

March 2020

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# TRINITY TIMES



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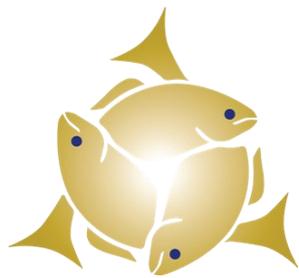


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Trinity Times this month features our new director of music, and if you do not know what Deanery Synod is then discover all on page twelve.

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

**Editor** - Revd Patrick Taylor

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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 2020** edition and will be in church on 29 March

**The copy date is 13 March**

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 :- Our new director of music, Douglas Keilitz and his wife Nancy, being introduced to the congregation in November by Revd Patrick Taylor.*

*Photograph by Harry Lomax.*

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## STICKS AND STONES



I'm sure we all remember the rhyme from childhood "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me." As much as we may have recited the rhyme as a child, we eventually realise that it isn't true. Words may not hurt physically, but they can leave other injuries, damage which can take a lot longer to heal than a broken bone. Words are powerful, they can create and they can destroy.

In Jesus' teachings we are reminded of the impact of what we say and the power of words. When Jesus' disciples are being reprimanded by the Pharisees for their actions, Jesus tells the Pharisees.

*"It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." (Matthew 15.11)*

In the same chapter of Matthew's Gospel we are also shown the power of words. A Canaanite woman comes begging Jesus to heal her daughter, at first it seems Jesus isn't going to help, but the woman's words convince Jesus. Words are given greater power when Jesus seems to heal the daughter simply by speaking

*"Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly." (Matthew 15. 28)*



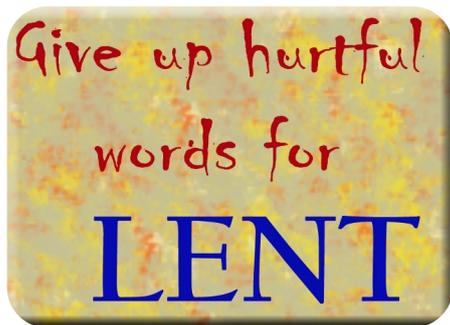
In a world of growing dominance from Social Media, words have increasing power; many careers have ended from using the wrong word in a tweet. But also, many crimes and injustices have been highlighted, which otherwise would have gone unnoticed.

As a parish we recognise the power of words and also the intended and unintended meanings words can have. Hopefully you are aware of our Parish Vision, written on most church publications (including the front of this magazine) "Lives changed through God's love". But you may not be so aware of our Parish Values, three words which have been used for some time now, to reflect what we believe and what is important to us:

### **Holiness, Hospitality, Humility.**

The Parish Values 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).

During Lent we are exploring if these words are still the right way to express our values. To discover what they mean and the impact the words have on individuals. A short questionnaire on the three words is available on the parish website ([www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org)) or paper copies are available at different services. Recognising the power of words and the importance in choosing the right ones, we want as many people as possible to take part to help shape the values for the whole church family. As we continue our journey through Lent, prayerfully reflect on Holiness, Hospitality and Humility, and how it is already expressed in our congregations?



For your own personal Lent disciplines, if you choose to give something up, perhaps the challenge is to consider the impact of all the words we use. Are there perhaps some words we need to give up? Words that hurt, words spoken in gossip, words of critical judgement? To also reflect on the power our words have on how people view us as Christians, what we say outside of church, but also for visitors to church, what do overheard conversations say about us as a church family?

May our words bring comfort, bring pleasure and bring hope working to see lives changed through God's love.

*Phil Harper*

## Services in Lent



Lent this year falls neatly across March, the First Sunday of Lent being 1 March. This year we are sharing a journey together reading Bishop John Stroyan's book *Turned by Divine Love*. We will be focusing on one chapter each week. So the focus each Sunday will be as follows:

1 March	First Sunday of Lent	<i>Turning aside: to look and see</i>
8 March	Second Sunday of Lent	<i>Turning to Christ: repentance</i>
15 March	Third Sunday of Lent	<i>Turning in love: for one another</i>
22 March	Mothering Sunday	<i>Turning outwards: in love to God's world</i>
29 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>Turning to the cross</i>
Holy Week	<i>Turned by love: 'the love that moves the sun and the stars'</i>	

### Special weekday services for Lent at Holy Trinity:

Thursday 5 March	7.30pm Holy Communion in St. Peter's Chapel
Thursday 12 March	7.30pm Stations of the Cross in the Nave
Thursday 19 March	7.30pm Holy Communion in St. Peter's Chapel
Thursday 26 March	7.30pm Stations of the Cross in the Nave

On Thursday 2 April there will be a performance of a Passion Play by Caramba Theatre in Holy Trinity at 7.30pm. See page 10.

### Note two special services on 29 March at 6pm

St. Helen's - Choral Evensong with Holy Trinity Choir  
Holy Trinity - Evensong with Ministry of Healing

## Fosse Deanery young peoples' gathering

Sunday 8 March  
St. Andrew's Church, Shottery

- an evening to meet, eat, worship and chat together -



arrive for 7.30 for pizza & drinks

**faith, life, social media, church, God . . you name it . . we'll chat about it.**

See page 7 for more details.

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

### Holy Trinity Church

**Sunday 1 March - First Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Choral Evensong

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

**Sunday 8 March - Second Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evensong

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

**Sunday 15 March - Third Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Choral Evensong  
6.00pm Open to God at Methodist Church

**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

**Rosebird Centre** 10.00am HolyTrinity@Rosebird

**Sunday 22 March - Mothering Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am All Age Eucharist  
6.00pm Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 29 March - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evensong with Healing Ministry  
**Parish Centre** 10.00am TrinityCentre@10

### St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

**Sunday 1 March** 9.30am - Morning Worship

**Sunday 8 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion

**Sunday 15 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion (AGM)

**Sunday 22 March** 9.30am - Mothering Sunday - All Age

**Sunday 29 March** 6.00pm Choral Evensong

### All Saints', Luddington

**Sunday 1 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion - Traditional

**Sunday 8 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion (AGM)

**Sunday 15 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion

**Sunday 22 March** 9.30am - Holy Communion



## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We have been very conscious of developing our provision for youth in our parish. Some people don't realise that youth doesn't come under my remit, my employment is for children up to the age of eleven (end of primary school). However, I've been supporting Steve, where possible, with what we offer those in the secondary school ages. Our Youth Group has been running for a while on the fourth Saturday of the month 4-6pm in the Parish Centre, and the meeting this month is on 28 March. However, to add to what we offer, we are working with St Andrew's, Shotton to host a service for the young people. Sunday 8 March will be the first Young People's Gathering, at St Andrews. An evening to meet, eat, worship and chat together, beginning with pizza and drinks at 7:30pm. We hope that this will continue the support we are desperate to offer to this age group.

