

March 2022

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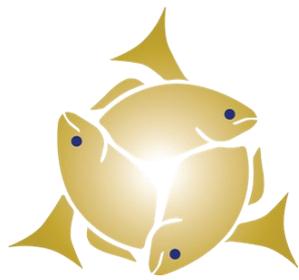


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Please note that views expressed in Trinity Times are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Parochial Church Council.

The next magazine will be the **April 2022** edition
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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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Front cover :- Daffodils

Holy Trinity Team



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Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

A NEW BEGINNING

Over the last few days, how often have you come across something to find fault with? How many times have you criticised someone else, not necessarily to their face, but in your mind or to someone else?

It is always easier to see the faults and the mistakes in others rather than ourselves. And yet to quote the Roman statesman and philosopher Cicero:

"It is the peculiar quality of a fool to perceive the faults of others and to forget his own. You can't clear your own fields while you're counting the rocks on your neighbour's farm."

We are all, once again, beginning our Lenten journey towards Easter. Perhaps this year is an opportunity to begin clearing our own fields, to look to improving ourselves and our outlook on others?



It is nearly 1,700 years since the festival of Lent was formalised at the first council of Nicaea in the year 325. Originally Lent was for the preparation of candidates for baptism and a time for those who had been excluded from Communion to undertake penance as they prepared to be readmitted to Communion. Wearing the sackcloth and sprinkling of ashes was a sign of their penance. By the 9th century the dress code had been relaxed and Lent had developed to be a period for all Christians to reflect and be reminded of their need for penitence. We realise that all of us fail and make mistakes, not just those who have been singled out by others. To this day we continue the practice begun centuries ago with the

drawing of an ash cross on the forehead on Ash Wednesday. But Ash Wednesday is just the beginning, a moment to acknowledge our failings and we then have six weeks to do something about it.

Times of self-reflection are always important, but especially through the lens of living our lives as Christians. Not to psychologically beat ourselves up, but to become better people who embrace the calling as Christians to strive to be Christ-like. Are all our interactions with others Christ like?

However you choose to mark the period of Lent this year; be it giving something up or taking something up, may it be something that will create a change in each of us to live up to the example we all try to follow. Across Lent this year, perhaps keep in your mind Jesus' words from Matthew 7.3, a verse I always think shows Jesus' humorous side, which in turn makes it memorable:

"Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?"

Do our actions encourage others to be the best they can be? Do our words build people up? Do we inspire others through that we do or say? Are we having a positive impact upon our communities? Or is the log in our eye stopping us from seeing the changes we need to make?

As we journey through Lent, may we be prepared to challenge ourselves and our thinking, to create space for God to be at work in our lives, shaping us into a fuller child of God.



Phil Harper

Worship Notes in March.



Growing in Prayer during Lent

Lent begins this month and we are encouraging everyone to focus on our daily habits and patterns of prayer. How do you pray? What works for you? We all need help with praying and our Lent book this year offers us some practical assistance. It's *7 Ways to Pray* by Amy Boucher Pye. The 10am Parish Eucharists at Holy Trinity in Lent will follow the same theme, exploring different approaches to prayer.

Ash Wednesday, 2nd March -at the start of our Lenten journey we recall our dependence on God's grace. I would encourage all those who are regular worshippers to attend a service, if possible, to receive the sign of the cross in ash. There are two opportunities in this parish:

10am Said Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Weekly Sunday services are resuming at All Saints' and St. Helen's in March. See the parish service schedule on page 6 for full details.

Mothering Sunday is 27th March -note clocks go forward!

Guild Chapel services The 10am Wednesday service of Holy Communion will be moving to Holy Trinity during Lent, due to restoration works taking place in the Chapel. We hope to return to the chapel after Easter.



Dr Austen Ivereigh

Eco Chat – March 2022 The vision of Pope Francis

People in Stratford will have a chance to find out more about the global vision for the planet of Pope Francis when his biographer Austen Ivereigh talks at Stratford Churches Together's Eco Chat in March.

Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter to humanity, *Laudato Si': On care for our common home*, in 2015. A powerful critique of current models of production and consumption that was influential on the outcome of the COP21 meeting in Paris later that year, *Laudato Si'* places the Christian Church at the heart of calls for a new mindset of respect and care for the natural world.

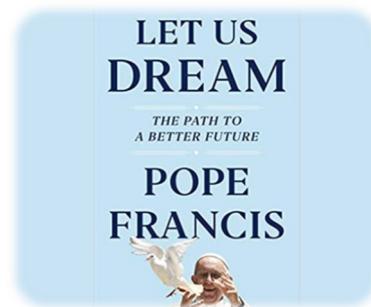
More recently, Pope Francis has published *Let Us Dream*, a blueprint for building a better world for all humanity by putting the poor and the planet at the heart of new thinking.

The Pope's collaborator on that book, Dr Austen Ivereigh, a Fellow at Campion Hall, University of Oxford, will explore some of the themes from Pope Francis' work at Eco Chat on the topic: 'Greening the Church: Pope Francis's call to ecological conversion'.

The Eco Chat will be held online on Saturday 5 March, starting at 10.30 am.

