

February 2022

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TRINITY TIMES



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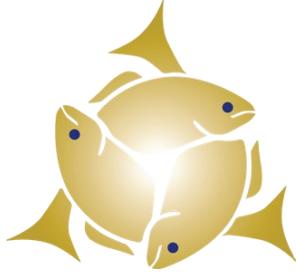


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Please note that views expressed in Trinity Times are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parochial Church Council.

The next magazine will be the **March 2022** edition The copy date is **11 February**. 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:
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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Lights shining in the darkness, welcoming people this Christmas - Phil Harper

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

SERVING OTHERS



This is the month in which we begin to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as she acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old. We have a special Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity to mark the beginning of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 6th February at 5pm. We can be grateful for her 70 years of dedication and service to our country and there will be many others who come to mind, who have served us well.



I am sure we can all think of clergy and laity alike in our own Parish and Diocese who have given years of service and who we look up to as examples of those who put their Christian beliefs into action. It is worth remembering though that all of them had to begin in small ways and perhaps did not have much confidence at first in their own abilities. But with God's help, support and guidance they went on to be examples of the "good and faithful servant" as mentioned in Matthew 25:21.

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

We all have to start somewhere, so is God calling you to begin some new act of service this year? You will only find out if you try. Have you dreamed of making a real difference, by helping with meals for the homeless in Stratford, or of reading the lessons, leading the prayers, or helping to set up a men's group? There are so many ways in which you could be involved not just inside the church, but by being a Town Centre Chaplain or working with the Scouts, Guides, Air Cadets, or other youth groups.

Sometimes, it just takes a nudge from a friend who has seen the gifts in you, to encourage you to take that extra step and to put those gifts into practice on a regular basis. No one wants to boast about their abilities, but sometimes out of modesty they hold back. This is the year to be courageous and to respond to those promptings that God has put in your heart and as you do so, may God bless you in all that you do for him.

The Revd Kay Dyer

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU"

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here.



We use our Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. On Friday 4 March 2022 services will take place across the world, beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. We hope many of you, both ladies and gentlemen, will join us for this service at 2pm at St Andrew's Shoterly on Friday March 4th.

LENT BOOK 2022

7 Ways to Pray by Amy Boucher Pye Time-tested Practices for Encountering God

Our parish Lent book this year explores how ancient prayer practices can help us find fresh ways to relate to God. Below is a review taken from the SPCK website; you can also see a video of the author describe her book on this link: amyboucherpye.com/books/7-ways-to-pray/

Due to our reduced staffing, we are not going to organise ordering and distributing books centrally in the parish this year. Please order your own copy via your usual high street or online retailer.

“For Christians, prayer is the main way we communicate with God – but what can we do when we struggle with the question of how to pray or feel our prayer lives are lacking?



Seven Ways to Pray explores how by looking to ancient prayer practices of Christianity, we can find fresh ways to relate to God today. Discovering these tried and tested tools will not only strengthen our relationship with him but will bring us joy, contentment, growth and transformation.

With warmth and encouragement, Amy Boucher Pye takes us through seven ways to pray to God: praying with the Bible, receiving and extending forgiveness, practicing God’s presence, listening prayer, the prayer of lament, praying with the gospels imaginatively and the prayer of examen. Guiding us through their history, she shows us how easily we can make these prayer practices part of our lives and use them to grow closer to God.

Along with prayer exercises to help us engage directly with God, there are questions for individual reflection or small-group discussion. This is a book for anyone who has ever wondered how to pray or is looking for ways to revitalise their prayer lives. It will give you an understanding of some of the oldest prayer practices of Christianity, and equip you with the tools you need to renew and refresh your relationship with God. “

STRATFORD TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy had its official launch on Sunday 5th December with a Commissioning Service held at Holy Trinity. Rev Sue Field, Pastoral Archdeacon for the Diocese of Coventry, came to conduct the service. Sue also serves as a trustee for Coventry Workcare, the local chaplaincy network. Rev. Dick Johnson, from the Workers Chaplaincy Mission UK, brought a message of encouragement to both volunteer chaplains and the congregation.

The eight volunteer chaplains, made up of clergy and lay people, were challenged in their commitment to supporting businesses in Stratford and the congregation were asked to support the team in prayer. At the end of the service prayer reminder bookmarks were made available to help remind people to pray for this work.

Stratford Town Centre Chaplaincy desires to stand alongside the businesses who serve our community by offering to be a listening ear and building relationships with both proprietors and staff.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon



6th February, 4th before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - *All are Called*
5pm - Special Choral Evensong to mark the beginning of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

13th February, 3rd before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - *All are Loved*
5pm - Choral Evensong

SUNDAY 20th February, 2nd before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Finding Calm in the Storm*
5pm - Holy Communion Traditional

SUNDAY 27th February, Next before Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Looking to Lent*
5pm - Taize

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

7th February - 4th before Lent

9.30am - Holy Communion

20th February - 2nd before Lent

9.30am - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

13th February - 3rd before Lent

9.30am - Holy Communion

27th February - Next before Lent

9.30am - Holy Communion

FRIENDS OF ST HELEN'S AGM 2022

Friends of St Helen's held their Annual General Meeting at St Helen's on Sunday 16th January which was chaired by the Reverend Kay Dyer. In her Chairman/Secretary's report Angela Wylam thanked the three retiring trustees, Sarah and Julian Crang and Lisa Collins and welcomed two new trustees, Jo Eaton Johnson and Stefan Buczacki. Although the AGM was for the year ended April 2021, the report brought up-to-date the current position of the organisation. Treasurer Winston North explained that as no fund-raising activities had been held during the pandemic and supporters' contributions had not all been renewed, compared with previous years, income was much reduced. Nevertheless the organization was in quite a healthy financial state. Some discussion took place as to what the next likely call on funds might be and that this could be the addition of some names missing from the village War Memorial.

