

February 2020

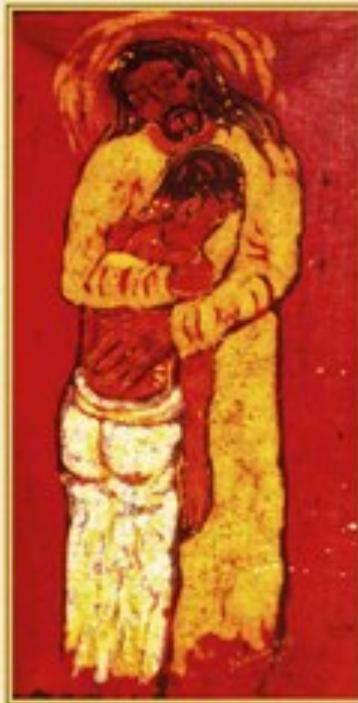
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TRINITY TIMES



Turned by Divine Love

Starting again with God and with others

JOHN STROYAN

Lives changed through God's love

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OF ENGLAND



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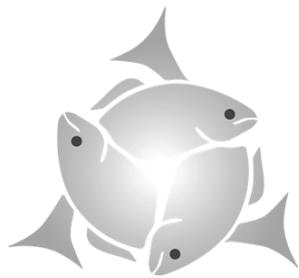


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This edition of Trinity Times includes information about the Lent course and our front cover shows Bishop John's book which we are recommended to buy and read throughout Lent.

Remember we love to receive articles and photographs for the magazine which can be sent to the e-mail address below.

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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 2020** edition and will be in church on 1 March

The copy date is 14 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:

timestrinity@gmail.com

The Annual Subscription to Trinity Times for 2020 is £8 and runs from January to December. Anyone taking out a subscription part way through the year will be charged on a pro rata basis. If you are interested in taking out an

Annual Subscription then please contact either

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Book cover of "Turned by Divine Love"
by Bishop John Stroyan

Holy Trinity Team



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Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

2020 VISION



I'm finding there's something strangely satisfying about being in the year 2020. It must be to do with the symmetry of the number when written down or the rhythm of it when spoken. If someone has "20/20 vision" then they are able to see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at that distance. In other words their sight is as good as it should be (although not necessarily perfect as there are other factors such as peripheral vision and colour). As we enter a new decade, is our vision as good as it should be? If it's not and we're just talking about eyes, then of course you need to visit the opticians. But what about our lives? Do we have a clear sense of direction and purpose? Have we discerned what God is calling us to be and do at this time?

The same questions need to be asked of our communities, including our churches. Our Parish vision is *lives changed through God's love*. It's wonderful to see this happening in people around us. What needs to change in how we behave and what we focus our energies on in order for *more* lives to be changed and in greater depth?

In this edition of Trinity Times there is an important article about our Five Year Plan which gives an update on our progress so far with making our vision a reality. Like 20/20 vision, we're not expecting to be perfect, rather to be as good as we can be with the resources we've been given. We are now nearly two years into our Plan and it's good to see how much has already been achieved, such as establishing our enquirers course called Soul Space, which has led to a new home group being formed for those who have completed the course. We have also established a special Mission and Outreach fund using profits from the church shop and established outreach work for children and adults in the north of the parish.

Our updated Plan includes some new items such as developing an environmental strategy so that we can achieve "Eco Church" status, which is for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth as well as the people on it. We are also putting more emphasis on the ministry of the whole people of God by encouraging and nurturing more volunteering for the work of God's Kingdom, and by extending our support to volunteers.

Lent will have arrived by the end of this month and this is a time for self-examination. When I go for a regular check up at my opticians I have to brace myself for some rather uncomfortable examination of my eyes to see if they are healthy and functioning as best they can. It's amazing what an optician can discover about our general state of health from the condition of our eyes. The same is true of our soul: if we take time to examine what state our relationship with God is in, we will know what might need to change in our lives, through God's love at work in us.

I cannot recommend highly enough our Lent book this year (details on page 14) which will lead you on a gentle journey of examination and discovery, deeper into the heart of God whose divine love is deeper and more generous than we can imagine. Reading it may not fix your eyesight, but it will give your heart a clearer vision of who God is and who we are created to be.

Patrick

WORSHIP NOTES

We begin the month with the feast of **Candlemas on Sunday 2 February**, which marks the occasion when the infant Jesus was brought to the temple by his parents. There is a special service with readings and music at 6pm at Holy Trinity. Candlemas marks a turning point in the Church year, as the Christmas season ends and we turn towards Lent and the cross

Open to God at 6pm on 16 February is a Taizé service (using music from this well known community in France) at Holy Trinity.

The Bishop of Warwick (Bishop John Stroyan) will be preaching at 10am on 23 February (a Food4thought service). We will be encouraging everyone to read his book "Turned by Divine Love" during Lent (more details on page 14).

Ash Wednesday 26 February. Lent will be upon us soon! Please do try to come to a service on Ash Wednesday to mark the start of this season of reflection with the reminder in ash that we are created by God and rely on God's grace to see goodness in our lives. There are two services offered, both with the imposition of ashes:

10am Said Eucharist (Guild Chapel)
7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

During Lent there will be special midweek services at Holy Trinity on Thursdays at 7pm (either Holy Communion or Stations of the Cross). More details next month.

Finally, a reminder:

Our Prayer Ministry Team offers personal prayer for anyone who asks for it (either for yourself or someone known to you) every Sunday during the distribution of Communion at the 10am Parish Eucharist (in St. Peter's Chapel or in the Beckett Chapel when it's Food4thought on 23 February.)