Whilst I'm dispelling some misunderstandings, I wanted to highlight what we offer at the TrinityCentre@10 service. The classification of formal in Holy Trinity and informal in the Parish Centre, isn't code for adults in Holy Trinity and children in the Parish Centre, but sums up the style of what we offer: a relaxed informal service for any age. There might be some elements that particularly appeal to children, but it is put together for adults to get as much out of as children.

On the first and third Sunday the whole service takes place in the Parish Centre, with Holy Communion, worship band, an informal talk and prayers. On the second Sunday of the month, the service is quite similar, the only differences being we use songs played on video, and people have the option to come across to Holy Trinity to receive Communion. The second Sunday service also gives us the opportunity to expand on the teaching offered and for people to explore worship in different styles. Recently we used a selection of Prayer Stations to think about how God is revealed in the world around us. On the fourth Sunday, we're developing the "Chill Out Church", with discussion around tables, and more opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the congregation.

Anyone is welcome any Sunday to see what happens, and some will be surprised to see it isn't a hall just with children and parents in, but a whole variety of ages.

*Phil Harper*



## Lent Lunches: Fridays 6 March – 3 April 12.00 noon - 2pm



Do you have a friend or neighbour who would normally eat on their own? Why not bring them to the Lent Lunches in the Parish Centre this year? All ages welcome to share a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese followed by a short "Thought for the Day", and a prayer.

For catering purposes, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church on the preceding Sunday.

All donations received will go to Christian Aid, as this year there will not be a street collection .

*Steve Jarvis*



## TOM AND VERITY CLARE SUPPORTED BY HOLY TRINITY



"Tom and Verity Clare will be flying out to Uganda, along with their four boys Ezra, Eli, Simeon and Joel, on 4 March as they start out in their new roles as mission partners with Church Mission Society. They will be living in Arua, North West Uganda, where Tom will be using his skills and training as a GP to join the local church's community health team. He will be ministering to the local population primarily, with the potential for some work with the large local refugee population from South Sudan. Verity will be looking after the four children, initially home schooling them as they look in to other local schooling options. Verity has a background in teaching English as a foreign language as well as some training in peacebuilding, both of which she hopes may come in handy at some stage during their stay.

Please pray for Ezra (6) and Eli (5) as they adjust to the reality of leaving their local schools in Abingdon, Oxfordshire (which they love) and starting out on a new way of life. Pray for peace for Simeon (2) and Joel (1) during the long plane journeys and the long subsequent seven hour drive up to Arua from the capital. Please pray for all the children as they say goodbye to their families in early March, particularly to their grandparents with whom they are very close. Pray also for their family in the UK as they adjust to life without them living so close. Pray for Tom in his new medical role and for Verity as she takes on the mantle of both Mum and teacher and pray for safety, good health and the blessing of early friendships as they settle.

Blessings

Tom and Verity"

Please pray for, and support, them in their mission.

## SERMONS AT HOLY TRINITY

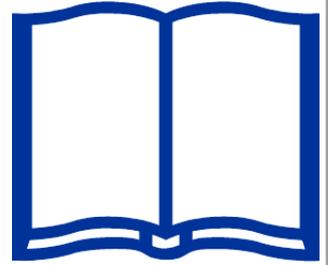
Some of you will have enjoyed seeing the streaming of services from Holy Trinity Church including the midnight service. I sent the link to these to my daughters in Scotland and San Francisco who were able to see these services via the Internet, streamed and recorded.

In addition to these services streamed on special occasions, you may not know it is possible to listen to the weekly sermons recorded from the Sunday 10 am services via our Holy Trinity website. (Go to the Holy Trinity website, then services then sermons).

Or type in the link below:

<https://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/sermons>

Roy Dyer



### 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: Revd Jenny Rowland  
Tricia Hall-Matthews

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## TRINITY LADIES



On 18 March we are holding our annual Charity Tea Party, this year 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. As a church we have been supporting the Homeless for at least twenty-five years. I remember at one time all we could do to help them was to provide soup and bread served from a table by the American fountain; from there we helped to provide food for them from the different Churches in the town. We were also involved in cooking meals at the Salvation Army citadel situated in Scholars Lane until the premises were sold to developers. Today we are still providing meals at the weekend. The Fred Winter project will bring all the organisations who can help those in need under one roof. There will be the provision of accommodation, facilities for the Food Bank to operate and agencies who can help with drug addiction, and mental health problems etc. Mr Paul Spooner the project coordinator will be speaking to us about the project and everyone is welcome including men and non-members of Trinity Ladies. Will members please remember to bring cakes, tablecloths and flowers for the tables and invite your friends to join us in supporting this new project in Stratford. We meet in the Parish Centre at 2pm and look forward to meeting you to support this very worthy cause.

Gina Lodge  
Chairperson



## RESURRECTION

A Passion play  
Caramba Theatre Company

Caramba Theatre Company are thrilled to be performing their acclaimed Passion play at Holy Trinity Church on **Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm**. It lasts about one and a quarter hours without an interval and runs from Palm Sunday, through to the Last Supper, Judas's betrayal, the agony of Gethsemane and Calvary to the Ascension. It includes some beautiful music; for example, Vivaldi's *Gloria*; Tenebrae's *Mother & Son* and Stainer's *God so Loved the World*.

Caramba have been performing the play for about twelve years to tremendous success and appreciation of the Christian Community. We have toured it to churches of varying denominations throughout Coventry, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, including the aisle of The Guild Chapel in Stratford. We have also been as far as Baldock and Cambridge, where we were asked to perform twice by the Revd Canon Michael Goater, former associate vicar of Holy Trinity. We are asked back every year to perform it again in Churches which, of course, present an amazing setting and atmosphere for this special piece.