PAM & PHILIP CHESHIRE

Many members of the congregation will be sorry to hear that Philip and Pam Cheshire hope this month to move to Australia for an unspecified period, in order to be closer to family and avoid any future travel restrictions. We wish them well, and look forward to hearing of their adventures!

TEN PIN BOWLING

On a mild and dark Thursday evening an intrepid group of twenty four from Holy Trinity descended upon the tenpin bowling alley in Leamington for an evening of conversation and light hearted competition.

When we say 'light hearted' there were some serious moments when one of the group commented that being left handed was 'a disadvantage in this sport' - really? The burgers and chips, jugs of beer and 'lashings of lemonade' added to the convivial atmosphere, where young and old came together as one.

Thank you to Richard and the Social Team for organising the evening. The winner overall (by just one point) was Patrick, who had the good grace to appear a little embarrassed, if not also rather pleased. Well done everyone!

Marion Mitchell



Fr. No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	
PAUL	-	2	6	3	4	4	5	18	7	8	-	117
	2	11	18	25	31	49	57	59	71	74		74
PATRIC	4	4	X	9	7	8	-	X	9	9	-	157
	8	28	46	54	73	82	91	97	109	115		115
KEVIN	-	8	4	-	3	-	7	-	-	18	1	7
	9	5	12	15	15	22	22	23	32	39		39
CHARLO	5	5	6	7	8	5	6	-	11	6	7	4
	5	11	18	26	31	37	37	38	46	53		53
SANDR	-	7	6	3	5	9	8	8	8	5	1	55
	0	7	12	18	27	36	44	49	54	59		55
PAUL									8.08	MR		336
Team3											336	

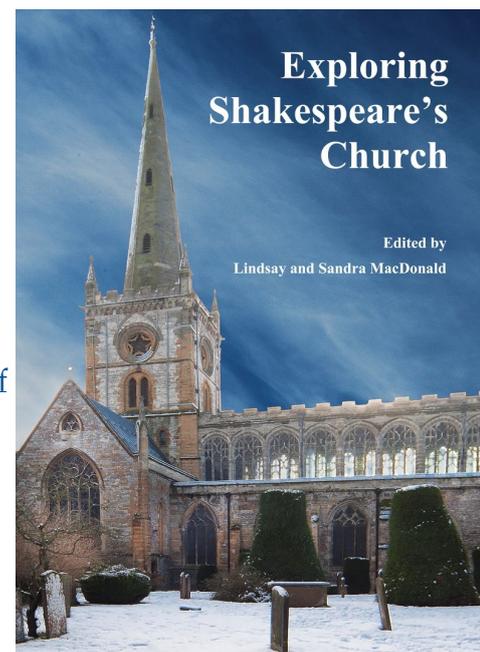
BOOK PUBLISHED ONLINE

The new book Exploring Shakespeare's Church was published in July 2021 as a limited edition of 100 printed copies, each individually numbered. After its launch through the SBT Research Conversation, hosted by the Revd Dr Paul Edmondson, it quickly sold out. Copies were sent not only around the UK but also to USA, Canada, Germany and Russia. They were deposited in the British Library and national reference libraries of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Now a digital edition has been prepared, and is available for free download as a PDF file from:

<https://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/files/Exploring-Shakespeares-Church.pdf>

This is equivalent to 'open access' publication in a scholarly journal. By this means the contents will reach a wider readership than if limited to the print edition, and will contribute to the broader understanding of the history of Holy Trinity. The book has 184 pages, with 42,000 words plus 320 footnotes in eight chapters. There are 150 illustrations, mostly in colour.

Lindsay and Sandra MacDonald (editors)



NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

Invited by the Town Council to take part in Entertainment staged during the Stratford Christmas Market, we dusted down our Mummings' Play, *The Holy Trinity Play of St George*, first performed for the 800th Anniversary of Holy Trinity, along with the chain mail knitted for *Murder in the Cathedral* and took to the open air in the middle of Bell Court. We attracted an appreciative crowd who cheered and booed in all the right places.



Introduced by Brian Russell as the traditional Green Father Christmas, brave St George (Saul McDougal) defeated both the grim Black Prince (Mark Spriggs) and the hapless Sir Hector (Tim Raistrick), not to mention chivalrously NOT slaying the even more hapless King of Egypt (John Ryder). But this was Christmas time so the Wise Woman brought the dead back to life and the whole cast toasted the audience with tankards of Trinity Ale (sadly, empty!)

Do watch the video, made by James Willetts, which we hope, will raise a smile in dreary February. *The Holy Trinity Play of St George*
<https://youtu.be/jDkV87vnliU>



Wednesday March 9 at 7 pm A Reading of The Winter's Tale in Stratford Town Hall



Trinity Players will be taking part in the community project *Shakespeare's Coming Home!* (the brainchild of Paul Edmundson) to raise funds for the repair of Shakespeare's statue given to the people of Stratford by David Garrick in 1769. All of Shakespeare's plays, poems and sonnets will be read from the 'prick of noon' Tuesday 1 March until 'the chimes at midnight' 12 March. Many local groups, drama and otherwise are involved. We very much hope that you will come and support us. Tickets are now on sale for a minimum donation of £5 from Ticket Source. Details on the [Shakespeare's Coming Home!](#) Website.



Saturday April 9 The Message of the Cross 2.30 and 7pm in Holy Trinity Church

Our Passion Play covers the events from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection in scenes, poems and music. Traditionally, there is no admission charge but donations are invited for a specific charity.

Friday April 22 Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare at 10.30 am in Holy Trinity Church

Our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday with excerpts from or inspired by his works. No charge for admission but a donation for Coffee and Cake welcome.