Patrick



LENT

SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 2 February - Candlemas

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Special Service

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 9 February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Sunday 16 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Open to God - Taizé - Holy Trinity

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

Rosebird Centre 10.00am HolyTrinity@Rosebird

Sunday 23 February - Sunday next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Food4thought with Bishop John

6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

Parish Centre 10.00am TrinityCentre@10



St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

Sunday 2 February 9.30am - Morning Worship

Sunday 9 February 9.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 16 February 9.30am - Morning Worship

Sunday 23 February 9.30am - Holy Communion Traditional



All Saints', Luddington

Sunday 2 February 9.30am - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 9 February 9.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 16 February 9.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 23 February 9.30am - Holy Communion



Holy Trinity Five Year Plan 2020 Update

How we are putting our Parish Vision into Action



The image of a tree shows how our Vision (the trunk):

lives changed through God's love

is expressed through our Purpose (the branches):

Worshipping God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit),

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ and Transforming Communities.

Our Five Year Plan (2018-2023) gives details of the tasks and projects we have decided to engage with during this period. This is our first update of the plan since it was launched in 2018.

There are three areas we continue to focus on:

Nurturing faith - of all ages and congregations

Reaching out - to parts of our parish where we currently have little presence

Resources - making best use of our people, finance and buildings

Some key Developments 2018-2019:

- Outreach café and parent and toddler group set up at Ken Kennett Centre
- Enquirers' course called *Soul Space* now running for the second time
- Monthly youth event taking place in Parish Centre
- New Sunday service pattern (TrinityCentre@10) in Parish Centre
- Funds raised for installation of audio and visual equipment in Parish Centre
- Recruited three new lay Deacons and set up training for others who lead worship
- Contactless donation point installed in church



Coffee Stop
At Ken Kennett Centre



Soul Space



TrinityCentre@10

Headline Goals of the 2020 updated Plan:



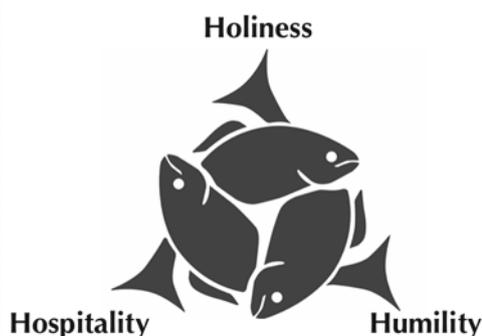
- Develop an environmental strategy
- Continue to encourage and nurture volunteering
- Develop a vibrant youth ministry
- Significantly increase our work with the wider community
- Re-order the parish buildings to be fit for purpose

For more details please pick up the 2020 Update leaflet or see the parish website.

Parish Values

A key focus now is developing our Parish Values.

Values reflect what we believe and what is important to us. They should shape our culture as churches, communities and as an organisation. They support making our vision a reality and indicate our identity as churches. Our values remind us how we should approach doing things and clarify to people outside the church what sort of community and organisation we are (or rather, aspire to be!).



Our values of **Holiness, Humility and Hospitality** have been established for some time. However, at a recent Away Day, members of the PCC felt that we needed to develop our understanding of what they mean for the whole parish, and that there is much to be done to encourage everyone to embrace them more fully.

Consultation and Teaching on our Parish Values

During Lent 2020 we will ask those involved in the Parish (all three churches plus Rosebird and associated groups) for their current understanding and experience of our values.

We will reflect on the responses and these will inform the next stage, which will be a focus on one of each of the values during the months of May, June and July. Through sermons, talks, magazine articles and discussions, we will explore a deeper understanding of our values and what difference they can make to who we are and what we do as church communities and individuals.

Ultimately, all of our plans and values need to be the will of God, and for the building up of God's kingdom in this parish. So please pray that through this process we will all follow more closely the Way of Jesus Christ and see more lives changed through God's love.

Patrick



*Most gracious Father, we pray for the Church:
fill it with truth.*

*Where it is corrupt, purge it;
where it is confused, direct it;
where it is right, confirm it;
where it is in want, provide it;
where it is divided, heal it.*

Unite us all in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

William Laud

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Instead of paying one of our trusted lawyers they are working for free and in doing so they ask that you provide Zoë's Place Baby Hospice with a suggested donation of £95 for a single Will or £180 for a joint Will.

Please call Dinah on 02476 361 675 or email Dinah.edwards@zoes-place.org.uk to arrange an appointment with one of our trusted Lawyers.

What can your donation get Zoë's Place?

£90.00 will pay for 3 hours of care for 1 child ; £180 will pay for 6 hours of care for 1 child; £200 will provide music therapy.

Who are we?

Zoë's Place Baby Hospice is the only baby-specific facility of its kind in the Midlands, providing 24 hour care on a 1 to 1 basis. We specialise in palliative, respite and end-of-life care to children aged 0-5 years, who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

With thanks to all our Law Firms taking part: **Alsters Kelley, Penmans, and Dixon Alderton**



TRINITY LADIES

At our January meeting we started the New Year with an interesting talk by Dallin Chapman on how to Explore Faith through novel writing.

On Wednesday 19 February Kevin Bond is going to tell us ways we can help to reduce the effects of Climate Change. This is something which should involve us all so do come and listen to what Kevin is advising us to do in our homes and lives generally to reduce greenhouse gases. Gentlemen as well as non members are very welcome to come and listen to this talk.

On March 18 we are holding our annual Charity Tea Party in aid of the Fred Winter Project for the Homeless. We will be charging just £2 for tea and as much cake as you can eat. Please bring your friends and join us in supporting this new project in Stratford.

We meet in the Parish Centre at 2pm and everyone is very welcome to join us.