The play has been written by Kate Guest and based mainly on the four Gospels, some research and a bit of artistic licence! The audience will recognise much of the text. Kate has kept closely to the Bible text because it is such a powerful story in itself.

Tim Guest plays Jesus and his mother is played by Ruthie Copeman, who created the part of Mary in our original performances. Come along and enjoy this incredible Easter message.

Admission is free but any donations to Holy Trinity Church will be received with grateful thanks.



## FROM THE REGISTERS JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

### Christenings

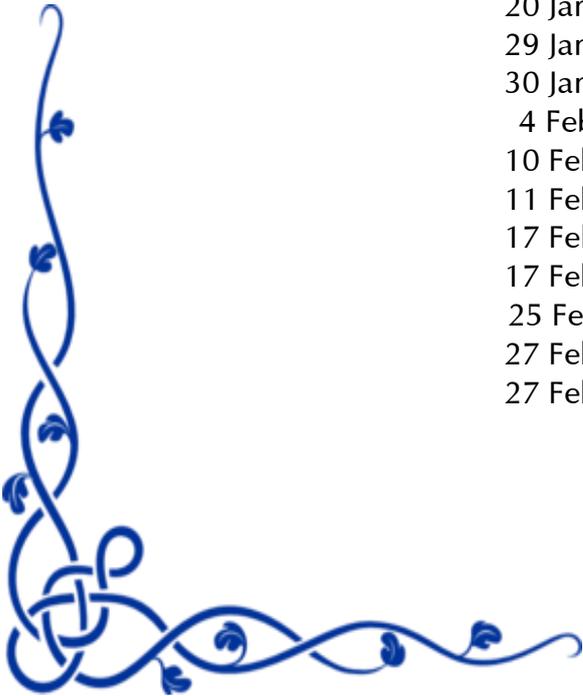
9 February	Grace Fisher-Raisen - All Saints', Luddington Freddie Horne - All Saints', Luddington
23 February	Matilda Neale Saskia Martin

### Weddings

29 February	Mark Salmon and Kelly Duggan
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### Funerals

20 January	Joyce Schindler
29 January	Richard Smith
30 January	Barbara Tarrant
4 February	Michael Board
10 February	Gloria Hamnett
11 February	Elizabeth Herne
17 February	Cyril Chancellor
17 February	David Hudspith - St Helen's, Clifford Chambers
25 February	Dorothy Carvell
27 February	Christine Loquens
27 February	William Adam - The Vale



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## WHAT ON EARTH IS A DEANERY SYNOD?

Every three years, all the parishes of the Church of England elect representatives to their local Deanery Synod – and 2020 is such a year, and we will need some new nominees in this parish. So what is a Deanery Synod, and why would it be worth seeking election to it?

The idea of grouping parishes into Deaneries is quite ancient, but it has become more prominent as Dioceses have got bigger and the gap between the Bishop and the Vicar (and the person in the pew) correspondingly larger. A Deanery Synod acts as an intermediary between PCCs and the Diocesan Synod, particularly in such matters as organising the Parish Share which is raised from PCCs to pay the clergy across the Diocese, and in consideration of things like parish boundaries and the need for more, or fewer, clergy. It has no legal powers in its own right, and has been dismissed as “a gathering of people who would rather be somewhere else”! But it has much potential influence, both on the parishes and on the Diocese. Not least, its members elect representatives, not only to Diocesan Synod (which makes the final decisions on money for the clergy and so on) but also to General Synod, the Church’s “Parliament” nationally. And they can submit motions on any topic to be considered at these higher levels.

Stratford parish is in Fosse Deanery, which extends from Shotton to the Burton Dassett Hills, and is of course named after the Fosse Way which runs through it. The boundaries of Deaneries are sometimes a little arbitrary, but usually relate to local authority boundaries and/or school and work catchment areas; in Fosse’s case, we join with Southam, Shipston and Alcester Deaneries in linking with Stratford District Council, and that gets interesting for example when we are thinking about ministry to new housing areas.



**Faith in Fosse**

Some of the time, it must be admitted, our role is not wholly clear – hence the dismissive remark I referred to earlier – though on matters like Parish Share it can get quite serious, and make us confront the very different circumstances of large and small, urban and rural parishes, which can be a rewarding learning experience. In order to improve its relevance, Fosse Deanery Synod has adopted the strapline “Faith in Fosse” and tries in its thrice-yearly meetings to focus on what we can learn from each other in areas like spirituality and mission. We have speakers from different spiritual traditions, as well as experts from the Diocese and locally on things like children and families work, work with schools, music outreach,

and not least the management of church buildings; and this part of our meetings is open to any church member and not just to Synod representatives. Outside the meetings, we find ways to share expertise on difficult areas like church accounting.

Meetings are chaired jointly by the Area Dean - or in our case two Joint Area Deans, one of whom is our own Vicar - who are effectively the Bishop’s representatives in the area, and a Lay Chair elected by the members. The number of reps from each parish varies according to the number on that parish’s electoral roll; Stratford has five, plus those elected to Diocesan Synod who sit on their Deanery Synod (and PCC) ex-officio.

It all sounds a bit complex, and indeed the governance of the Church of England is very complex! But it gives an opportunity for ordinary church members to see and work with (and influence) the Church on a wider canvas. This is well worth doing, and I encourage electoral roll members to consider standing for Deanery Synod in 2020.

Anthony Woollard

## STEVE SITTING FOR THE LUDDINGTON ART CLUB



The Studio art club has been running for fifty years and is held at the village hall on Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays (new members always welcome). Tuesdays are portrait days with about twenty of us drawing and painting in all sorts of mediums. We welcome anyone who would like their portrait painted and they get paid a nominal amount for coming. They can pop along and see what we are up to. We also have crafters in the hall and would welcome new participants. Once a year we have an exhibition at King Edward's School which is always worth a look around.