Ursula Russell

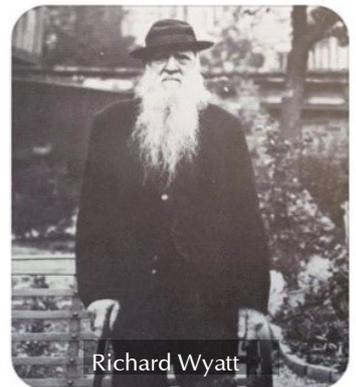


GRAVE CONCERNS

Social media can be a curse but it was definitely a blessing when St Helen's Church put out an appeal to a Stratford Facebook forum.

One of the headstones in the graveyard at Clifford Chambers was leaning precariously and the decision had been taken to remove it and prop it up against the church wall.

However, before taking action, the St Helen's team decided to see if any relatives of Richard and Elizabeth Wyatt, whose headstone it was, could be found.



Richard Wyatt

Having posted the story on Facebook, someone responded almost immediately with a picture of Richard Wyatt, a Stratford tailor and draper, who had been photographed in 1899 at the age of 88 because he was the oldest inhabitant in the town.

Minutes later, Jim Bushnell, a stonemason, offered to come and reset the headstone free of charge. He duly did and just three days after the message appeared, the headstone was back in an upright position. Thank you to all those involved, especially Jim for his public spirit and generosity.



SOCIAL TEAM FISH, CHIPS & BINGO

What a great way to spend a Saturday evening! Just being able to socialise would have been amazing but add in the excitement of bingo (with prizes!) and mouth-watering fish & chips and you have a winner. Marco's panettone was brought out for dessert – a real bonus. Huge thanks to all who helped to organise and took part.

Our table settled down and concentrated on listening for our numbers (although we were glad of the technological back-up of numbers that had been called displayed on a screen!) The bingo calling was a mix of traditional and modern nicknames and raised quite a few laughs. It seemed to take forever for the first winner to call "Bingo" and the tension was palpable – only a few numbers left. Our table went on to produce 3 wins – 2 of them for the same person who generously gave one of her prizes away. This really was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I leave the last word to Libby:

"It was really good fun. I had to listen carefully so that I did not miss the numbers. The best bit was winning the golden chocolate coins!"

Sue Lambert



My partner and I had an amazing evening at Bingo. We weren't sure what it was going to be like as we have not been to a church community gathering/ game event before but I have to say it was a great night. It was lovely to see different age groups come together and spend time with each other. I would definitely recommend this to anyone looking to get out the house and have some fun. We played 8 rounds of Bingo and ate some amazing fish/sausage and chips. It was a lot of fun and I can not wait for the next event! Well done to the social team for organising such a fun night.

Ben and Jo (Marie's family)



PanCakE PaRTY

Come and join the fun and games

with special guest Marta, from Lily's Waffles & Crepes who will be making us all her speciality crepes and waffles

4:30-6:30PM ON TUESDAY 1ST MARCH
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH CENTRE

Please sign up by 21st February
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or the sign up sheet in church

(Cost £5 per person aged 3 and over)



For more information about this event please contact Chris on 01789 204 273



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN 2021

We are a team of volunteers who meet regularly to keep the churchyard tidy. The basic maintenance is done by the Town Council, but our aim is to make the churchyard a pleasant place for everyone who walks through or comes to visit the church. Being there also provides opportunities to talk with visitors and to represent the church community.

Members of the team during 2021 were: Philip Cheshire, Richard Hartley, Hester Hawkes, Liz Johnson, Lindsay MacDonald, Marion Mitchell, Bridget Sorel-Cameron and Valerie Thompson. We had a two-hour session on Monday afternoon every other week, with a total of 23 sessions between February and November. The average attendance was six volunteers per session, and the total time contributed over the year was 276 person-hours. The team was notable for a great spirit of cooperation and camaraderie, and for its "can do" approach. Awards for best attendance went to Valerie and Bridget, who tied for first place, both being present for 22 out of the 23 sessions. Bridget also provided the most marvellous home-made cakes and muffins for tea.



Tasks accomplished during the year included:

- Kept the main avenue and pathways free of litter;
- Picked up fallen twigs and sticks under trees throughout churchyard;
- Removed grass along the edges of paths and around perimeter of building;
- Removed weeds from base of wall on Mill Lane (outside on road);
- Cut suckers from lime trees up to a height of five metres;
- Maintained the shrubs in bed alongside the southern path;
- Assisted with the clean-up of the garden at No. 3 Coopers Close;
- Planted snowdrops in clumps on either side of main avenue;
- Planted 500 daffodil bulbs between lime trees along western wall;
- Took over maintenance of the garden behind the Parish Centre.

The experience of volunteering continues to be very positive and we have worked well together as a team. The appearance of the churchyard has been maintained at a high standard, and we have received many compliments from both visitors and members of the congregation.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us, even occasionally, to assist with this satisfying activity in such a glorious situation.

Lindsay MacDonald (team leader)



VALUED VOLUNTEER

This month we learn about our Valued Volunteer, **Diana Owen**

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

I am part of the rota for opening the church for visitors, and mostly come in on Sunday afternoons, and sometimes I assist with weddings and funerals. I am also a trustee on the board of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church. I've been a volunteer for about eighteen months.



What motivated you to become a volunteer?

I have worked with volunteers throughout my career and now that I have retired, I have the time to be a volunteer too. Holy Trinity Church is on my doorstep and I have always loved visiting the church, so I was glad to help, firstly during lockdown.

In what ways do you think that volunteering supports our parish mission?

It's all about enabling connections and providing purpose. Volunteering enables people to come together who might not otherwise meet, and we enjoy sharing our knowledge and interest in Holy Trinity and all that happens there with visitors and people attending special services, and making sure that everyone has a really rewarding experience.

What aspect of your voluntary work gives you the greatest pleasure?

Providing a warm welcome to everyone.

How long have you been a member of the congregation?

I've been an occasional member for about fifteen years.

What attracts you to our church?