The link for the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82801321486?pwd=VIRHanBUWUdCaHFtSnNVRmJzaG9YUT09.>



SERVICES IN MARCH



Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

6 March - Lent One

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Growing in Prayer - Praying Alone*
5pm - Holy Communion

13 March - Lent Two

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Growing in Prayer - Listening to God*
5pm - Choral Evensong

20 March - Lent Three

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Growing in Prayer - Everyday Prayer*
5pm - Holy Communion (Traditional)

27 March - Mothering Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist ~ *Growing in Prayer - Giving Thanks*
5pm - Taize Service

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

6 March - Lent One

9.30 - Holy Communion

13 March - Lent Two

9.30 - Morning Worship

20 March - Lent Three

9.30 - Morning Worship

27 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

6 March - Lent One

9.30 - Holy Communion

13 March - Lent Two

9.30 - Holy Communion

20 March - Lent Three

9.30 - Holy Communion

27 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A sermon given by the Vicar at Evensong on the 70th anniversary the Accession to the Throne of her Majesty the Queen. 6 February 2022*

One of my favourite stories about the Queen is of a time when she was greeting a member of public on a walkabout, and their mobile phone went off. The Queen said, "You'd better answer that, it might be someone important!"

Her Majesty is by any measure a remarkable woman. She's the longest reigning monarch in British history, and the longest still-serving sovereign in the world. She has been the adviser and confidante to fourteen British Prime Ministers. She's a ninety-five year-old senior citizen, and until recently still worked over forty hours a week. She is the most famous woman in the world, but seems as relaxed mixing with ordinary people as she does in the company of celebrities or other Heads of State. She is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, has always attended church weekly, even on holiday, and prays daily but never tells anyone to go to church. She has no power to make political decisions but her personal authority has brought nations together. She has had a gruelling travel and work schedule for nearly seventy years but, as political commentator Andrew Marr pointed out, "There are no reliable recorded incidents of the Queen losing her temper, using bad language, or refusing to carry out a duty expected of her." Most of us would find it hard to match that record for a week, never mind seventy years!

What is the secret of the Queen's remarkable consistency of character and extraordinary contribution to nation, Commonwealth and the global community? It's a question she herself answered back in 2002:

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."

There are, however, a great many things which we don't know about the Queen. She met with Margaret Thatcher every week for eleven years but no one really knows what she thought of her. Or of Tony Blair. Or indeed our current Prime Minister! In an age when we are besieged by armies of celebrities telling us about almost every aspect of their lives through social media, the Queen has kept most of her thoughts to herself. I'm sure she has a great many strongly held, well-considered personal opinions about a great many matters, but we don't know what they are.

Curiously, that is not the case about her faith in Jesus. About Jesus she has been remarkably, one might say uncharacteristically, open about what she believes. And this is made most clear in her annual Christmas broadcasts where she speaks of Jesus Christ as 'an inspiration, a 'role model and an anchor' in her life. In one of her Christmas addresses she said:

"Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself- in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose."



Indeed, the measure of how Jesus Christ influences the Queen is not only in her public pronouncements but in the priorities she sets for her life and in the way she goes about her ordinary daily tasks. Compare the Queen with the endless list of despotic rulers that litter history, or the many over-demanding bosses that sour our workplaces. By contrast, Elizabeth II shows us how power can be used considerably and respectfully.

Sermon cont.....

St Paul, in our second lesson this evening [Romans 13: 1-11], reminds us of Jesus' summary of the commandments: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Each of us is called to live this out in our daily lives, to give this spirituality a practical purpose, as the Queen so helpfully puts it. The Queen herself has lived out her calling to love of neighbour through her service to us all. As she said in that well known speech on her twenty-first birthday in 1947,

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service".



World leaders say that there is something about the Queen, a calm authority, a kind of peace perhaps, that marks her out. She takes her holidays and, though there are State papers to read every day, she takes no engagements. She doesn't justify her existence by how hard she works or feel that the world cannot get on without her. There is a time to rest.

In addition, she has shown herself to be enormously adaptable to changes in technology and culture, growing up before there was TV, the internet or jet engines. She has preserved the dignity of the role she has been asked to play but has known when to engage more informally. Who can forget her film debut in the 'Bond' themed cameo at the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games, something we are told she was 'delighted' to do.

Certainly there is much more to Elizabeth than her faith in Christ but it's been said that *you cannot understand her without understanding her devotion to him*. It shapes everything she does. As broadcaster Jeremy Paxman put it, her religious beliefs are 'quietly held', 'authentic and well-known'. The reality is that Elizabeth II has consistently, winsomely and publicly honoured the God she serves and has been an extraordinary example of joyful, persevering, life-affirming, generous-hearted, unstinting, wise service on behalf of others.

Six months before her Coronation, Elizabeth asked the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth to pray for her, saying this:

"Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."

God has clearly answered those prayers.

As we celebrate this Platinum Jubilee, we owe to God and to her Majesty the Queen our enormous gratitude.

Amen



* I am indebted to the Bible Society for their publication *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*"(2016), from which much of the material for this sermon is taken.

Trinity Tots and Ken Kennett Stay and Play.