Gina Lodge
Chairperson

Contemplative Prayer Group

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

Everyone is welcome

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



FROM THE REGISTERS NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY

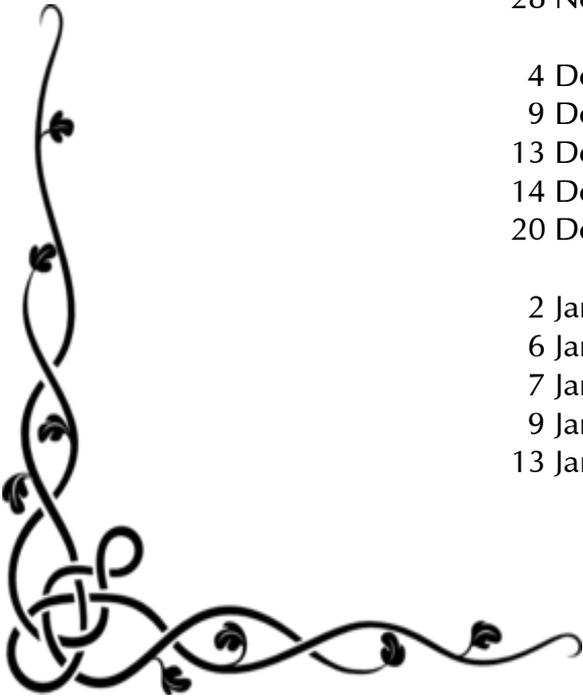
Christenings

8 December	Jax Geoghegan Cooper Lewis Lyam Lozano Ortiz
22 December	Isla Liccioni Gabriella Reginald

Weddings

Funerals

25 November	Beryl Escott
26 November	Ference Tabak
28 November	Diana Ballard Rose Heath
4 December	Josephine Chilver
9 December	Betty Prickett
13 December	Douglas Lidzy
14 December	Geoffrey Hamilton - All Saints', Luddington
20 December	Saskia Jones - memorial service Kathleen York
2 January	Sylvia Brace - All Saints', Luddington
6 January	Joan Crang - St Helen's, Clifford Chambers
7 January	Eddie Magee
9 January	Kenneth Sellers
13 January	Brian Vowels



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Rest and Renewal

Parish Weekend

9 to 11 October

2020 has arrived, and our Parish Away Weekend will be upon us before we know it. If you haven't already booked, now's the time to make that commitment to an amazing weekend of rest and renewal, and let's face it, who doesn't want some rest from this ever more speedy world, and a time to renew our faith.



Revd Paul Swann

We will be guided to achieve that elusive rest by the Revd Paul Swann, author of *Sustaining Leadership*, and Hon. Diocesan Spirituality Adviser for the Worcester Diocese, where he leads retreats looking at self-care, balance and feeding on divine love among other things.

To enable our renewal, we will be joined by the Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, who is the Church of England's Head of Life Events, and who will be looking at our ever-changing world and our responses to those changes.



Revd Canon
Dr Sandra Millar

Saturday afternoon will be free to pursue further rest, to begin your journey of renewal, to explore the countryside around Hothorpe Hall – Market Harborough is just 4 miles away – or to join with others in some (still to be decided!) organised fun.

Saturday night is full-on homespun entertainment – now you know how good you are at reciting *Albert and the Lion!*...and you ain't heard nothing until you've listened to *Cecil the Caterpillar!*

Sunday morning features one of the highlights of the weekend, an All Age Eucharist, described by one of our 2017 guests as "Sunday Eucharist – totally amazing – unforgettable", and by another "a number of us were reduced to tears during the Eucharist". The whole amazing weekend finishes with a delicious Sunday lunch to send us on our way home.

This year we have initiated a Support Fund, as we realise that there may be members of our congregation who would welcome, and benefit from, the opportunity to take part in the weekend. If you are one of these people, please tick the box on the booking form (available on the website and at the back of church), and we will get back to you.

If you need any more information, please contact Hilary Newman on 01789 296771, email hilnewman1945@gmail.com or have a word with either me or one of the clergy in church.

The cost is £180 per adult, with a maximum cost for a family of £400. The cost covers en-suite accommodation for two nights, and all meals from dinner on Friday through to lunch on Sunday, plus morning coffee and biscuits and afternoon tea and cake. Booking forms are available on the church website, stratford-upon-avon.org, or at the back of church.

Hilary Newman



Parish Weekend

at Hothorpe Hall, Theddingworth, Leics

Don't miss out—BOOK NOW

9—11 October 2020



Further information and booking details
are available on the website

stratford-upon-avon.org—Church Life

or contact

hilnewman1945@gmail.com



LENT 2020

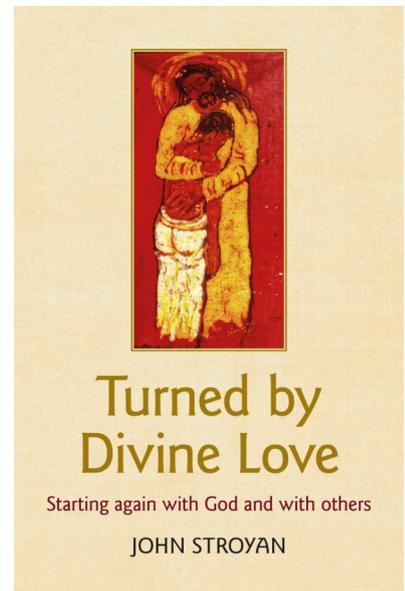
We are encouraging everyone this Lent to read “Turned by Divine Love: Starting again with God and with others” (BRF 2019) by the Bishop of Warwick, the Rt. Rev. John Stroyan.

This is an accessible book, richly illustrated, which offers inspiring insights and rich spiritual food for our journey through Lent. Bishop John’s writing is clearly the fruit of prayer, theological reflection and rich human experience, and evokes fresh praying and thinking about all the key relationships in our lives, beginning with God. Drawing on the rich Christian traditions of both east and west, it speaks of theology and spirituality, to the head and the heart. It is a book of hope, encouraging us all to make a fresh start with God and, entering more fully into the relationship of love to which he invites us, to go out and to witness to this love. In this unique bringing together of the riches of the Christian east and west is the call to hear God’s gracious voice today.