It is an incredibly beautiful and special space – I always feel so much better for spending time in it.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

Yes – In The Bleak Midwinter.

Is there a particular bible passage that uplifts you spiritually?

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love"

Let us hear about you. Tell us about your childhood.

I was born at Monabarie Tea Estate in Assam, India and spent my early years there, returning to boarding school in the UK when I was ten years old. I still have many connections with family and friends in Assam and return frequently. When you're a child you don't question the way that you live and we enjoyed many adventures with our parents and other friends in the foothills of the Himalayas and lived in large 'bungalows' with big gardens, swimming pools and many pets – including two snow leopard cubs at one time. We were evacuated when the Chinese invaded Assam in 1962 and those border 'troubles' continue to this day.

Can you tell us a little about your family?

My father had been in the Gurkhas during the war and later joined a tea company; my mother met him in Calcutta where she was a dancer in the cabaret at the Grand Hotel. It all sounds like a novel. I have been married to Martin for 35 years and have grown-up children, Matt and Hannah, and we lived in West Sussex for most of that time.

And how about your working life?

I finished my PhD on British Propaganda in the Second World War and then found a job in educational publishing. I left to work for the National Trust and was with the Trust for 20 years, firstly in Yorkshire and then at Petworth, and finally as Area Manager for West Sussex and part of Surrey.

Cont...

In 2007 I took up the post of Director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) and left after ten years to become Director General of the Royal Overseas League. I decided to retire in 2020. My time at the SBT was the highlight of my career and we had a whole string of important Shakespeare celebrations during that decade: the 2012 Shakespeare Festival linked to the London Olympics, the 2014 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth; the 2016 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Holy Trinity Church was always a key partner in all these events, and we were custodians of the town's archives as well as those of the RSC and the Church. Volunteers were key to much of our work, especially the dig at New Place and at Mary Arden's Farm and in the archives. I was lucky to work with such a great team of staff and volunteers as well as many organisations in Stratford including Holy Trinity, the RSC, the Town Trust, the Town and District Councils. We didn't always agree but we were able to discuss and debate amicably – mostly!

Do you live in Stratford?

Yes, in Old Town, as my work brought me here.

Do you have any hobbies?

I love to read and enjoy my time as a volunteer at the Oxfam bookshop in Sheep Street. I also love to walk around our beautiful countryside, cook, garden, and practice yoga – mostly at home with online classes these days.

What are your tastes in music and literature?

I have really missed live performances, and I go to the RSC and other theatres and venues. I have wide tastes and the only things I won't go to see are very gory or scary productions or films – though that doesn't include Titus Andronicus!

Diana, thank you so much for letting us hear about your life and work, and especially your childhood in India.

Judith Dorricott

NATIVITY FIGURES



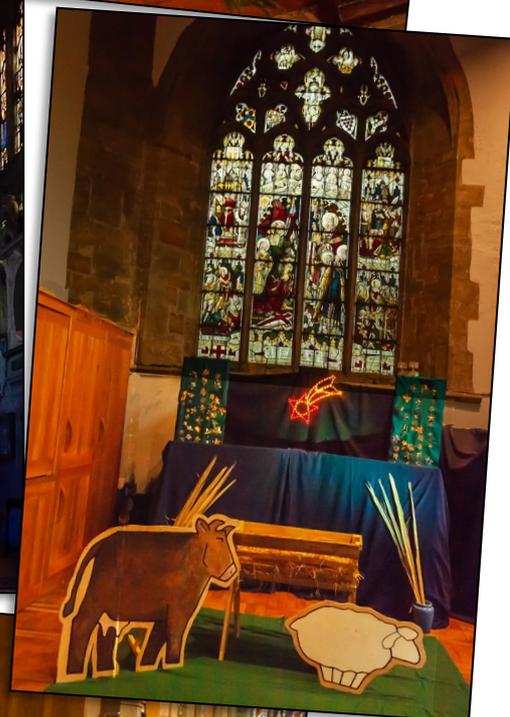
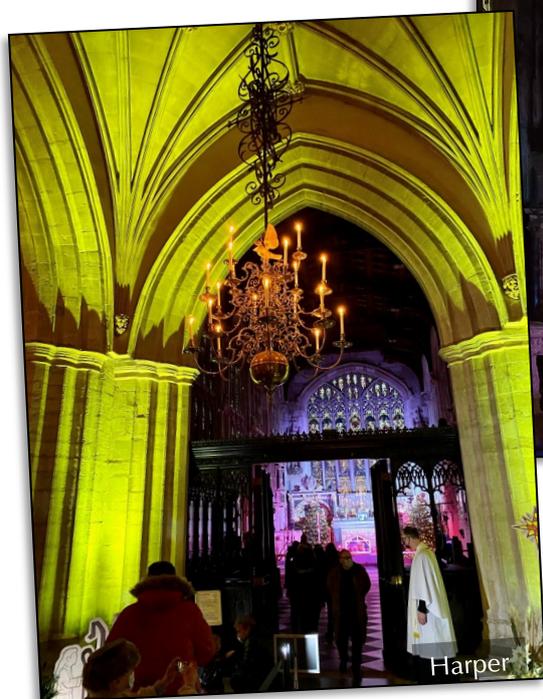
A huge thank you to those who helped make the Nativity figures for our Walk-through service.
Phil Harper

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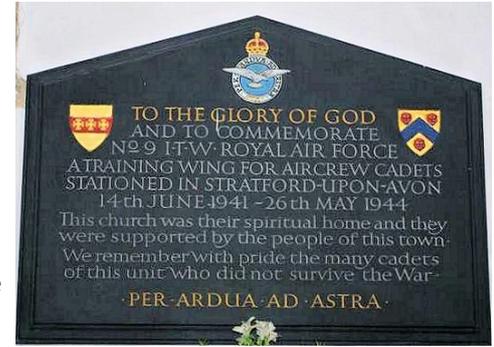
CHRISTMAS EVE WALK-THROUGH CAROL SERVICE



APPRECIATING THE RAF MEMORIAL ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE CHURCH

Many of you will have looked at this memorial. These airmen were based at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, No. 22 Operational Training Unit. No.9 Initial Training Unit. Training was undertaken with Vickers Wellington Bombers. In addition Avro Anson Navigational trainers could be used. Training was undertaken for U.K. and Commonwealth aircrews, pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, wireless operators, and airgunners.