We are planning to re-start both our toddler groups, but to do this we need more volunteers to help. The main role is talking with the parents and helping the children engage in the activities. Not only do these groups support the children christened at church, it's an important part of our outreach into the community. Because parents and children have been isolated these groups play an important part in supporting the mental health of adults and children. The Ken Kennett group meets on a Tuesday morning and the Trinity Tots on Thursday afternoon. If you're interested in helping, please get in touch with me phil@stratford-upon-avon.org



Children and Youth Involvement in 10am Parish Eucharist

We are exploring ways for children and young people to be more involved in the Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist, to take their part in leading people in worship. Their involvement will take many forms, below are some ways for them to become involved.

Acolytes

To join our serving team and processing with the candles. If your child is interested there's a chance to meet with Chris Cornford (lead of the serving team) after the 10am service on **6 March**.



Audio Visual

Joining the team who operate the cameras, sound and PowerPoint for the service. On **6 March**, after the service, there's the opportunity for them to use the equipment and see if it interests them.



Choir

Children are always welcome in the choir. If your child would like to join email our Director of Music Douglas douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org



Reading, Prayers etc.

We are always looking for children to read, or lead the prayers (either ones written by themselves, or with the support of someone else). They might like to be part of the procession bringing the cross and Bible in, or to help lead part of the service. If your child would like to do any of these please email me phil@stratford-upon-avon.org or speak to me.

There are lots of other ways that children can take an active part in our service. To discuss how your child could be involved email me, or have a chat with me.

Phil Harper

Soul Space

by Les Albiston, a member of the Soul Space leadership team

Leslie Albiston BA MBE



You may well know the following anecdote concerning Louis Armstrong. So the story goes, someone once asked him earnestly, “Mr Armstrong what *is* Jazz?” He thought for a moment and then replied “Well if you have to ask the question, you won’t understand the answer.” It’s an amusing and neat response to a challenging question - you get it or you don’t get it, you’ve got it or you haven’t got it, or to use the vernacular, you dig it or you don’t dig it. This may well be true of Jazz, but if the same question were asked about faith I’m not sure Louis’ reply would be appropriate.

There are those who do perhaps feel that with faith “you’ve got it or you haven’t,” and linked to this is that well worn phrase “faith is not taught it’s caught.” Well perhaps it can be, but I have a suspicion that there are many ways to faith. We know that faith can come in a “blinding moment”: witness Paul’s conversion on his journey to Damascus. I must admit, this has not happened to me. My faith seems to be of the plodding kind, a long winding journey, one involving much meandering and many detours. If only I knew how to use my spiritual SatNav properly I know I’d be much nearer my destination now, but despite all my wandering, at least I feel I’m heading towards my destination, however slow and hesitating my progress may be.

And the grid references of my journey are a series of questions, endless questions it seems. “Why do I exist? Can the universe really be the product of chance? Who made it? Why? Why does God love me? How was Jesus both divine and human? What was it like to be a disciple? How does the Holy Ghost work? What is a miracle? How should I talk to God? What happens in church? What does the word Eucharist mean? Why do priests have robes and why do the colours change? The questions are endless - I think Louis Armstrong would long have lost patience with me!

But questions seem to be at the heart of my faith, in fact where my faith began. When Patrick invited me to join the team delivering the Soul Space programme I was flattered and frightened. How could I possibly be part of a team when my own knowledge and skills were so rudimentary? Supposing someone asked me directly and “who actually was King Adoni-Zedek”, or “so what exactly happened at Mizpah then”, and I had to admit I hadn’t got a clue? What I hope I can bring to Soul Space is the reassurance to all participants that all questions are welcome because they’re the way points on the journey of faith. I think Soul Space is a brilliant idea because it provides the “space” for people on the fringes of faith to ask all those questions without fear of embarrassment, a format in which questions can be posed, shared and considered, and that sense of community, which is also part of the Christian faith, can be fostered.

So if someone on the Soul Space programme asks me earnestly, “Mr Albiston what *is* faith?” you can guess what my answer *won’t* be! In fact my answer will be “Well if you have to ask the question, you’re already on your way to the answer. Your journey, your challenging, exacting, exciting journey of exploration and discovery, has begun!”



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 Shottery on Friday 4 March.

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, practising 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. “



MEET OUR NEW ORGAN SCHOLAR

AMELIA PARKIN



Did you hear a teenage girl playing the organ in church last month? This was Amelia Parkin, from the village of Ettington, who has just become our Organ Scholar. Despite her busy life, packed with school, homework, piano and organ practice, Amelia found time for a chat with me.

Amelia was born near Bath, but her family moved to Warwickshire seven years ago. Both Amelia and her younger sister Tessa attend Stratford Girls' Grammar School in Shotton and Amelia, now aged sixteen, will be taking her GCSE's in the summer.

The piano was Amelia's first love and she started learning through the Suzuki method (unusual for keyboard instruments) when she was five years old. Once in Stratford, she had lessons with Benedict Wilson, passing her Grade 8 with Distinction last year; she hopes to take her Diploma Exam next year.

Amelia joined the choir at Holy Trinity Church and realized she would love to learn the organ as well, so started lessons nearly three years ago.

She tells me that although the organ is more difficult to play as you need greater co-ordination, it appeals to her as people can listen to it in church. Amelia says "It's useful and inclusive."

The Organ Scholarship offers Amelia free lessons, and Charles Matthews is her current organ teacher. Amelia will play some of the hymns, as well as the Voluntary, in Holy Trinity Church on occasions, and play for one service a month at St. Helen's. Anthems may also be on the agenda with the choir!

