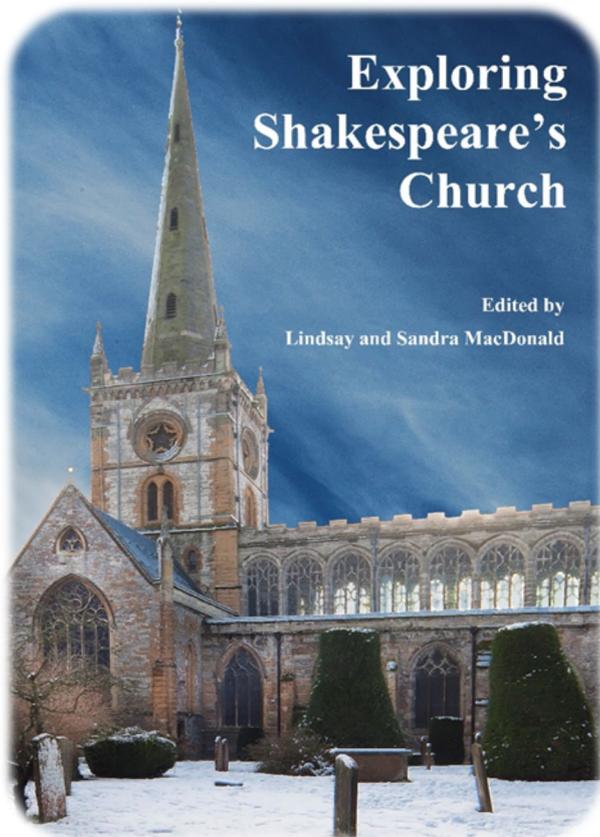


## Book Launch: *Exploring Shakespeare's Church*

A new book about Holy Trinity was published in mid-July, and launched in a special online Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) Research Conversation, hosted by Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, SBT Head of Research and Knowledge and one of the contributors to the book. Shakespeare's enduring association with the church, of his baptism and burial, is at the heart of our exploration of The Collegiate Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon.

An audio version of the Research Conversation is available at:

<https://soundcloud.com/shakespearebt/exploring-shakespeares-church>



The book is dedicated to Professor Ronnie Mulryne and developed out of the lecture series at the church in autumn 2019, given in his memory. It has eight chapters and is 180 pages in length, copiously illustrated with much new material.

In addition to Revd Dr Paul Edmondson, the co-editors, Dr Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald, are joined by contributors Dr Sylvia Gill, Dr Robert Bearman and Mairi Macdonald to guide the reader through the history of Holy Trinity from the thirteenth to the twentieth century.

We begin with the exposition by Sandra and Lindsay of the pre-Reformation involvement of the Guild of the Holy Cross, followed by Sylvia Gill's research on the College of Priests. Both organisations shaped Holy Trinity's medieval liturgy and worship, notably in the much-loved Lady Chapel and the richly-endowed St Thomas Becket chantry chapel, which became a focus of veneration for generations of pilgrims. Bob Bearman then introduces the Bawdy Court and Paul Edmondson makes a tour of the building in the company of Master Shakespeare himself. Thereafter Lindsay discusses the church's 'she edition' of the 1611 King James Bible, and Mairi

MacDonald explores the increasing influence of the Puritan movement on both church and town. We conclude with the history of the Clopton Chapel, researched by Lindsay, from its medieval origins to its presence in Holy Trinity today.

The edition is strictly limited to 100 copies, individually numbered. The book may be ordered through the church website: <https://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/book-sales> All profits will go to Holy Trinity Church.

For more information, please contact the editors Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald:  
[lindsay.macdonald@homecall.co.uk](mailto:lindsay.macdonald@homecall.co.uk)



### Quote of the month

Revd Kay Dyer to nervous bridegroom:

"You are supposed to direct these words to the bride not to me -  
I am already married!"



## THE REPAIR SLOT

Whilst working in the Choir Vestry as part of the flower team, I was aware of a music stool that was in need of some renovation.

When lockdown restrictions were eased I asked if I could re-upholster it. There was some fabric in the stool, the same as the original, which I thought might just be enough. I also thought that it would be a simple matter of taking the

old material off and replacing it with the new.

How wrong I was!

Once I had taken the first layer of fabric off, the state of the calico, wadding and horse hair padding were so filthy and worn that they too needed to be replaced. Fortunately my niece Sandra had done an upholstery course so she had not only the correct tools but more importantly the knowledge and skill to help me. We met up and she did the work (I did glue and tack on the braid!)

I can take no credit for the work because Sandra actually upholstered the music stool for me and ultimately for the church. Sadly Sandra could not be in the church photo as she was away on holiday at the time. I am, though, extremely grateful for the work she did and for the splendid outcome, and I hope it will be used and admired for years to come. Should anyone know who donated the stool, or where it came from originally, I would be pleased to know.



Stella Webley



Photographs courtesy of Stella Webley

~~Old life~~ New life!



*"Embrace the uncertainty.  
When nothing is certain,  
anything is possible"*

Image: Jenny, Inspired Villages resident - June 2021

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# PARISH CONTACTS

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*Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

*Tel. 01789 266 316*

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

## Clergy 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 John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

## Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316	andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
Parish Administrator:	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org

## Church Wardens

Paul Lageu	01789 298 302	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

## 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
Friends of St Helen's Church	Sarah Crang	01789 297 876
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Roome	01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751
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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Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110



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[GuildChapelcoordinator@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](mailto:GuildChapelcoordinator@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk)

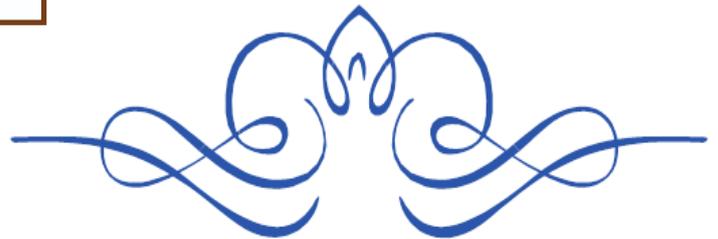


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***This could be your  
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***Email: Karen at  
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"We were saddened to hear of the death of Jean Rees after a long illness towards the end of July. She, with her husband John, had been a loyal member of Holy Trinity for many years, singing in the choir and also contributing to Trinity Players, notably their performance of *Shakeshafte* in Lancashire. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."





NHS and Careworkers Service  
4 July 2021



Almost back to normal  
25 July 2021