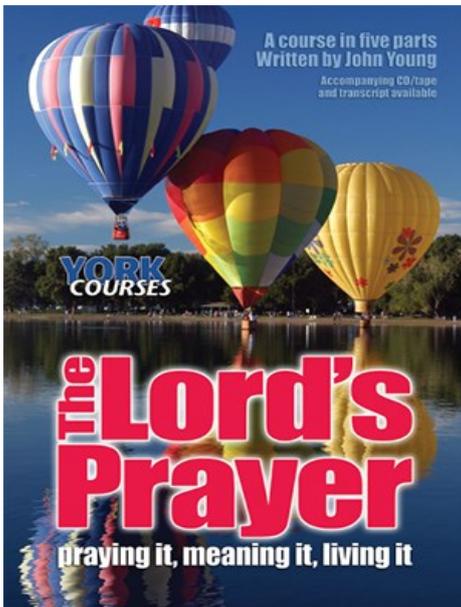
This wonderful little book weaves together depths from the Christian tradition, the experience of Bishop John and practical spirituality for readers: a perfect companion...certain to inspire and challenge in equal measure. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

This beautifully written book is an invitation to a deeper discovery of who we are and who God is. Amid our brokenness and longings, we are invited to see in new ways and to glimpse afresh what it means to be people of relationship, made in the image of God who is love and with whom there are endless new beginnings. Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester

“Turned by Divine Love” is available to purchase in Holy Trinity Shop at the discounted price of £9.50.



Lent Course 2020



This year we are joining with our brothers and sisters in Churches Together in Stratford for a course on the Lord’s prayer – praying it, meaning it, and living it.

The course has been devised by the creators of the York Courses, and involves input from various Christian thinkers and leaders. It is delivered by audio CD, and involves the purchase of a participant work booklet. There will be opportunity for small group discussion as we work through the course. Cost of each work booklet is £4.

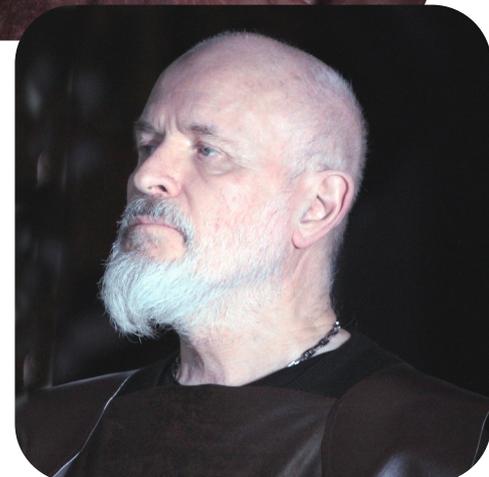
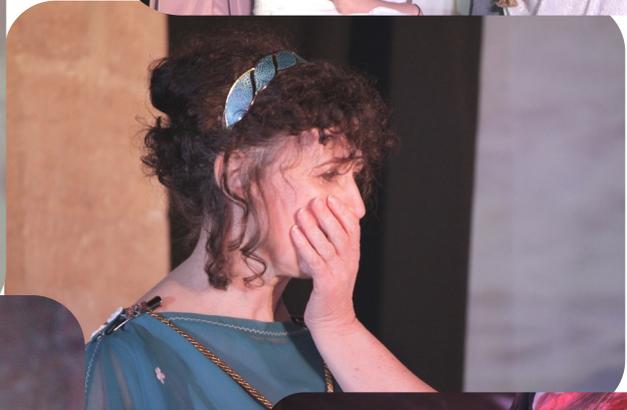
Member churches of Stratford Churches Together will be taking turns in facilitating an evening of the course. The Lent Course will be running on Wednesday evenings in Lent, beginning on the 4 March at 7:30pm.

At the time of going to print, we are waiting for the venue to be arranged. However, we will put full details on the parish website and in the pew sheet as soon as the venue is confirmed. If you wish to join the Lent Course and require a booklet to be ordered, please notify the office.

THE TROJAN WOMEN

Our thanks go to the producer, Ursula Russell, and the performers of Trinity Players for raising our awareness of the plight of slavery.

£200 was sent to the Clewer Charity concerned with helping modern day slavery.
£500 was raised towards the new chairs in Holy Trinity





Photograph by Harry Lomax

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING HATCHMENTS

As we sit in church, many of us will notice the three sparkling hatchments on the north wall. We may have spotted that they had disappeared some time ago, but where were they? Here is the story behind their disappearance and reappearance!

One quiet afternoon back in 2014, one of the hatchments suddenly fell off the north wall. As they are about four feet square and need two people to lift them, this was obviously an urgent Health and Safety concern, so the other two hatchments were immediately removed as well.

We are very lucky that Stewart Meese, a painting conservator who has worked with many national and international art galleries, lives within walking distance of the church, and he was kind enough firstly to store the hatchments and then to restore them.

First inspection showed that they had deteriorated since their last overhaul back in the 1980s. The three painted canvases were splitting in several places with loss of paint, some of which had been patched at the back with tape. The canvases themselves had started to break free from their frames, and the frames were infested with woodworm. The surfaces were covered with decades of dirt.

Once approval for the restoration work had been obtained from the Diocese, sheets of polyester fabric (to strengthen the canvases and prevent further paint loss) were heat-sealed onto the back of the canvases. The frames were repaired with pine and copper tacks, then laminated wood strengthening was added to ensure secure hanging. Once the hatchments were stable, the paintings were cleaned and the paint loss was repaired.

Finally, as the hatchments hang against a wall that is not damp-proof, an aluminised polythene and nylon barrier film was attached to the backs of the frames. This film forms a very effective lightweight moisture barrier and the technology is a spin off from the space programme and the problems associated with the Shuttle re-entry. Luckily we have a 20th century solution to an 18th century problem!

The hatchments were re-hung in the church in October 2019 to an immediate and positive impact. The restoration took several years and cost over £5,000, and we are very grateful to the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, which has funded this restoration project and brought back colour and a sense of history to the north aisle.

SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE HATCHMENTS?

They are traditional funerary paintings to honour a deceased person's heraldic achievements. The escutcheon (the central decorative plate or shield) shows the coat of arms, together with any crest and supporters of the family, and over the last three hundred years, the hatchments were carried at the head of the funeral procession; afterwards they were placed outside the deceased person's residence for six to twelve months before being moved to a permanent position in the local parish church. The use of hatchments was restricted to the nobility and the gentry, and nowadays only royalty continues with this practice.