After her GCSE's, Amelia is hoping to study English Literature, History, Religious Education and Politics in the 6th Form at school, with the aim of gaining an organ scholarship at University. Amelia loves both organ and piano music and, unsurprisingly, her favourite composer is Chopin, while for modern music, she enjoys listening to Taylor Swift.

Between piano lessons, organ lessons, practice for both these instruments, and choir practice, Amelia does not have much free time, but she sometimes joins in the Park Run in Stratford on Saturday mornings. She loves walking, not only in the Peak District and the Lakes, but also abroad. Austria is one of her favourite places to spend her holidays with her family.

Our congregations are delighted to listen to Amelia's organ performances and we all wish her well with her musical future.

Judith Dorricott



WHAT ARE LAY CHAPLAINS?

We represent Holy Trinity Church/Christian Faith to our visitors which may involve the following:



A welcoming smile!



??? Answering questions on the church or Shakespeare ???



Just being a listening post

Praying for a visitor

Public praying from the lectern



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12: 9 ~ 16



LAY CHAPLAINCY IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



HISTORY

The Lay Chaplaincy was started in Holy Trinity Church over fifteen years ago by Andrea Blood and Jan Craven. Initially there were about five members and they covered three two hour sessions per week in the church. I joined the group in 2010 which coincided with 800th anniversary of the church. I took over the leadership from Andrea three and a half years ago when she retired due to ill health.

After a year of lockdown, we returned for duty in the church last April following the Duke of Edinburgh's death. Since then we have managed to provide chaplaincy most mornings Monday to Friday. It has only been possible to provide this ministry since April because of the commitment and flexibility of the chaplaincy group.

Currently, we only have five Lay Chaplains and at this time we are covering two hour sessions on the mornings of Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We are always on the lookout for suitable people to join us in this important and interesting role.

As most of the duties are in the normal working week, all of our current chaplains are retired or semi-retired. However, as the church opens up more in the coming days, there will be opportunities to be part of our rota on weekends.

THE ROLES

The main role of a Lay Chaplain is to be a listening ear and to offer comfort and prayer in a non-judgemental way and by doing this act as an ambassador for the church and the Christian faith. This could be to an existing member of the congregation, a local person or a visitor from the UK or from overseas. It is impossible to know this until one engages with the visitor in conversation. When we are on duty, we greet the visitors, answer their questions and attempt to enhance their experience of Holy Trinity Church. We may offer them comfort or prayer and give them a blessing. Sometimes after we have said lectern prayers, an opportunity may open up to talk about faith issues.

QUALITIES

It is essential to have an active living Christian faith and to have a welcoming and friendly disposition and also to be able engage the visitors in conversation to enhance their visitor experience of the Church. One may need to learn more about the history of the church to feel comfortable in the role.

TRAINING

Following a clear DBS check, one will need to undergo the necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training and complete an online Listening Course. Prayer Ministry training is also desirable and other suitable courses may be useful to attend. Shadowing by an experienced Chaplain will continue as long as necessary.

COMMITMENTS

We expect a chaplain to have a rota availability of a minimum of two hours every two weeks and to attend a group evening meeting of two hours every two months to pray and share experiences.

CONTACT

For anyone interested in exploring this ministry opportunity, please contact Keith Payne informally for a chat to answer any questions by phone: 266242 or email: keithpayne1@hotmail.co.uk

BECOME A LAY CHAPLAIN!

REPRESENT OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH TO VISITORS BOTH LOCAL AND FROM ABROAD

CAN YOU MAKE VISITORS FEEL WELCOME?
A WELCOMING SMILE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE'S DAY.



WE OFTEN NEED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS: WITHOUT COMMENT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT AND WITHOUT NECESSARILY OFFERING ADVICE – THEY SOMETIMES NEED SOMEONE JUST TO LISTEN TO THEM.

SOMETIMES WE OFFER TO PRAY FOR A VISITOR
THIS CAN BE PRIVATE PRAYER DONE IN OPEN VIEW. WE ALSO OFFER LECTURN PRAYERS AT A SUITABLE TIME DURING OUR TIME ON DUTY ACCORDING TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH.



TRINITY LADIES

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. The Project was opened 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 16 March in your diaries and bring your friends along to support us in raising as much money as we can. Will members please remember to bring cakes, bought or made will be most welcome.



At a recent Committee meeting we decided to ask for donations of £5 for as much tea and cake as you can consume. Please help us to raise a good sum of money for this very worthy project in our town.

Also at our meeting we decided to ask members to put £1 in the pot as you come in if you can afford it. The cost of speakers has risen considerably and so we need to raise more funds. We appreciate that costs on food and heating are rising and so if you are struggling please just pay what you can afford. We do not want anyone to stop coming because they are finding things difficult. We also decided that it would be nice to improve our Raffle by asking three or four members each month to bring a good prize i.e. a bottle of wine, box of chocolates, box of biscuits or a plant. If we all take it in turns hopefully it will only be necessary to bring one prize each per year .