Flying accidents were very frequent with much loss of life. Wellesbourne lost 96 Wellington Bombers in operation and training accidents. 315 airmen were killed, and 80 airmen injured.



My father was a National Fire Service fireman based in Stratford, and he told me about the service being called out to plane crashes. Many airmen killed as a result are buried in a section of Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery.



On the 11th November at 11am each year, a wreath laying ceremony is still undertaken. I used to help The Air Crews Association with a short service. I always felt moved by the thought that many of the parents of these young men, would probably never be able to visit their graves.

Roy Dyer

THE CLIFFORD CHIMERS

Following the works completed in December 2019 at St Helen's, Clifford Chambers, with the installation of new bell rope guides, a new group of learners from the village were ready to start to learn. However, due to the virus we had to wait nearly two years.

We started in mid November 2021 with lessons at Holy Trinity Stratford Upon Avon, using for the first time the recently installed "dumb Bell" and fourth bell tied off. With the ten new ringers from Clifford Chambers, we got under way with one hour lessons undertaken by Annie Hall and Myself. By the middle of December, we were able to take seven learners to St Helen's to start chiming for the first time.

All seven were doing very well, so on the evening of the 23rd December we chimed for our first service, followed by chiming on Christmas Day before the Christmas Service. We all agreed it would be great to meet on New Year's Day to both chime and then for the first time, starting both back and hand stroke ringing to enable the clapper to strike on both sides of the bell (chiming is only striking on one side of the bell), on all six bells at the same time.

We now plan to complete our ART (association ringing teachers) level One ready for open ringing on Easter Morning, so that Annie and I are ready to continue with lessons again on Monday/Tuesday afternoons at Holy Trinity and St Helen's.

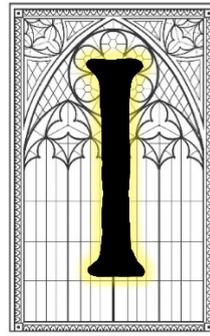


Clifford Chimers on New Year's Day. Left to Right: Mark Sayers, Michelle Heisch, Phil Woolvin, Sam Dixon, Andrew Martin, Pat Woolvin and Linda Casement (7th ringer missing being Sally Abell)

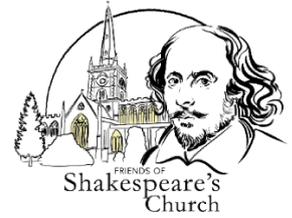
Mark Sayers

ST ELIZABETH

In the eastern wall of the north transept is a slender lancet window, showing St Elizabeth of Hungary. This is the oldest masonry in the church, dating from the 1100s when the building was a simple cruciform structure, before the tower was raised. The narrow north aisle of the nave provided a processional pathway that passed through an arch in each side of the transept and continued around the apse of the old chancel.



Illuminations



This lovely window, arguably the most beautiful in the church, was made in London by Messrs Lavers and Westlake, and installed in 1893. It was given by her sister in memory of Miss Emily Minet, who for many years was superintendent of the hospital and convalescent home for sick children in Stratford, in that handsome building in Rother Street, now the Play House. She was actively involved in church and social affairs and was enormously popular throughout the town. Her flower arrangements in Holy Trinity were often mentioned in the press. The subject of the window is very appropriate for a lady whose life's work was dedicated to help the sick and poor.



Just such a woman was Queen Elizabeth of Hungary. In 1221, at the age of 14, she married Louis IV of Thuringia. She bore him three children, but was widowed at the age of 20 when he went on a crusade and died of the plague in 1227. She regained her dowry and spent enormous sums founding hospitals and providing for helpless children, particularly orphans. Then she worked among the poor and needy until she died aged 24, and was soon canonised.

The legend of St Elizabeth is pictured in the lower panel. While she was taking bread to the poor in secret, she met her husband Louis out on a hunting party. In order to quell the suspicions of courtiers that she was stealing treasure from the castle, he asked her to reveal what was hidden under her cloak. In that moment, her cloak fell open and a vision of white and red roses could be seen, which proved to Louis that God's protecting hand was at work.

60 YEARS A PRIEST

On December 21st 2021, Prebendary John Hall-Matthews celebrated the 60th anniversary of his Ordination as a priest, by presiding at a Eucharist in Holy Trinity Church. The congregation of around 70 people included people from many stages of his ministry, as well as members of our parish congregations. Below is the address that John gave.



One of my earliest memories as a child growing up in South India was the visit to the school of a Priest from the Syrian Orthodox Church. He told us that there was a long tradition that the Apostle Thomas came to India to the ancient Jewish synagogue at Cochin proclaiming that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Thomas is often called Doubting Thomas, because he refuses to believe at first that Jesus had risen, but I would like to call him Courageous Thomas because when he experienced for himself and seen the Risen Christ he said “ My Lord and My God”, often described as the climax of John’s Gospel, and then he set out to witness and proclaim that Jesus was alive and through his spirit lives in us. It seemed so appropriate for me to be ordained on his feast day.

I am deeply grateful to my parents Berners and Barbara Hall for the gift of faith and helping me to experience for myself the Resurrection of Jesus and fostering in me a vocation to be a Priest. After schools in India and England and University and work in Australia, I attended the College of the Resurrection Mirfield and was ordained on this day 60 years ago. I was delighted that Tricia, to whom I was engaged came to support me with her parents Donald and Norah Field, and that my step father John Matthews, who was Bishop of Carpentaria in Australia had come to take part in my ordination.