All the hatchments in Holy Trinity Church relate to the Clopton family and were originally hung in the Clopton Chapel. The background of all three is the colour sable (black) as appropriate for funerary paintings. The one on the extreme left is for John Partheriche and the central hatchment is for his wife Frances, daughter of Edward Clopton. If you look carefully, you will see that the two coats of arms are almost the same although the husband's are on a shield and his wife's are on a diamond-shaped lozenge because women did not bear arms.

The hatchment on the right is the oldest and is in honour of Sir Hugh Clopton, who died in 1751. You can spot the same Clopton arms and "a lion rampant" as in the other two hatchments. The two small shields on either side of Sir Hugh's hatchment, are the arms of his two wives, with Elizabeth Milward on the left and Elizabeth Smith on the right.

Hatchments were known to all the gentry in Stratford and are mentioned by William Shakespeare, so let's leave the last word to the Bard. Towards the end of "Hamlet", Laertes discovers with horror that his father Polonius has been killed and says:

" His means of death, his obscure funeral - No trophy, sword, nor hatchment, o'er his bones, No noble rite nor formal ostentation - Cry to be heard, as 'twere from heaven to earth, That I must call't in question."

Judith Dorricott and Mike Warrillow.



February might not seem the most obvious time to think about Creation. Phil's fine Harvest sermon was months ago! But St Paul spoke of redemption – renewal and healing – as something offered not just to us but to all creation (Romans 8:22). And what we are doing to God's creation has to be high on the agenda, not just for Christians but for the whole human race, and not just at Harvest but all the rest of the year – as Kay reminded us in our November edition.

Every day we are faced with more evidence of the climate emergency. We read of the protests of Extinction Rebellion, in which Christians are much involved, and while they may have made errors we must admire their dedication to a cause which affects our race and our planet so fundamentally. We read of Greta Thunberg and the many young people, including those in Stratford, who have protested against the slow action of those in power. We read, too, of many parts of the world where extreme weather is already destroying lives – most dramatically in the Australian bushfires.



Various "simple solutions" are suggested. Stop flying; stop driving; go vegan; plant billions of trees; and so on. We can only start from where we are – though a lot of ideas which looked crazy a few years ago are now on the agenda: think of electric cars, cheaper sources of renewable energy, and the changes which many are making in their own lifestyles. There is even a move to use sailing ships again in world trade!

But where are we? And what do the churches have to say about our stewardship of God's creation at this perilous time?

Many governments, businesses and individuals are on the move – but far, far too slowly. This crisis is in some ways like a war, and needs total mobilisation. We in the churches have a call to witness to the urgency of action.

We can subscribe to the Eco Church movement. This is a way of checking, and improving, our "green credentials" as churches, which is recognised by a system of awards. There was more about it in Kay's November editorial. Our neighbouring Methodist church has already received a Gold Award, as has St Andrew's Rugby, while St James' Alveston, and many others including the Diocese itself, have reached the Bronze level.

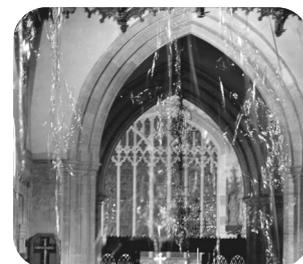
It will not be easy for us to meet such requirements. A mediaeval church like Holy Trinity is impossible to make completely "green" (though at least our LED lighting is eco-friendly), and the Parish Centre has problems too. As regards initiatives in the community, it would be a mistake to duplicate the many events which our Methodist friends put on regularly, especially given the other pressures and expectations laid on us as the town's parish church – though we could do more to support those events. We must encourage individuals, and public authorities, to do what they can – and we have had two excellent contributions from Phil and Kay cited above. But if our message is to be credible, we need to set an example in our corporate life; our use of LED lighting, and even little things like the way we have reduced the use of disposable cups, help to do this.

There are no easy answers, and it is likely that, when all has been done that can be done, we will still face severe effects of global heating – though nothing like what many other countries are facing. But we must act in faith that St Paul's words are truer now than ever.

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD



December was a busy month and it seems to be taking me most of January to recover! However, it was lovely to have the opportunity to share in different Christmas celebrations and preparations. At the Christingle services at both Holy Trinity and All Saints' Luddington it was great to be joined by so many different people and to raise money for the Children's Society. The service in Holy Trinity literally went with a bang, as we were showered in red metallic ribbon, reminding us of God's love surrounding each of us. We didn't have the confetti cannon at All Saints' but instead I attempted to tie everyone up in plenty of red wool passed amongst the congregation.



Red ribbon shower



At the Ken Kennett *Stay and Play* Toddler group, we were sad to say goodbye to Helen Barboutis. The group was set up as a joint venture between Holy Trinity and the Parenting Project, who have now been replaced by Barnardo's. Helen was key to establishing the group and for bringing together the community. In her inimitable style, at Helen's final group we all helped to bake some dairy free biscuits, which smelt and tasted delicious. We all wish Helen good luck in her new job. The group is still going on Tuesday Mornings (during Term time) 9:00am-10:30am at the Ken Kennett Centre.

In the lull between Christmas and New Year, we tried an experiment for the TrinityCentre@10 service, as we didn't know how many people would come, so we had "Chill out Church". We thought people would appreciate a chance to just have some relaxing space in the Christmas busyness. Rather than gathering for a service in the Parish Centre Hall, we met in the lounge for an extended time of breakfast, drinks and prayer. It was a lovely opportunity to get to know each other better and grow this church community. We're going to try to repeat this on future fourth Sundays, having a café church service. If anyone wants to join us for our even more relaxed than normal service, they are more than welcome.