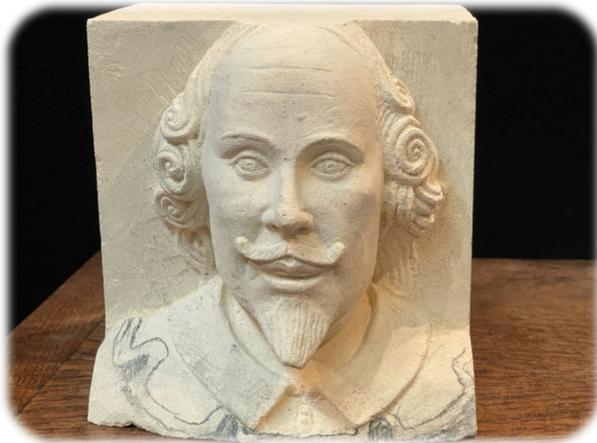
For our May outing we are planning to visit the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. We will leave the Parish Centre at 10.45 a.m. and return by 4.15 p.m. The cost will be £15.00 which includes the coach and entrance to the Botanical Gardens. Please pay Diane Edwards in April if you would like to come with us on this day out.

Our meetings start at 2 p.m. and are held in the Parish Centre; new members are always welcome.

Gina Lodge
Chair

Fresh Faces? – Have you just cleaned that part of the Church?

--- asked a visitor when seeing the bright stonework of the North transept after the scaffolding had been removed.



Completing the restoration on the North Transept, two new heads carved in stone have been installed in the window frame above the North Transept door. One is of William Shakespeare and is based on the monument in the chancel. The other is



based on the only surviving image that may depict Anne Hathaway - a line-drawing made by Sir Nathaniel Curzon in 1708.

Their installation marks the beginning of our preparations for a significant anniversary year in 2023: the 400th anniversary of the publication of the first Shakespeare folio, the 400th anniversary of the death of Anne Shakespeare (Hathaway), who is thought to have played a role in the publication of the folio, and also the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, the oldest primary school in Stratford.

The heads were blessed by Patrick on 20 January when two pupils from the school read the inscription on Anne's grave, which ends with the words "reach the stars". These are also the final words of the Holy Trinity school motto: Rooted in faith, we reach for the stars.

The heads have been carved by Corin Johnson; a local sculptor born in Warwick. The restoration of the stonework work on the North transept was conducted by Louis James and his team. During their time at Holy Trinity, Louis offered people the opportunity to see the work and explained how such conservation work is conducted. The project as a whole, costing around £150,000, was wholly funded by a generous donation from the Friends of Shakespeare's Church.

Mike Warrillow





There is so much going on in the parish right now, particularly as we enter Lent, that we could easily forget that “God so loved the *world*”. We in turn are bidden to love our neighbour – not just the people next door, or in our own country, and not even just the human race. I have heard or read many people, adding to those words about our neighbour, a reference to “the whole Creation”. And that is surely right, and the reason why our PCC has joined the Eco Church movement. Issues like the climate emergency raise questions for us as Christians, called to be stewards of that Creation, which we cannot ignore along with all the other issues that confront us as a church.

The PCC has made some progress in fulfilling that stewardship, as illustrated by the presentation below which Mike Warrillow made to our January meeting. We had pledged to aim for “net zero carbon emissions” by 2030, and we have already got a long way towards that in buying our electricity and even (so far as possible at present) our gas from renewable sources rather than using fossil fuels. We are working to improve insulation in the Parish Centre, and to experiment with new and more efficient approaches to heating in church. Projects are afoot to make the churchyard more friendly to wildlife, and we hope that some of these – and other projects as well – can be developed in conjunction with Holy Trinity School. Not just Holy Trinity but our village churches have contributions to make in such areas too.

In terms of educating ourselves and the wider public, initiatives range from the “eco tips” in our weekly bulletin to the monthly ecumenical Eco Chat sessions, to which some of our members have contributed significantly.

Eco Chat happens at 10.30am - either at the Methodist church or via Zoom - on (normally) the first Saturday each month. We have two particularly interesting sessions coming up. On 5 March we are privileged to be joined by Austen Ivereigh who is Pope Francis’ right hand person on environmental matters and contributed heavily to his recent book *Let us dream*. Then on 2 April the speaker will be our own Tony Guy, a director of the Heart of England solar energy project. More details from Tricia Hall-Matthews or in the weekly bulletin.

Some church members have attended Eco Chat regularly, but many more are not able to. Do we need an occasional meeting for Holy Trinity members alone, to update them on the issues and on what the church is doing about them? For example, we could meet one Sunday in church over coffee after the Parish Eucharist, to see Mike’s presentation in PowerPoint form and to hear our multi-talented chorister Amelia Parkin (who appears elsewhere in this edition wearing a different hat!) speak about her experiences at the COP26 conference last November – and to react to and discuss both, and what they mean for us both personally and as a church. Anyone interested in this should also contact myself or Tricia, and we might hope to arrange something quite soon – watch the weekly bulletin.

Lent is not a bad time to think more deeply about our responsibility towards “our neighbour” which is the whole of God’s creation, and about those of our neighbours, in other lands as well as nearer home, who are already suffering intensely from the climate and environmental crisis of our times.