During my ministry I’ve served in two curacies, two school chaplaincies, two parishes and lived in two retirement homes! We’ve been in seven different dioceses! I was first a curate at Saint John the Evangelist Woodley near Reading, and was nurtured by my Vicar to value the Daily Offices Morning and Evening Prayer, which have been a mainstay all my life as a Priest. In those days, parish visiting was a top priority, and as a result I made some good friends. I also ran a youth club for boys and girls.

When Tricia and I got married at Southwark Cathedral in 1963, I moved to the Parish of the Isle of Dogs in East London in the days of the London Docks, and loved the friendship and the humour of the Eastenders. Tricia was finishing her medical degree at Guy’s Hospital London and after qualifying she had to do resident House Jobs. While she did this I spent my last year as a curate also doing a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at King’s College London.

As a result I was invited in 1965 to become Assistant Chaplain at Christ’s Hospital School, in Horsham, West Sussex, which at that time was only for boys. I enjoyed life there for seven years. I loved the teaching and the pastoral work, especially among the junior boys. Student riots in the late sixties were reflected in the attitudes of the senior boys and compulsory chapel became a hot issue, as was the debate about long hair! During that time our children were born, Clare, David, Rebecca and Sarah, and what joy they have given us. I was pleased that David later attended the school as did our grandson Sasha. Poppy is still there in her final year and we were delighted to see her playing in a band concert and singing in the Carol Service recently. She developed her love of singing here in Holy Trinity choir.

In 1972 I was invited to apply as Chaplain of the Royal Hospital School Holbrook near Ipswich, for the sons of the Navy and Merchant Navy. There I particularly enjoyed working alongside a Roman Catholic and Free Church Chaplain, which gave me good ecumenical experience. I saw my role as supporting the headmaster and being chaplain to the teaching staff as well as the boys - caring for the whole community. Accompanying a dying staff member drew me back towards parish ministry. I also learnt how to manage conflict there.

Cont...

After 10 years as a school Chaplain I was invited in 1975 to be a Parish Priest at Saint Paul's Church, Tupsley, with St Andrew's church, Hampton Bishop, in Hereford, where I had the pleasure of working with 12 Curates, as it was regarded as a Training Parish. I learnt so much from them. I enjoyed being involved in education and was Chair of Governors of two Church Schools. We held an Ecumenical Mission in 1978, with the local United Reformed Church, and we were delighted to be joined by three Franciscan brothers and a sister. We called it Celebrating Christ, and invited people in the community to celebrate in Worship, the Arts, and in Outreach. We achieved our third goal when our final service was broadcast live on ITV. That was exciting!!

When I was made Rural Dean of Hereford in 1984, I took part in producing a Passion Play which we held in the centre of the city on Good Friday. We had a cast of 300 and as we processed to the cathedral Close for the crucifixion scene, over 3000 people followed us into the cathedral to celebrate the Resurrection at the end.

We enjoyed a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with our neighbouring Parish Colwall, which was hugely rewarding. We loved the Sea of Galilee, and a highlight was celebrating the Eucharist in a cove by the lake which created a great atmosphere. We loved the mount of Transfiguration with glorious views. We also enjoyed seeing sites we read about in the gospels.

Tricia joined me on a Sabbatical three months in 1987 which took us back to India, the land of my birth as part of the United Society of the Propagation of the Gospel's Experience Exchange programme. We visited many churches, hospitals and schools throughout India. We were also able to visit my childhood home at a school at Lovedale near Ootacamund, where my father had been headmaster. We visited my father's grave with people who remembered him. He had died suddenly there when I was nine, and I was not allowed to attend his funeral. We had an inspirational visit to Shantivanam Ashram where we met Bede Griffiths, who encouraged us to work for what he called the marriage of East and West. When we stayed at the Bishop Wescott School in Ranchi, where my father had previously been Head teacher, I was delighted to discover that he had given to the school our family motto "Non nahor mihi solum" "I was not born for myself alone". We also visited Madras, Delhi and Calcutta, where we met Mother Teresa. We loved sharing in their worship and Tricia spent some days in her Home for the dying.

After fifteen very happy years in Hereford I was invited in 1990 to be Team Rector of the Parish of Central Wolverhampton, working alongside three Team Vicars, looking after four churches, with Saint Peter's Collegiate Church in the town centre. It was a joy to be involved in the life of Saint Peter's Collegiate School, as Chair of the Governors. In 1994 we had a great year celebrating the Millennium of Saint Peter's Collegiate Church. Because of the close historic connection between St Peter's and Saint George's chapel in Windsor, Her majesty the Queen came to a service to mark our thousandth birthday with a magnificent flower festival. Preaching in front of her, in a packed church was an exhilarating experience, if a little scary! During that year we commissioned and performed a choral work about St Peter, PETRUS. I conducted the funeral of the England and Wolves footballer Billy Wright that year and when we held a carol service at Molineux Football ground for over 11,000 people, the Beverley Sisters helped lead us. Joy Beverley was Billy Wright's widow. I was then invited to be Chaplain of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club – a job I did for fifteen years, continuing into retirement, and was delighted when they were promoted to the Premier League. It was good to work with four more curates. Saint Peter's had a great choral tradition and we founded a girls' choir alongside the boys' choir. It was the life and the soul of the church.

In 1998 I had another Sabbatical which I spent at St Beuno's in North Wales, where I did the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola and trained to lead retreats and do spiritual accompaniment. This set me up for my chosen retirement ministry from when I retired in 2001, still continuing. I also took part in leading a number of Hereford Diocesan training courses in Spirituality.

Cont...

After fourteen happy years in our home in Shropshire, we moved here to Stratford-upon-Avon to be nearer our family, and love being part of Holy Trinity Church. It is very good still to be able to function as a priest at this stage of my life.