As usual it seems in the Churches calendar that we quickly move from Christmas to Lent. If you're looking for something different to do this year, why not sign up for 40acts, described as "40 days, 40 reflections, 40 challenges to make a difference." Each day there is a challenge set to make a positive change in your own life or the world around us. I've done it for the last few years and found it a great Lenten devotion. During 2019, over 100,000 individuals and thousands of groups took the 40acts challenge, creating a wave of more than 4 million generous acts in 180 countries around the world. If this doesn't appeal to you, it might to someone you know. For people new to faith or even someone who has a vague interest, it's a great way for them to see the positive impact our faith can have.



You can sign up for the daily email at www.40acts.org.uk

Phil Harper



NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

We were grateful to everyone who supported our production of *'The Trojan Women'*; you were the perfect audience for an intense and deeply moving Play of words - engaged, thoughtful and remarkably quiet. There was no coughing despite the cold in church once the heat was in retreat – which is more than can be said for performances at the RST!

From the proceeds, a cheque for £200 was presented to Bishop Alistair when he came to talk about *The Clewer Initiative*, through which the Church of England supports and campaigns for victims of modern slavery.

£500 has been added to the £2000 which the Players have already set aside as our contribution to new chairs in Holy Trinity.

James Willetts has made a DVD of *The Trojan Women* which is on sale in the Church Shop priced £12 for the two disks (90 minutes) or online for £15 including next day delivery – details on the church website. One third of the price will be donated to *The Clewer Initiative*. There is also a nine-minute trailer of the Play on YouTube.

DATES for 2020

March 7,9,10,11 in Holy Trinity Church Shakespeare's *Macbeth* starting at the witching hour - 6:30pm. Anærkē Shakespeare brings you their ensemble vision of the Scottish play created as Shakespeare would have done - without a director! This production is not Trinity Players but is arranged by Elena Pellone, who played Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*, and supported by us.

April 24 – 11am in Holy Trinity Church *Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare*. Our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday. *Admission free*.

June 20 – 2pm and 7pm *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Adapted from Roald Dahl's story. Adults £10, Students £5, Children Primary School age or younger, free!

November 24, 25, 26 at 7.30pm and 28 at 4.30pm *Murder in the Cathedral* by TS Eliot commemorating the 850th anniversary of the murder of Thomas Becket on 29 December 1170.

Ursula Russell



SOCIAL TEAM EVENTS

Saturday 16 May from 5pm - Beetle Drive (with fish and chips!) No previous experience necessary (and you don't even need to be good at drawing!) for this fun evening for all the family.



Saturday 19 September from 6pm - Ceilidh. Following the success of this event in 2018, *The Malt Whiskers* will again lead the music and dancing.

Saturday 14 November - Ten Pin Bowling. More details to follow.



IN ICELAND



Having flown from Glasgow, Barbara and I hired a small car to travel the full length of the south coast of Iceland, crossing the black desert, staying at farmsteads and finding a warm welcome in Icelandic homes. Although some 90% of Icelanders are registered members of the established Lutheran Church relatively few now attend worship, but there are signs of spiritual renewal, encouraged by the influx of believing immigrants.

As you fly in over Reykjavik you notice rows and rows of little white buildings topped by orange roofs.

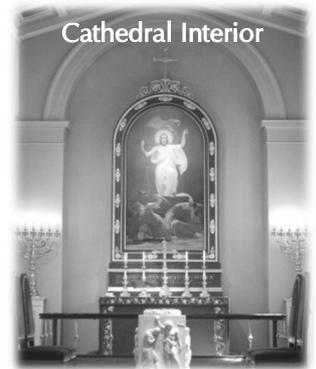
Standing rather oddly in the heart of them is what looks like a gigantic space rocket. It is in fact Hallgrimm's Church, the largest in Iceland, seating 3,000. A lift will take you to the top for terrific views over the city, with the dramatic glacial mountains to the north and east and the sea to the south. The architect aimed to create something uniquely Icelandic - an iceberg buttressed by the basalt rock columns found along the coast. When this church was consecrated in 1986 it was filled to capacity. It commemorates Hallgrimmer Petursson (1614-1674), prolific author of Iceland's best-loved hymns.



Hallgrimm's Church

The Lutheran cathedral overlooking the beautiful lake Tjörninn is altogether more humble, built in 1789 of stones carried from Denmark. It acts as the state

church for the opening of parliament and civic events. The Church of Iceland remains the official registrar for all births, marriages and deaths for which it receives a hefty subsidy from national taxation. In Lutheran churches a painting of the Resurrection usually replaces an east window. The cathedral painting shows the soldiers at the tomb falling backwards with fright while the women carved on the marble font in front of it are stricken with awe.



Cathedral Interior



Sagas

Iceland's history is chartered more in sagas than in stone. Some can be seen in the Culture House Museum near the harbour. At first they were written on animal skins, and in time of need some sagas were sacrificed to shoes or jackets. One of the sagas illustrates the baptism of a strange looking baby in a wooden tub, adding 'Let every child that is born with a human head be carried to church with all haste or otherwise women attending the birth should have the water ready.' In the poorest homes the survival rate was saddening. For centuries poverty in Iceland was dire.

The sagas record how the first inhabitants were Irish monks who had made the perilous journey in coracles 'in search of a desert in the wild sea'. After them came the Vikings who established a primitive government. In 1000 AD, Thorgeir, president of the open air parliament known as the Althing, declared Iceland to be a Christian land, and for this he is remembered in several stained glass windows. The Book of Icelanders tells how Thorgeir spread his cloak over himself and lay all that day and the following day without speaking a word. In the morning he sat up and declared that all should gather at the Law Rock, where he urged them to strive for peace and take the middle path to reconcile enemies. He then flung all his household gods into the waterfall, which for that reason is still called Godafoss, one of Iceland's many spectacular falls. The Gospel took root and over the centuries it made its appeal to people bitterly oppressed by poverty, foreign dominance and the wild furies of nature. From Reykjavik we journeyed on into this exciting land of frost, fire and faith.



Thorgeir

Next month: From primitive turf churches and a miracle to the futuristic.

PCC report: Tuesday 12 November 2019



The 2020 budget was approved by PCC at the November meeting, with costs projected at the same rate as 2019.