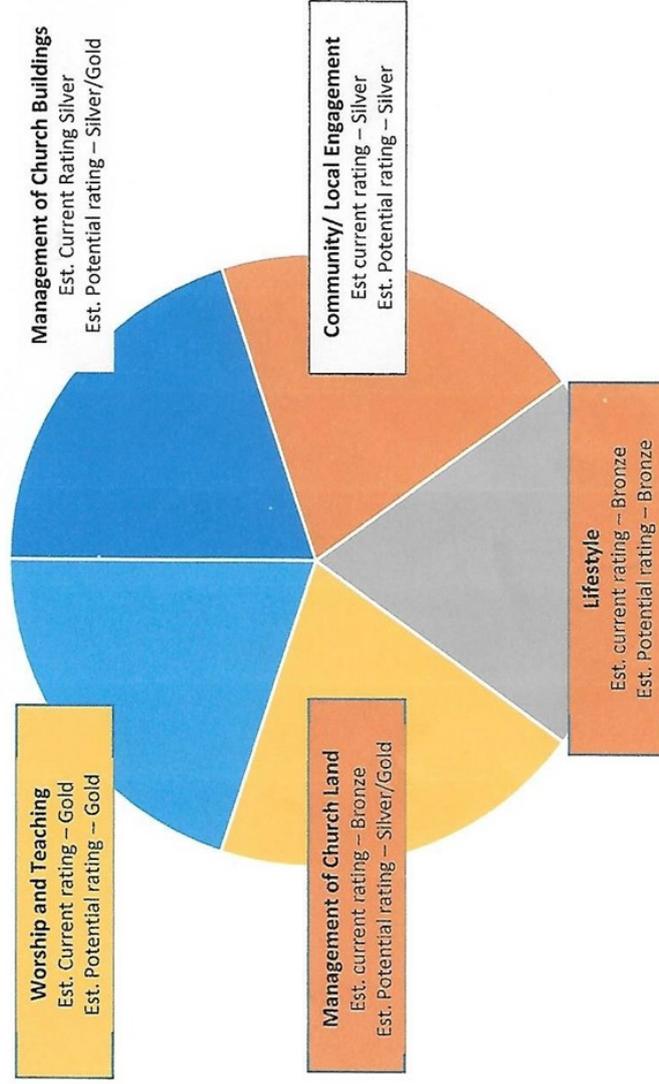


- There are three levels of Eco Church Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- The award is based on the lowest rating achieved. To qualify for an Award we must attain the required standard in each of the areas covered by the Eco Survey that apply.

Key Issues

How far it is the responsibility of a church like ours directly to shape the lifestyle choices of individual members of the congregation?

Do we want to go down the road of a “congregational environmental audit”, or promote attempts to influence members’ motoring, shopping and eating habits, as required to reach highest award levels?



STRATEGIC QUESTIONS FOR THE PCC --

At what level should Holy Trinity Church -- and the village churches -- want aim to qualify?
If and when should we apply?

SOCIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2022

SAT 8TH JANUARY
FISH & CHIP SUPPER
WITH BINGO



TUES 1ST MARCH
Pancake event

SUN 5TH JUNE
PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTY



SAT 9TH JULY
WIMBLEDON LADIES' FINAL DAY
& STRAWBERRY TEA



SAT 16TH JULY
BUTTERFLY WALK, CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



SEPTEMBER DATE TBC
SATURDAY WALK IN LUDDINGTON



SAT 8TH OCTOBER
HARVEST CEILIDH

For more information about our social events please contact Chris on 01789 204 273



SOCIAL
EVENTS

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



Photograph taken by Rhod Mitchell



Bell ringers at the Platinum Jubilee Service

By Marion Mitchell

It was a great pleasure to ring for the Platinum Jubilee service. For me it was the first time I had rung for such an occasion, but for others such as Charles Wilson, Peter Bridges and Jennifer Winslow, it brought back memories of ringing a Quarter peal, Grandsire Caters 1269 changes, which was rung to celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the 19 November 2017.



The certificate and record of the ringers on 19 November 2017.

Charles Wilson

19/11/17. 1296 Cymantre Caters.

1	Mich. Hillier	6	Jane Gilbert
2	Roger Hunt	7	Simon Adams
3	Jennifer Winslow	8	Paul Evans
4	Rachel Edge	9	Charles Wilson
5	Steve Botley	10	Peter Bridges

Peal to celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen & Duke of Edinburgh (20th Nov 1947)



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.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS - FEBRUARY

CHRISTENINGS

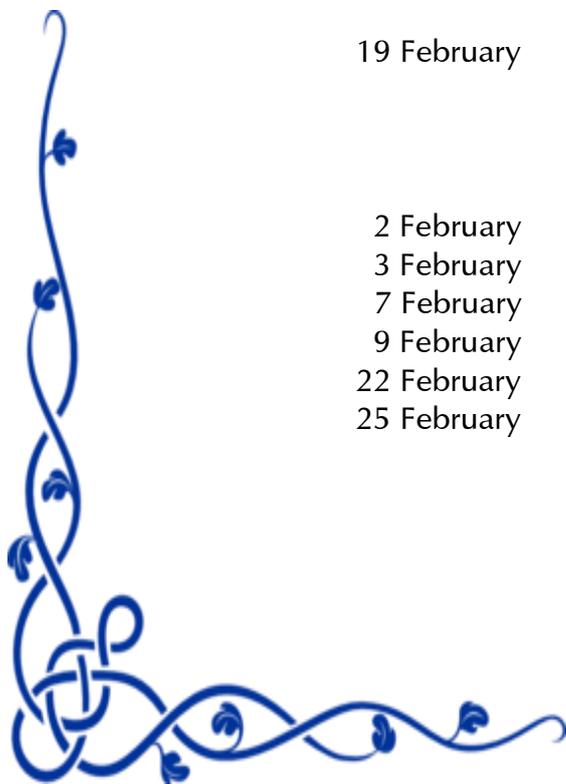
13 February Jocelyn William Seymour Yarmouth
20 February George Brown