Joan Bolshaw





## How a plastic accordion altered a life

When our new **Director of Music Douglas Keilitz** was a small boy, living with his parents on Long Island in New York, he was frequently ill, lying in bed with various childhood ailments. One day, his father came home with a present to cheer him up. It was a plastic accordion and Douglas fell in love with the sound of it. He practised endlessly and begged his parents to let him have accordion lessons. And this was the beginning of

his renowned musical career.

Let's rewind. The Keilitz family emigrated to the United States of America at the beginning of World War I, although Douglas's father was born in England. Douglas was the youngest of three children, growing up in a household that appreciated good music but was not an especially musical family. However, once Douglas started playing his accordion, his parents found him a teacher who told them that Douglas had a real natural talent. He studied the accordion for six years until he discovered the organ, and this again was serendipitous! His parents had a boat and spent their Sundays at their local boatyard, dropping Douglas off at church on the way. In church Douglas heard the pipe organ for the first time and was determined to learn how to play it. The accordion was dropped and throughout his teenage years, he had organ lessons as well as singing in the church choir and playing the piano. Whereas most people learn the piano first, and then graduate to the organ, for Douglas it was the other way round.

But by the year 2000, Douglas realised he wanted to concentrate full-time on church music and performance. He accepted the position of Organist and Choirmaster at St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in Manhattan, a church well-known for its liturgy and professional choir, where he enjoyed ten years' employment, which included creating an Ensemble-in-Residence programme. He is also a composer of choral music and his works for synagogue have been performed in many venues including New York's Temple Emmanu-El.



Photograph by Harry Lomax

Cape Cod was the next home for Douglas in 2013. He accepted a post as Director of Music Ministries and Organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Barnstable, Massachusetts. He and his wife Nancy, who is a singer, married in Cape Cod while they were living in Barnstable, and spent a happy four years there. His many achievements there include being a Director of the Cape Cod Early Music Festival and a founder of New York Bach Artists.

A move to a western state in America was next, when Douglas took up the position of Canon for Music at St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise, Idaho. Here Douglas directed all the music for services and led four choirs, including the Cathedral Choristers which is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

Douglas describes Boise as an attractive university town situated on the Boise River, with desert on three sides, and with a thriving cultural life, a Symphony Orchestra and a Symphony Chorus. Its only downside is that it is a long way from other major cities in America!

*Cont.....*

*Douglas Keilitz interview cont....*

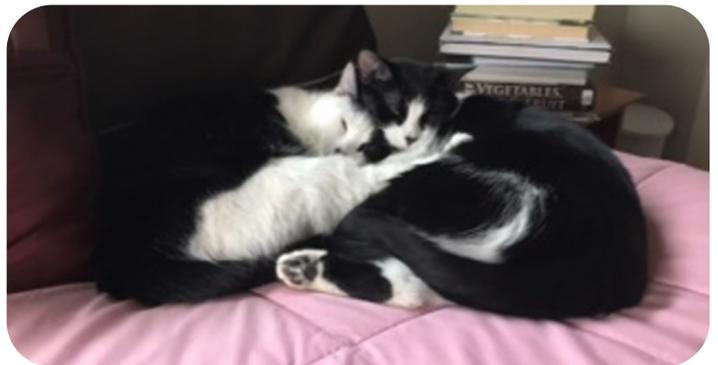
Perhaps it was the thought of living in the country where his father was born that tempted Douglas to apply for the position as Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. He had been to England several times, had many friends here, and had even paid a visit to Stratford as a tourist. Others may argue that it was the Hand of God.



Either way, thousands of miles away in Idaho, Douglas spotted the advertisement for Director of Music in the Church Times, applied for the post, came over to England for an interview, and was absolutely delighted when Patrick offered him the post.

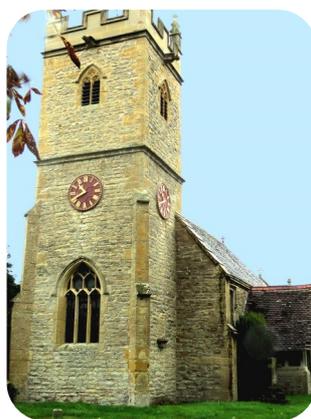
Douglas and Nancy were even more pleased when a house in College Lane came up for rental. It is in a perfect position being so near Holy Trinity Church, and a bonus is that they can bring their two cats with them to the house.

Douglas is looking forward to understanding the rhythm of our church, as he feels that every church and cathedral is different. He says the best part of his new job will be living, working and worshipping in this community, but he also looks forward to playing the organ, directing the choir, and teaching at King Edward's School. He has some ideas about new ventures in the future but would not be drawn, saying that he needs first of all to understand the worship and community patterns here. We can rest assured though that there will be a wide variety of organ and choral music to enjoy over the coming years.



Douglas remembers being upset as a boy in New York when he was not permitted to visit Germany on a school trip, so he feels now that he is returning to his roots. He says simply "I am very happy to be here" and the people of Stratford reciprocate by saying "Welcome to Stratford. We are very happy and very lucky to have you with us".

*Judith Dorricott*



St. Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers, are holding a Choral Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 29 March. Why not come along and join us at what promises to be an uplifting experience in our beautiful village church.

## Now, where are those matchsticks!...

Very early on a cold, dark, but thankfully dry, Tuesday morning, 28 January, an intrepid group of Holy Trinity folk boarded a coach outside the Parish Centre for a journey to Southwark Cathedral on London's South Bank to witness the Ordination and Consecration of Martin Gorick, our former Vicar, as Bishop of Dudley.

We had been told that we must be in our seats in the Cathedral no later than 10.30am, and as far as Beaconsfield services we made pretty good progress. However, after that, with inner London traffic, it seemed like we may meet ourselves coming back! 10.30am came and went, 10.45am came and went, 10.50am came....and we eventually arrived, along, it seemed, with many others also caught up in the traffic. However, despite our lateness, we were welcomed most royally and shown to our seats in the centre of the Cathedral.

Shortly after 11am the processions began, beginning with visiting clergy, including old friends from Holy Trinity – Jon Ormrod, Rachel Saum, Alex Holmes, and, I'm sure, others. They were followed by the procession from Oxford, very resplendently led by Paul Harris. Finally, the procession of the Archbishop of Canterbury who was preceded by a multitude of Bishops. What a magnificent sight.