Treasurer Mike Warrillow also shared the good news about Holy Trinity's charitable giving. "Contrary to comments made at the APCM, the church has a good level of giving through the Parish share, tithing our net unrestricted income, the Christmas collections, and others. Added together, I would say we give around £45,000 - which is about 7 percent of our net income."

Improvement plans for the Church Shop were warmly received, as Parish Operations Manager Andy Winter outlined proposals for a re-focus and better integration of this asset, into the life and work of Holy Trinity. In line with our Five Year Plan, profits from the shop are now put into our Mission and Outreach fund.

A working group is to be set up to involve those with expertise and experience in retail and marketing.

News in brief

PCC ratified the appointment of Val Payne as a Foundation Governor of our Church school, Holy Trinity Church of England Primary.

Conservation work on the King James Bible and the purchase of a new display case was given the go ahead, subject to approval. Friends of Shakespeare's Church have agreed to fund the cost.

St Basil's, Christians Against Poverty and CORD, a peacemaking charity in areas of conflict, were formally noted as our three chosen Christmas charities.

The next PCC meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 21 January 2020 (after Trinity Times has gone to press, report in March edition).

Ruth Poulten.

Social Team Curry Night

Saturday 8 February - Curry Night 5-8 pm.

Help banish the winter blues with some delicious homemade curry. Another chance for all ages within our church family to share a meal together. An ideal opportunity to invite your friends to join in a church event! Tickets cost £6 (adult) £4 (under 12), bring your own choice of drink. You can get your tickets after the 10am service each Sunday or contact Chris Cottrell 01789 204273 or email cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer.* Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to '*Rise, take your mat and walk*' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 6 March 2020, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

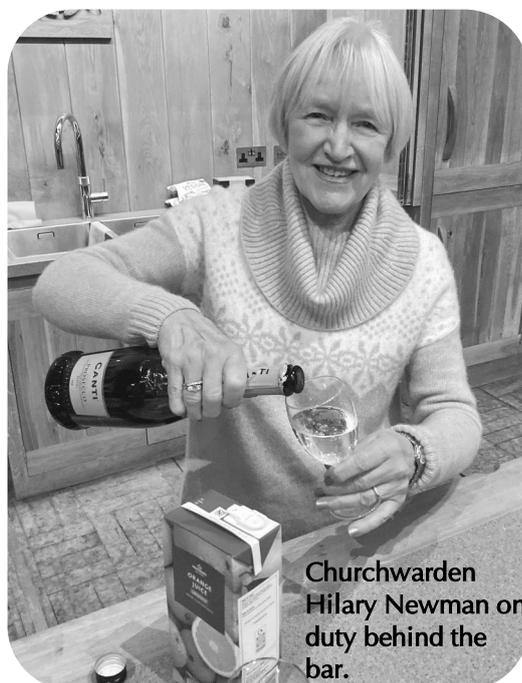
* For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk



On 19 December the church volunteers were thanked for all their hard work at a drinks and nibbles event.



Time for discussion



Churchwarden Hilary Newman on duty behind the bar.



History Lecture Series

The weekly lecture series held in St Peter's Chapel during October was a great success. Entitled *Holy Trinity Church: Before and after Shakespeare*, it was sponsored by the Friends of Shakespeare's Church. Six speakers presented topics related to the history of Holy Trinity in the 16th and 17th centuries:

Sandra MacDonald MA	2 Oct	Medieval Deeds, Saints and the Holy Trinity Altars
Dr Sylvia Gill	9 Oct	The College of Priests
Dr Robert Bearman	16 Oct	The Vicar and the Bawdy Court
Rev Dr Paul Edmondson	23 Oct	The Church as Shakespeare knew it
Mairi Macdonald MA	30 Oct	Puritanism and the Ejectment
Dr Lindsay MacDonald	6 Nov	The King James Bible



Audience

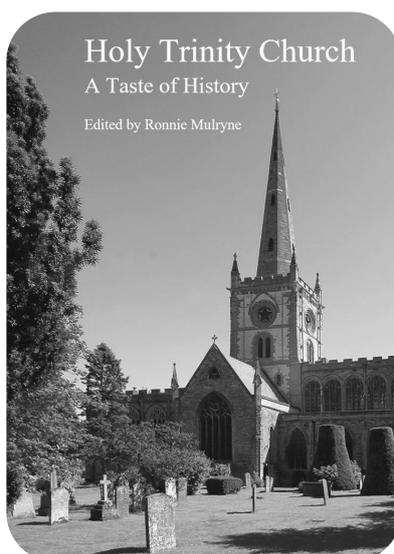
The lectures were open to the public and free of charge. Each lecture was 40–50 minutes in length, followed by 10 minutes of questions and discussion. The audience size for each lecture ranged from 40 to 88, with a total of 356 people over the six weeks (average of 59 per week). The lectures were very well received and encouraged interest in hitherto unexplored aspects of the church's history. A sum of £1,074.53 was raised for the Friends' from sales of drinks, books, and donations. Nineteen

volunteers helped over the six-week period with setting up furniture, serving drinks, selling books, and acting as stewards.

The project was in tribute to the late Professor Ronnie Mulryne, who in 2013 organised a series of talks in the chancel about the history and conservation of Holy Trinity. These were subsequently edited by him and published in *Holy Trinity Church: A Taste of History*. A second edition of this book, revised and updated, has been produced and is on sale in the shop, in addition to his other Friends' publication, *Skulduggery*.

Audio recordings were made of all lectures, and will be placed as podcasts on the Church website. The six speakers have agreed to contribute their lectures as chapters to a new book to be produced as a companion volume to the first, of approximately 100 pages in A5 format with colour throughout, to be published in late spring or early summer of 2020.

Lindsay MacDonald, November 2019.



ONE LINERS...

It's always worth a glance into optician C.P. Grey's window in Church Street.

Their typewriter jokes will make you smile. Recent examples:

My hamster died yesterday. It fell asleep at the wheel.

A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it.