Since the 1970s Tricia and I have been members of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, which has hugely influenced us in our faith and the way we live. We meet regularly in local and Area groups, sharing worship and fellowship, and often food! We have had several wonderful pilgrimages to Assisi.

It has been fascinating to see how liturgy has developed from the Book of Common Prayer to Common Worship, bringing in inclusive language. I am delighted that the debate about women's ordination has resulted in women being ordained and now consecrated as Bishops. It was a joy to attend the consecration of Rose Hudson Wilkin, the wife of my first curate at Wolverhampton, as Bishop of Dover.

I would like to thank Tricia for being such a wonderful companion and support over the years. She has stood by me in all the ups and downs! We are so proud of our children and grandchildren, and it is a joy now to live within easy reach of all of them.

I have felt the hand of God guiding me through all these years. It has been a joy for me to celebrate Today and give thanks for sixty years as a Priest. Let St Paul have the last words:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say Rejoice. In everything in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” AMEN

The Revd John Hall-Matthews

TRINITY LADIES

Our February meeting is on Wednesday 16th and Dominic Bes-Jeary our Police Community Support Officer will be coming to speak to us about his work and how we can protect ourselves from Scams/ Fraud/Cold Callers etc. These are things that we unfortunately need to be aware of in today's society. I hope you will all find this interesting and informative.

In March we are holding our Charity Tea Party again in aid of the Fred Winter Project. Mr Paul Spooner from the project will be coming to tell us all about it as it will be opening in February and the first residents will be moving in during March, so it is very appropriate that we will be raising funds for this local project. Please put the 16th March in your diaries and bring your friends along to support us in raising as much money as we can.



Our meetings start at 2 pm and are held in the Parish Centre, new members are always welcome.

Gina Lodge
Chair

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 23rd February. The long dark days of winter are lonely days when you have lost a loved one, so if you think it would help to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2.30 pm we usually finish at about 4 pm. There is no need to make an appointment; we will be very pleased to see you.

Gina Lodge
Bereavement Co-ordinator

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT ALL SAINTS'





So much has happened in the world over the winter that it is hard to know where to start this column. But one event, just after Christmas, is of really historic significance: the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Other people in our congregation are far better qualified than I am to write about this spiritual giant, with whom South Africa's release from the evil of apartheid will forever be identified. But what stands out for me is his role in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has been copied elsewhere including Northern Ireland. His belief that, under God, reconciliation is possible even where conflict seems irreconcilable and atrocities have been committed – but only if the truth about that conflict, and those atrocities, is first faced.

Obituaries have recorded just how much that cost him. Opposed by much of the white community who saw their supremacy under attack. Opposed by some amongst his own black community who preferred to forget that not all the atrocities were committed by the other side. Opposed even by some who were his allies but felt that it was justice and punishment for the perpetrators of apartheid, not reconciliation, that was the real need.

There is no such thing as easy reconciliation and forgiveness. Some may remember that priest in this country who lost her son in a terrorist incident, felt unable to forgive his murderers, and therefore resigned her priesthood because she believed that this inability made it impossible for her to represent Christ. Was she right, or was her act of integrity itself a following of Jesus' example which paradoxically made her all the fitter to act as a priest? Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously said "Grace is free – but it is not cheap".

Facing up to evil, and sometimes passing judgment on it, is a necessary part of life. Some of us, at a far more trivial level, have had to deal with subordinates who have committed sackable offences. The struggle about justice and forgiveness in such situations is part of everyday life – but not the ultimate destiny of creation. T S Eliot, in one of his poems, spoke of a God's eye view of how, in the end,

.....the boarhound and the boar
Pursue their pattern as before
But reconciled among the stars.

There will always in this life be boars and boarhounds – and different races and nations, religious groups and world views – and they will often be rivals and hurt each other. But as Julian of Norwich put it, these things must be, but "all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well". Grace and forgiveness are real, and they are free, and they are the destiny which we must seek. But they are not cheap.

Tutu knew that, and he paid the price. Like most saints (read St Paul!), he was maybe not always "saintly" himself. But he will be remembered, not just as a Christian warrior for reconciliation, but as a fully human being who knew how to love and be loved. And not least he knew how to laugh and to enjoy life. I was, alas, never present on one of those occasions when he broke into dancing in a procession in some strait-laced London church. But those moments too will be remembered by those who experienced them. Irenaeus, one of the early Church's greatest teachers, once said "The glory of God is a human being fully alive". Desmond Tutu was fully alive.



As we begin to look towards Lent, let him, and his pilgrimage, be our inspiration.

CALL FOR PILGRIMS

Teach us that preparation is part of the journey, and that the journey is part of the gift. You offer us a way to follow, a path to tread, a journey that leads to hope, to joy, to trust and to love. (Prayer of penitence during the Advent service)



This is an invitation to join me in a pilgrimage. The aim is to walk all the way from Winchester to Canterbury. The distance is about 140 miles, so if one could average 12 miles per day it would take 12 days. The route will be along the ancient Pilgrims Way, believed to have been used since Neolithic times for travelling across southern England. Hilaire Belloc called it the Old Road, linking the capital of Hampshire to the capital of Kent. It follows the North Downs of Surrey and Kent, and for the most part is neither down in the valley nor up on the ridge, but halfway up the northern slope, affording shelter from the wind, warmth from the southern sun, and offering the most lovely views.

The ideal would be to have a small group of people of similar pedestrian ability, so that we would be comfortable walking together at a steady pace and stopping periodically to look at interesting places along the way. We would enjoy a time of fellowship, praying together, and talking about spiritual matters as the spirit led us. We would attend evensong in Winchester Cathedral before starting out, and in Canterbury Cathedral upon arriving.