The service was, of course, reverent, and very moving, but at times light hearted, especially the moment when the Archbishop 'lost' "the new Bishop of Dudley"! A wonderful sermon was delivered by the Bishop of Hull, Alison White.

After the service came photo time – outside on a bitterly cold day - and a selection is shown here. Martin looked extremely happy, and we wish him and Katharine, and the family, every joy and blessing as they begin their new journey.

A tired, but very happy band arrived back in Stratford just over fourteen hours after we left, feeling delighted we'd witnessed such a wonderful day.

*Hilary Newman*





"I like a dog", said Father Brown, "provided he is not spelt backwards". So begins one of G K Chesterton's detective stories, in which a dog – though not quite as all-seeing and all-knowing as some of the characters imagine – provides vital clues.



Chesterton knew how easy it is to idolise our pets, especially dogs. They can seem loyal and wise, and there are plenty of stories about how these gifts have helped to save lives. Often, what they offer feels like unconditional love. Now, as with any idols, we can project all kinds of feelings upon them, and turn them into something that they are not. But it would be equally wrong to say that they are "mere" animals with nothing but self-seeking instincts. People do make genuine relationships with their pets, and in doing so they are relating to that wider Creation of which we have spoken so much in recent days – whether in

Patrick's Epiphany sermon on "stargazing" or in aspects of the world's ecological crisis.

And relating to Creation offers the possibility of relating to the Creator. Idols can become icons, through which we can glimpse something of the ultimate and truly unconditional Love of which Scripture speaks. How many children, in particular, must have learnt about giving and receiving love as much, or almost as much, through their relationships with a pet as through those with their parents and the rest of their family. And how many older people, especially the lonely, must have gained equal value in their relationship with an animal.

Perhaps we should do more to honour this. Some of our number in recent weeks have been bereaved, and it would be wrong to write on this topic without mentioning the Vicarage dog Roger and Lynne Bunker's dog Caspa and cat Sparks. We must surely be ready to mourn with those who mourn, even if, at first sight, their suffering seems trivial compared with that of so many others who have lost beloved friends and relatives. Those pets have played a part in what I can only call the spirituality of their owners, and the sense of loss is real. But so are the joys (and frustrations) of relating to a living pet. And not just on an individual basis either; we know that they can bring a sense of belonging and healing to settings as varied as schools and care homes.

Many churches have periodic "pets' services" which may help some people to make connections between their experience of pets and what the Church offers. Others may help to promote the use of dogs in care homes and the like. Whether any such initiatives would be right for us, busy as we are in so many other areas, is for others to judge. But at least we should make it clear, as this article tries to do, that we place a value, not just on love between people in the context of the love of God, but also on love between humans and their pets – in the context of that same ultimate love. Who knows what connections that this may enable some to make?

Lent is not a bad time for stripping away idols and learning afresh the difference between them and those icons which reflect and communicate the reality and love of God. We should not encourage idolatry by "spelling Dog backwards", but we should help people to value the iconic reality which that can find in their pets.



# Being a Churchwarden – The First Year

By Paul Lageu



What does a Churchwarden do? ‘Not a lot, we do all the hard work!’ quipped one of our faithful sidespeople recently (sorry H, I know the red wine was good but you’re still barred from next year’s Sidesperson’s Supper!!). It’s true, the Sunday services couldn’t run smoothly without our trusty band of Sidespeople. However, the job of a Churchwarden is a bit like an iceberg, the Sunday services being the visible part but most of the work goes on unseen.

Being in Shakespeare’s Church, I tend to think of my role in services as being that of Front of House Manager, with the President and Verger as the Stage Managers. Perhaps not a perfect analogy but hopefully this gives an idea of the relative responsibilities.

But what about outside the services? As a Churchwarden you are automatically on the Standing Committee and PCC (Parochial Church Council). Continuing with the analogies, I see the Standing Committee, which discusses ideas and puts forward proposals, as the Cabinet, whereas the PCC is the House of Commons, which has the ultimate say and legal responsibility for agreeing any proposals and expenditure. Within the Church of England, it can take a very long time for changes to get from being a proposal to implementation (just try moving a picture in church, held up by a screw. You can lose the will to live by the time you’ve jumped through all the diocesan hoops). Despite all that, seeing something grow from being just an idea to full implementation is very special and rewarding.

Each Churchwarden has particular areas of responsibility, such as buildings (Rhod), staff (Hilda) or volunteers (Hilary). In my case, I have a liaison role between the PCC and the village churches. In this increasingly secular time, to keep the two churches alive and relevant is a real challenge. The fact that this is being achieved is thanks to the hard work of teams at All Saints’ and St Helen’s. It has been a great honour and pleasure to work with these dedicated Christians.

A down side to being a Churchwarden, having to be in church for 7.15am on a cold winter Sunday. A special moment, walking down the path towards church at 7.15am on a cold winter Sunday. The spire is unlit, the only light coming through the stained glass windows from inside the church. Breath-taking!

A time of worry, the first time I had to close up the church, hoping I’d turned everything off, locked everything up and wouldn’t call out the emergency services when I set the alarm. A time of peace, standing in an empty church with almost all the lights turned off and feeling the eight hundred years of worship and prayer woven into the fabric of our beautiful building.

If I could go back in time to last March, would I still allow my name to go forward at the APCM? Definitely!

What would I say to anyone considering standing as a Churchwarden? You have to be committed; you cannot do it properly in a half-hearted way. It is not always an easy job, but it can be very rewarding. It is also a privilege and honour to be able to serve and support all of our church family and the work they do throughout the year.



## Grateful thanks to Rebecca Mills

As you may know Rebecca Mills has acted as Interim Director of Music between Benedict Wilson moving on to his new appointment at Shrewsbury College in August and Douglas Keilitz taking over as Director of Music at the beginning of February this year.

As Jo Walker from the Friends of the Music says – “The choir bloomed under the directorship of Rebecca, who gently and determinedly moulded the junior members into an even more coherent body, while encouraging the adults into a thoughtful approach to some wonderful new music. There were many major services over Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, also Christmas services in Luddington and Clifford Chambers, carols at Warwick Castle and the Christmas market in Stratford. And of course, weddings, funerals and memorials, most of which involve all levels of the choir.”