I read it was 80 degrees in the shade today. I was smart and stood in the sun

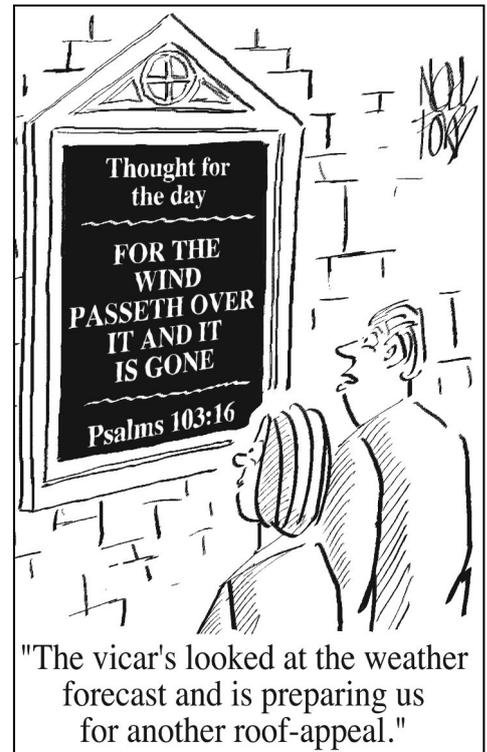
Special offer from The Swan restaurant in Henley-on-Thames: This Valentine's Day, book a table for you and your loved one to celebrate with a sumptuous five course lovers' dinner. A 10% discount for tables of three or more. *Radio 4's News Quiz*

'A local dog friendly café is to hold a flea market.' *Seen In local paper by Daily Mail reader*

Talking of pets: Sign outside Coffee 1 in Henley Street: 'Well-behaved dogs welcome inside. Please ask a member of staff where you can sit.' *Woof!*

Sign spotted in hospital car park. **Maternity parking area only. Charges apply for breaches.**

On-line review of a Somerset chip shop: 'The best fish and chips in the South West. Every time I buy fish and chips here, I could happily die afterwards.'



To appreciate the beauty of a snow flake it is necessary to stand out in the snow

**PINEY FLATS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
**IF YOU ARE THE ONE
WHO KEEPS PRAYING FOR SNOW
PLEASE STOP**

Out of the mouths: My wife and I look after our six year old twin grandchildren Dylan and Sophia one day a week. Recently we asked them what was their favourite school lunch. We were surprised when Dylan said fish and chips because he doesn't like fish. He explained that he really only liked chips and peas, so leaves the fish. *Daily Mail*

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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

Leadership Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Neville Beamer	01789 263 435	The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Revd Canon Andrew Dow	01789 417 852	The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182	The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453	The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471

Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316	andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
Church Team Leaders:	David White, Sherron Guise, Ian Meeson and Sarah Cushing		

Parish Administrators:	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316	rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
	TBA - position currently being advertised		

Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316	wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
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Interim Director of Music: Rebecca Mills

Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598	heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org
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Church Wardens

Hilda Craig	01789 551 234	Paul Lageu	01789 298 302
Hilary Newman	01789 296 771	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	01789 264 256

Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Alan Haigh	01789 290 128
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Miriam Dow	01789 417 852
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Josephine Walker	01789 266 316
Home Communion	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contact Co-ordinator	Gillian Nunn	01789 415 830
Welcome Team	Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396



2019's Christmas Card Amnesty raised, with Gift aid, a total of £1,259.90.

A huge "Thank You" to all who contributed to our three charities.

2018 raised, with Gift Aid, a total of £1,176.25.

Can we make it even more in 2020?



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The Christmas Collections for 2019 came to £7,483.75.

This was the largest amount raised in six years and up by about £450.00 on our previous best year.



As a result we were able to donate £2,494.58 to each of our three charities:

St Basils - a local charity based in Birmingham which helps young homeless people.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) - a national charity.

CORD - an international charity which works for the defence of people's human rights around the world. Our own Bishop Christopher Cocksworth is one of the patrons of CORD.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to our Christmas Charities through the collections in church and the Christmas Card Amnesty.

EPIPHANY GAMES EVENING SATURDAY 4 JANUARY

“Rat-a-tat-Cat” rang out from the corner of the room, as a player rapped the table signalling the end of the round, hoping to get a low score. Each player was dealt four cards faced down, but could only peep at the outside cards. The purpose of the game was to get low scoring Cats and avoid high scoring King Rats! A fun game which five of us played. This was just one of the many games being enjoyed in a buzz of excitement as over sixty people were engrossed in a variety of board games. This included over twenty children, the youngest being only eight months old, who had great fun playing with a large number of cars, diggers and trucks at one end of the Parish Centre. There was also quite a lot of running around and excited chasing. Other games included the Stratford version of Monopoly (who landed on Holy Trinity and who went to jail, I wonder?) and Perudo, a dice game with cups, was hugely and noisily enjoyed. Old favourites like Snakes and Ladders were a mixture of excitement and disappointment, and those playing Scrabble created new and exciting patterns on the board and original high scoring words, and of course there was Dominoes. Sorry produced cries of frustrations when you had to go back to base when almost winning, and Pointless involved much head scratching as people struggled to find the lowest score on a variety of questions, based on the popular TV Quiz.



The Centre was decorated with a series of beautiful camels, all round the walls, and there was the challenge of putting a tail on a camel! It was an Epiphany party after all!

After some time of fun games, we were invited to supper. We each had a baked potato with a choice of meaty sauces - spicy chilli, less spicy chilli, bolognese or vegetarian with cheese and lots of different salads. Generous portions were enjoyed by all, prepared for us by chefs Ruth, Esther, Angela, Vanessa and Marie. This was followed by a variety of delicious puddings contributed by people attending.



The evening was organised by Chris Cottrell and Angela Barnard, on behalf of the Social Committee, and Paul Lageu acted as master of ceremonies. It was a wonderful way of mixing up all generations of members of Holy Trinity Church, an opportunity to make new friends, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

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John Hall-Matthews