The idea of a pilgrimage arose two years ago, when Sandra and I were preparing displays for the 850th anniversary of the murder of St Thomas Becket in December 1170. It was a revelation to learn how his death and subsequent miracles and sainthood led to an explosion of pilgrimage to his shrine in Canterbury Cathedral from all over Europe, which continued until the Reformation. Holy Trinity benefitted from this movement through the chantry chapel dedicated to St Thomas, founded by John de Stratford in 1332. The proposed journey somehow follows his career path: having been rector of Holy Trinity 1317-18, he was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 1323 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1333.

The object of this expedition will be primarily the journey, rather than the destination. Through the travails of walking, and overcoming obstacles along the way, we will seek to know ourselves better, and to know God's presence in our lives. We are not aiming to raise money for some good cause, nor to document the journey, nor to draw attention to ourselves, but to strengthen our relationship with God.

The suggested dates for the pilgrimage are the last week of June and first week of July 2022. It would be good to be in Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday 7 July for the Feast of the Translation of St Thomas, commemorating the famous occasion in 1220 when his remains were moved with great ceremony from the crypt to a magnificent shrine in the apse.

Our overnight stopping places would be pre-booked, ideally in B&B accommodation. We may use a luggage transfer service to carry bags between the overnight stops, allowing us to minimise weight by carrying only a small backpack during the day. It would also be possible to 'dip in and out' of the itinerary, by joining only on selected days.

If you would be interested to participate in this adventure, please contact me to discuss.

Lindsay MacDonald

King James Bible Conservation Saturday 26th February

Take the opportunity to work with our Conservator Victoria Stephens on two special events

Daytime engagement workshops for adults and children, including people with Special Educational Needs, neurodivergence and learning disabilities based on the materiality of the Bible. This will include papermaking, ink and pigment making and basic printing.

An evening presentation of the conservation of the project and the significance of the Bible to Holy Trinity, as well as the wider significance in the history of vernacular religious texts.



Check the Friends of Shakespeare's Church website <https://shakespeareschurch.co.uk/events> for more details.

TRINITY TIMES SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022



The Trinity Times Editorial Team are pleased to announce that from February 2022 (the first issue of the year) we will once again be offering readers the option of a printed copy of Trinity Times. The cost of a subscription for the year will be £10 for 10 issues. A small number of individual copies will be made available for purchase in the Church Shop at £1.50 each. Electronic copies will continue to be available, via the Newsletter and Church website, free of charge.

For subscribers living within the Stratford town boundary, we are intending to deliver magazines to their home. Those living outside the town can either collect their copies in church, after a Sunday service, or from the shop, when open. Alternatively, they can have them posted to their home address (there is an additional annual charge of £10 for this service, to cover the cost of package and posting).

If you would like to subscribe for a printed copy of the magazine:

- If you are reading this online, you can click on the link at the bottom of this article, which will take you to the online form and payment. This form can also be accessed via the Trinity Times section on the church website.
- If you do not have online access, you can send a cheque (made payable to 'Stratford-upon-Avon PCC') or cash addressed to Trinity Times Subscriptions, Holy Trinity Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG. Please include details of your name, address and phone number.
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[Please click here](#) to subscribe to Trinity Times for 2022 or to make a donation.

Paul Lageu
Trinity Times Editorial Team

FROM THE REGISTERS DECEMBER

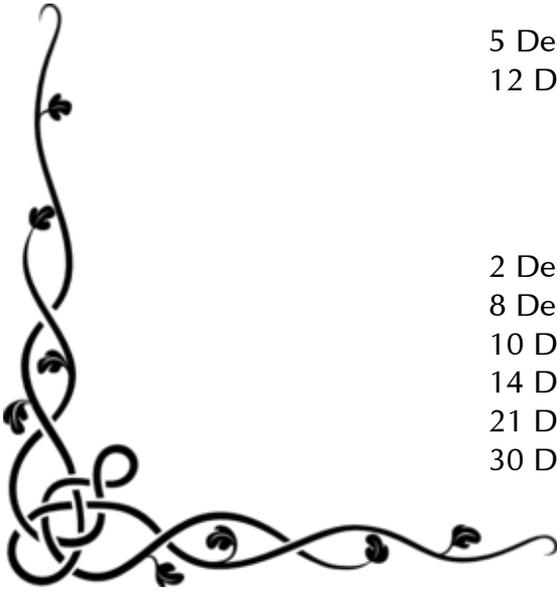
Christenings

5 December Henry Noah Reason
12 December Aria Hicks

Weddings

Funerals

2 December John Victor Maybery
8 December Harry Oswald Brooks (aka Dick)
10 December Tony Sher
14 December David Bennett
21 December Sheila Hilda Mary Rudkin
30 December Susan Green



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir

In his interesting and thought provoking sermon on Bible Sunday 2021, reproduced in the December / January edition of "Trinity Times", the Rev Steve Jarvis questioned whether it is possible for Christians to hold what is sometimes called a "biblical world view", or an overall perspective on the world formed and inspired by all of the Bible's broadly outlined principles and precepts. I believe it is possible to hold such a view, but only because, despite it being penned over many centuries and by many different people, the Bible displays an astonishing degree of unity and cohesion from Genesis right through to Revelation. As such, it is unique amongst the sacred writings of the world's major religions. Every major theme of the New Testament has its seeds in the Old, and every strand of the Old finds its eventual fulfilment in the New, in the person of Jesus Christ. As a notable Christian leader once wrote, "The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed." Doesn't this suggest a divine hand at work? God's authority is stamped on every page! So as the sermon stated, we do need the Bible, because being the Word of God, either reading it will keep us from sin; or sin will keep us from reading it.

Yours faithfully
Andrew Dow

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The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
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The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

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	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396	
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Harry Lomax

Volunteers ready to welcome people to the Walk-through Carol Service on Christmas Eve



Behind the scenes at Holy Trinity, preparing for Christmas