Rebecca’s direction of Trinity Voices, which introduces primary age children to choral singing, has continued to flourish, with the children singing enthusiastically, and the congregation always appreciative of their offerings. Many who sing with Trinity Voices move into the main choir in due course, and continue singing with both groups.

Rebecca has negotiated with conservatoires, colleges and free-lance musicians and has produced another wide-ranging programme for Soundbites in the spring. (See page 22 for list of musicians in March and April).

Rebecca herself said how pleased she is with the behaviour of the younger choir members, and with the wonderful quality of the singing. We continue to wish her well in her future music making.

*Kay Dyer* - Choir Chaplain



Photographs by Harry Lomax

# Holy Trinity Church – Churchyard Maintenance Volunteers

## Report on Activity in 2019

We are a team of volunteers who meet regularly to keep the churchyard tidy. Our aim is to make the churchyard a pleasant place for everyone who walks through or comes to visit the church. Being there also provides opportunities to talk with visitors and to represent the church community.

Members of the team during 2019 were: Philip and Pam Cheshire, Richard Hartley, Robert Hornby, Liz Johnson, Lindsay MacDonald, Marion Mitchell, Bridget Sorel-Cameron, Valerie Thompson and Frances Walker. We had a two-hour session on Monday afternoon every two or three weeks, with a total of eighteen sessions throughout the year. The average attendance was five to seven volunteers per session, and the total time contributed over the year was two hundred and six person-hours. The team was notable for a great spirit of cooperation and camaraderie, and for its “can do” approach. Valerie received the award for best attendance, being present for an

impressive sixteen sessions.



*Cheerful in the churchyard: (left to right) Valerie, Marion, Pam, Frances, Liz and Philip.*



*Major clearing in progress of a double grave plot near the river path.*

Tasks accomplished during the year included:

- Picking up fallen twigs and sticks under trees throughout churchyard;
- Removing grass along the edges of all paths and around perimeter of building;
- Removing weeds from base of wall on Mill Lane (outside on road);
- Cutting suckers from lime trees up to a height of four metres;
- Replacing a mulberry tree in the lawn to the west of the avenue;
- Replanting six hydrangeas in bed to north of west door of church;
- Removing ivy from river wall and from various gravestones and monuments;
- Clearing overgrown corner with Collis gravestones at south end of river path;
- Maintaining the bed alongside the southern path and planting various shrubs.

We have been in regular contact with Tony Holt, the supervisor of the Town Council’s garden team. The experience of volunteering has been very positive for everyone involved and we have worked well together as a team. The appearance of the churchyard has been maintained at a high standard, and we have received many compliments from both visitors and members of the congregation.

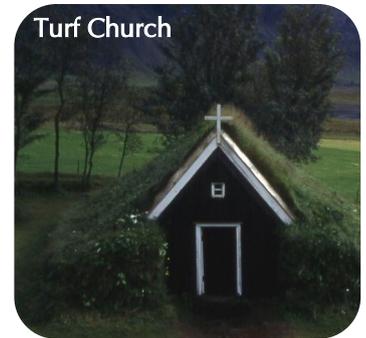
We are taking a break for three months over the winter and will resume in the middle of February. We would welcome anyone else who would like to join us, even occasionally, to assist with this satisfying activity in such a glorious situation.

Lindsay MacDonald (team leader)

## IN ICELAND - 2

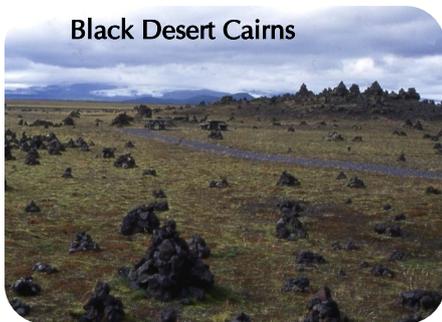


Our exploration of Iceland was in a little Nissan Micra, hired from the ALP Company. Overnight we stayed at farmsteads along the south coast. Beyond Reykjavik most of Iceland's population is accommodated in grouped farmsteads and fishing villages. Most of them have a church at their heart but only see a pastor once in a while as the pastor serves a vast area. Only five of the original turf churches, which for centuries were a prominent feature of Icelandic life, still remain. We found one at Núpssta ur. They were built on a pile of rocks with a frame of driftwood or whatever came to hand. They have an inner and an outer wall of turf, with the roof boarded over and covered with turf. The whole farmstead at Núpssta ur was built the same way in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A surviving description says, 'One could see between the rafters the grass sods from which the mildew and the cobwebs hung. Windows were made of the membranes of animal skins. The people were dispirited.' We watched a sheep contentedly munching the grass roof of the church. Sometimes in Britain sheep are employed to mow the village churchyard, so it must be quite useful to have one mow the roof as well! Turf churches typically have a low door so that you have to stoop humbly to enter (as indeed we do at HT, Stratford!) The pews are simple benches with the minister virtually sitting among the congregation.



Turf Church

Our journey led us across the black desert of debris deposited by repeated volcanic eruptions, amongst which grow delicately beautiful lichens and mosses. For seventy miles there is no habitation. Cairns of volcanic rocks left by travellers loom like ghostly figures through the mist. After heavy rain, we came to a point where the road dipped below a flood some 3ft deep. Not to worry. A hefty police vehicle with something like a 'water plough' attached to the front stood ready to lead a convoy of vehicles closely following, somewhat akin to the Israelites crossing the Red Sea!



Black Desert Cairns

So we arrived at the celebrated Kirkjubæjarklaustur community. The minister here at the time of Iceland's worst ever volcanic eruption in 1783 was Reverend Jón Steingrímsson. The poisonous gasses of the

Mt Laki eruption killed 10,000 people and 70% of Iceland's livestock. Jón Steingrímsson was said to have a strong faith in God and an understanding of nature's character, with the ability to interpret it. One fateful Sunday the lava flow threatened to destroy his church. Trusting in the Lord he decided to conduct a service anyway. During his preaching, his passionate prayers and his calls to God, the lava flow unaccountably stopped and the church was saved. For this he is ever remembered in Icelandic history and in 1974 a new chapel at Kirkjubæjarklaustur in Scandinavian style was consecrated to his memory. We were privileged to spend the night with the family who now care for this church and were looking forward to joining them in Sunday worship but the widespread floods caused the service to be cancelled. Thankfully by the time we continued our journey the waters were subsiding.