WEDDINGS

19 February Ian Sherwin and Hannah Murray

FUNERALS

2 February Beryl Mary Thomas
3 February June Alice Coggins
7 February Christine Middleton
9 February Bernard Reginald Pummfrey
22 February Diana Rudge
25 February Edna Hiatt



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 23 March. Although the skies are getting lighter we are still pulling the curtains very early and the evenings are long and lonely 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 p.m. We usually finish at about 4 p.m. There is no need to make an appointment; we will be very pleased to see you.

Gina Lodge
Bereavement Co-ordinator

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Savonarola

In the north aisle of the nave, the window in front of the Clopton Chapel and above the piano, contains a surprising figure: a tonsured friar with a striking aquiline profile against a dark background. This is Girolamo Savonarola of Florence, one of the most controversial characters in all Christianity.

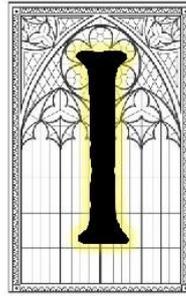
In his right hand he holds a cross fleury, in which the design at the ends of the arms suggests a lily in bloom, symbolising the Virgin Mary. The three petals of the open lilies represent the Holy Trinity. In his left hand he carries a bible and a palm leaf, the symbol of martyrdom, and around his head the hint of a nimbus suggests his possible beatification (wishful thinking on the part of the designer).

Savonarola became infamous for the destruction of secular art and culture, his prophecies of civic glory and calls for Christian renewal. He denounced clerical corruption, despotic rule, and exploitation of the poor. At his urging, the Florentines expelled the ruling Medici dynasty and established a people's republic. Declaring that Florence would become the New Jerusalem, he instituted an extreme puritanical campaign, enlisting the active help of the city's youth. New laws were passed against homosexuality, adultery, public drunkenness, and other moral transgressions. All manner of objects that might tempt one to sin were burned in 'bonfires of the vanities', including mirrors, cosmetics, fine clothes, playing cards, books of astrology, etc.

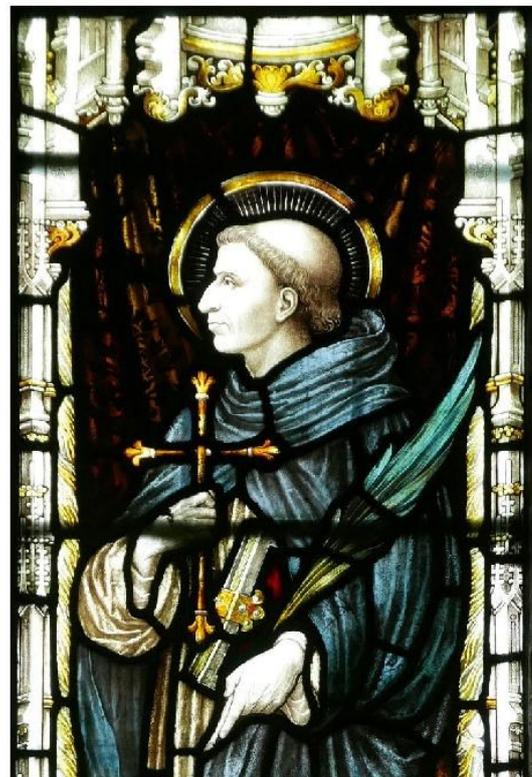
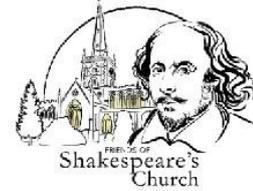
Savonarola's increasingly fanatical actions and his refusal to bow to papal authority incensed Pope Alexander VI. He was charged with heresy and sedition, then excommunicated, and finally executed in May 1498, being hung on a cross and burned to death in the Piazza della Signoria, the very place where the bonfires of the vanities had occurred. This led him to be seen as a martyr by many 16th century anti-Catholic reformers, most notably Martin Luther.

The stonework of this window, along with the others in the north aisle, dates from about 1325 when the aisle was widened to accommodate the Lady Chapel. The present window was made in London by Heaton, Butler and Bayne and installed in 1897. It was given by Sir Arthur and Lady Eliza Hodgson in memory of their sons Percival who died in Malta in June 1895, aged 35, and Edward who died at Clopton House in June 1896, aged 44. The designer was clearly influenced by the portrait of Savonarola by Fra Bartolommeo, c.1498, which hangs in the Museo di San Marco, Florence.

Why would the Hodgsons wish to associate the memory of their sons with a firebrand revolutionary who caused uproar throughout Italy? The other two panels of the window portray St Francis of Assisi and St John the Baptist, and collectively it is known as the Preachers' Window. In fact it was not the idea of the Hodgsons but of the vicar, George Arbuthnot, whose plan for the redecoration of the church was to fill each window with three figures representing saints, connected by some special grace or virtue. The irony is that, whereas neither of the deceased sons was interested in preaching, their brother Francis became a vicar and later inherited Clopton House and became Rural Dean of Kinton and Rector of Clifford Chambers.