Several of Iceland's churches exhibit reminders of how much the faith of these islanders was forged by the ravages of nature. Those in the coastal communities often have a nautical theme like the one at Siglufjörður where a large mural of Jesus coming over the water in the night to his storm-tossed disciples fills the wall behind the altar.

NEXT TIME: The dramatic use of stained glass in Iceland's modern churches



Storm Mural

## PCC report: Tuesday 21 January 2020



A Parish wide consultation will be held in the coming months to explore what our values mean to us as a church.

All those involved in the Parish will be given the opportunity through written feedback at services, to explain their understanding of the values: Holiness, Hospitality and Humility.

Vicar Patrick Taylor said, "Values reflect what we believe and what is important to us. They should shape our culture as churches, communities and as an organisation. We really want to nurture a deeper understanding as a parish community, what these three words mean, how they can inform our common life and make a difference to how we live and work."

In the summer, there will be a teaching focus on one value each month - through sermons and talks at services, readings, Trinity Times, the pew sheets and social media posts.

### News in brief

Associate Vicar Steve Jarvis is to organise an 'Inclusive Church' presentation, to look at how accessible Holy Trinity is from many perspectives such as race, gender, sexuality and poverty.

There will be a review of Holy Trinity's Governance structures, which includes legal requirements and Church rules, to ensure the arrangements suit our context.

There will also be a review of Children & Families services, with members of those congregations invited to provide feedback.

PCC accepted the proposal to set up a working group to scope the feasibility of obtaining Eco Church Status. The award encourages environmental action and would align to aspects of Holy Trinity's revised five year plan.

Martin Corfield was approved to take Home Communions.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020.



### SOUNDBITES



4 March  
11 March  
18 March  
25 March  
1 April  
8 April  
15 April  
22 April  
29 April

Musicians from King Edward VI Sixth Form  
Musicians from King Edward VI Sixth Form  
Roman Kosyakov  
Olga Eckert and Beth  
Brigitta Sveda  
Tom Pickles  
Kassia Trio  
Eastside Saxophone Quartet  
Eve Abram Flute Trio

piano  
violin and piano  
piano  
cello and piano  
saxophone and piano



## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY



.... Handel Coronation Anthems & Schubert Mass in G ....

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and Schubert's *Mass in G* for its Spring Concert on **Saturday 14 March 2020 at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford.

**The Coronation Anthems**, a collection of four festive grand anthems, *Zadok the Priest*, *The King Shall Rejoice*, *My Heart is Inditing* and *Let their Hand be Strengthened*, was composed especially for the coronation on 11 October 1727 in Westminster Abbey of George II and Queen Caroline. Handel, a favourite of the Elector of Hanover, who as a great grandson of James I, became King George I of England in 1714, had settled permanently in England after his first visit in 1712. *Zadok the Priest* has been performed at all subsequent British coronations. Handel became director of the Royal Academy of Music, a partner in the management of the King's Theatre and had a long association with the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

Schubert's Mass No.2 in G. D167 is a contrast, being song-like, melodic and one of the most popular settings of the Mass. It was composed in 1815, at the end of George III's reign, when Schubert was only eighteen.

Music Director, Stephen Dodsworth, will conduct the Choir, The Regency Sinfonia and professional soloists – Rachel Godsill soprano, Jack Parry tenor and Julian Chou-Lambert bass. The Choral Society was first formed in 1836, twenty one years after the Schubert Mass was written, and has the accolade of being one of the two oldest choral societies in the country.

Tickets for Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's concert on 14 March - £15 (**adults**) or £8 (**students**) from RSC Box Office by ('phone 01789 331111) or **in person (10am-6pm Mon-Sat)**, on Choral Society Website [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or on the door on the night if seats available. **Up to two children under 16 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by a paying adult.**



### NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

We are currently planning our production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on 20 June and still have a few spaces for children who would like to act, sing or both. Do make contact with me at [urussell@joyousgard.org.uk](mailto:urussell@joyousgard.org.uk) if your child or grandchild would like to take part in the fun.

#### Dates for Spring and Summer 2020

**March 7, 9, 10, 11 – 7pm in Holy Trinity Church, MACBETH *By William Shakespeare.***

Presented by Anørkē Shakespeare, led by Elena Pellone, a member of Trinity Players last seen as Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*.

**April 24-11am in Holy Trinity Church, *Coffee, Cake and Sonnets.*** Come along to our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday. *Admission free.*

**June 20 – 2pm and 7pm in the Parish Centre. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.***

Adapted from Roald Dahl's story.

*Ursula Russell*





## 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.

This year's service in Stratford will be at 2pm in Our Lady of Peace, Roman Catholic Church, Shotton.

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 other services in your area, see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

## FROM CALIFORNIA TO CLIFFORD CHAMBERS FOUR GENERATIONS CELEBRATE A CHRISTENING



At St. Helen's Church in Clifford Chambers, four generations of the Reason family came together last December to celebrate the Christening of baby Olivia Grace. Olivia was born in Los Angeles to Joshua and Christine, but the family wanted to mark this important occasion back home in England with Joshua's parents and grandparents, Tony and Janet Reason.

Tony and Janet, Olivia's paternal great-grandparents, have lived in Clifford Chambers for nearly forty years and have always played an active role in the life of the church. Joshua, their grandson, remembers spending many happy hours helping Tony in the churchyard as well as attending

services. When Joshua and Christine's baby daughter was born in Los Angeles, they were keen to share their joy with Joshua's parents, Adrian and Suzanne, as well as his paternal grandparents, his maternal grandmother and uncles and aunts on both sides of the family.

The ceremony was incorporated into the church's Advent Service, with Revd Kay Dyer officiating. Baby Olivia remained serene throughout the event, as family, friends and members of the Clifford Chambers congregation welcomed her into our world-wide Christian family.