Illuminations



Shakespeare's Coming Home!

Shakespeare has gone missing. We need to bring him home.

The lovely and important statue that usually adorns the niche above the entrance to the Town Hall was recently discovered to be falling to pieces. It is badly in need of full restoration and conservation. So, our Shakespeare has been sent away to statue hospital – at the cost £45,000.

It is an important statue for several reasons. In 1769, David Garrick was invited

by the Town Council to hold a Jubilee in celebration of Shakespeare, to open the then new Town Hall, and to grace Stratford-upon-Avon by becoming the first Honorary Freeman of the Borough. Garrick more than rose to the occasion. He built a temporary theatrical pavilion on what is now the site of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, invited his friend Thomas Arne to write music for Garrick's new Shakespeare Ode, and held a three-day celebration of music, pageant, fireworks, and concerts. To mark the occasion, Garrick recited his ode in front of the statue of Shakespeare (based on the one in Westminster Abbey), and gave the statue to people of Stratford-upon-Avon.

I was asked by our Town Council how we might raise funds – hence our project: *Shakespeare's Coming Home!* From 1 to 12 March from 'the prick of noon' to the 'chimes at midnight' – every day for twelve days, for twelve hours – I will, God willing, be leading a reading of Shakespeare's complete works in the ballroom of the Town Hall. Please come and join me – and David Troughton and his family, Dame Janet Suzman, Scott Handy, Dame Harriet Walter, some of *The Archers* actors, the Bishops of Coventry and Warwick, and many more...

You can support the project in four ways:

- 1) By coming along to support The Trinity Players when they gather to read *The Winter's Tale* on Wednesday 9 March from 7.00pm to 11.00pm. We ask for a minimum donation of £5 for audience members.
- 2) By signing up to take part in one of the readings, for a minimum donation of £25.
- 3) By making a donation with a cheque payable to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, marked 'Shakespeare's Coming Home!'.
- 4) By sponsoring my role in the project. I hope to read in all the works. You can sponsor me via: www.gofundme.com (then search under my name).

You can find out more via: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/shakespeares-coming-home>

George Pragnell Ltd. has made the Pragnell Pledge to the People of Stratford. They will match-fund what we raise – up to half the total amount needed. So, all donations are automatically doubled, and we only need to raise £22.5K after all!



A gift made to the people of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1769 by the great actor David Garrick.



The statue's niche is empty - until Shakespeare comes home.

Paul Edmondson



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council
invites you to

Shakespeare's Coming Home!

A reading of Shakespeare's Complete Works in the
ballroom of the Town Hall.

1 - 12 March 2022, from noon to midnight.

Special guest-stars include: Andrew French, Scott Handy, Robert Lister, Dame Janet Suzman, David Troughton and his family, and Dame Harriet Walter.



David Garrick gave the Shakespeare statue to the people of Stratford in 1769. It has become an icon of our local economy.

Please come and take your part in this reading of the Complete Works, or join the audience, or make a donation.

Sign-up to read or to attend the works of your choice via
www.ticketsource.co.uk/shakespeares-coming-home.



Our internationally famous and local jeweller, George Pragnell Ltd. has made the Pragnell Pledge to the People of Stratford and will match-fund what we raise up to half of our target of £45,000.

Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EF

Tickets can be purchased from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/shakespeares-coming-home

Cheques payable to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council



SOUNDBITES



02 March		Violin and Piano Duo
09 March	Westminster Ensemble	US Choir
16 March	Broken Bones	Tuba Quartet
23 March	KES year13 musicians	
30 March	Douglas Keilitz	Organ
06 April	Brass Minute	Brass Quintet
13 April	No recital - Easter break	
20 April	No recital - Easter break	
27 April		Harpist
04 May	Fumi Otsuki Sarah Kershew	Violin Piano

SAVE THE DATE
PLATINUM JUBILEE
STREET PARTY LUNCH

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE
at 12:00NOON

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to help set up on Saturday
evening and Sunday morning

For more information about our social events please contact Chris on 01789 204 273

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CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Can you assist ?

As we approach the beginning of April we are moving from shorter opening hours in church to our summer opening and there are still some uncovered sessions that we would like to cover so that we can extend our hospitality to visitors. If you are not already on one of our Church Teams and can offer a session (even if not every week) especially at weekends we would love to hear from you. Please drop Andy an email to let him know what you could manage:

andy@stratford-upon-avon.org



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PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town

Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

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 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	07434 328 484	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	Angela Wylam	01789 268 156
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 Contacts	Parish Office	01789 266 316 or office@stratford-upon-avon.org
Welcome Team	Eve Archer	
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396
Churchyard Maintenance		
Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110



It was great to see The Mayor, Kevin, and Mayoress, Pauline, at the recent Choral Evensong service at Holy Trinity Church to mark the beginning of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

We enjoyed singing traditional songs like "I Vow To Thee My Country" and hearing great music provided by the organist and choir. A very good sermon was preached by our Vicar, Patrick Taylor, and, at the end of the service, we all sang two verses of the National Anthem.

Roy Dyer