# HOWLERS!

Compiled by Pat Pilton

## ONE LINERS...

So I was walking down the street and this woman stopped me. She said, excuse me, have you just washed your face with Imperial Leather soap? I said, yeah, can you smell it? She said, no, you've got the little label on your forehead.  
*Tim Vine*

Did you hear about the semi-colon that broke the law? He was given two consecutive sentences.

The best thing about good old days is that we were neither good nor old.

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited, until you try to sit in their pews.

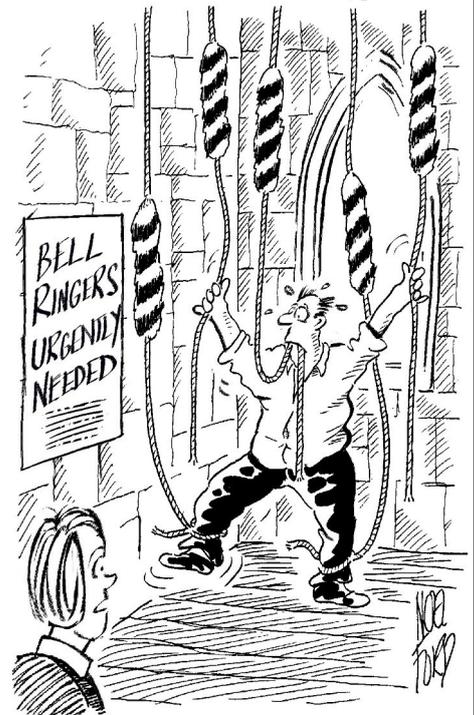
**Letter to parents** from Reading University looking for children to participate in a learning study. "If you are not chosen to take part, you and your child's data will be destroyed.

**Consent form from Chichester Cathedral** spotted by a listener to Radio 4's News Quiz:

"By entering the building you consent to Chichester Cathedral using photographs and video of your child, both internally and externally."

As a joke a Wrexham man put up his wife for sale on the internet — and was inundated with offers. Bids opened at £1, but the advert was withdrawn after one bidder offered an £8,000 motorcycle, plus his own wife. *Daily Express*

**Police who found £350,000 in cash hidden in a washing machine have arrested a man on suspicion of money laundering.** *The i*



'Ready when you are, George'



**England spin bowler Jack Leach** has not featured in the England cricket team's tour of South Africa after suffering gastroenteritis and flu. Jack hasn't been able to get himself fit. Head Coach, Chris Silverwood, said: 'He's a great lad and his infectious personality will be missed.' *BBC News Quiz*



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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
	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	

Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316	wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
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Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		
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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

## From the Cartersville Tribune News

Newspaper cutting sent by Clive Smart a former sidesman of Holy Trinity and now residing in America.

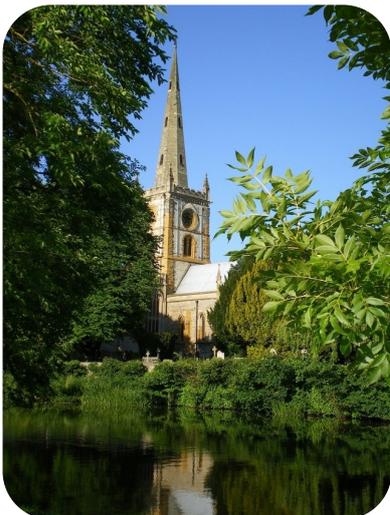
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, England - We found the order of the 8am Sunday service at the collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity to be very similar to our American Episcopal rite. We also knew William Shakespeare was buried somewhere inside this church; we just didn't know where. A friendly parishioner availed herself to us. "Would you like to see Shakespeare's grave?" she asked. Of course we couldn't turn down a private tour. She took us through the nave, the choir and finally to the high altar.

"He's over there," she pointed to the left side of the altar. We must have acted a little dim because she finally ushered us to a spot on the floor where she pointed down. "He's half buried under the altar," she said. "You ever see such a thing?" She didn't know why half of the in-floor grave marker was covered by the high altar platform. We could just barely make out his name.

She showed us the other interesting parts of this church that after it opened its doors in 1210 was used to teach the congregation about Christianity. She took us to another set of doors in the new part of the church where modern toilets had been added to the 800-year old church. When we walked around the outside of the church building the previous day, we didn't notice a difference in the construction from the old to the new.

She sent us on our way encouraging us to see all the Shakespeare sites.

*Jim Humphreys.*



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Hilary Newman on 07786 195 498  
or [hilnewman1945@gmail.com](mailto:hilnewman1945@gmail.com)

For more information.



*Whatever you do, do it  
all for the glory of God.*

*1 Corinthians 10:31*





Kay had received a new cope from Roy (her husband). Patrick blessed it and then she and Patrick showed her cope to the congregation at the 10.00am service on 2 February 2020.

*"Thanks be to God".*

Photograph by Harry Lomax

## CURRY NIGHT – Saturday 8 February

The beginning of February is the dreariest part of the year. Candlemas is gone and taken with it the final flicker of Christmas, and if there are a few snowdrops, that's all there are. We know that winter is not done with us yet, so what better time for a celebration, what season in need of a celebration, and a celebration is what our Social Team gave us.



It was not celebrating anything in particular, just meeting together, over a hundred of us, from the congregation, from other congregations, friends and family and most especially children, in the Parish Hall, at the absurd cost of £6 a head – two or three times that would not have been out of order for what we were given.



What we were given, firstly, was curry – vegetarian or meaty, mild or spicy, with sticky rice, poppadums, naan bread, yoghurt – and more than could possibly be eaten, even by a hundred of us, even with some of us going up for seconds, or thirds, lots left over – a real abundance; and proper curry, rich with spices and taste. Wonderful! (And ice cream to follow should it have been needed.)



And if a feast of food were not enough, if sitting down with friends, making new friends, were not enough, we had dancing. Before we ate, two amazing young ladies gave us a display of Bhangra dancing, complex movements of hands and heads and feet, wonderfully synchronised, joyful and liberated whilst being strictly and formally patterned. For those of us who had not really seen this before, for whom the Bollywood movies musicals are rather too culturally obscure, this was a delight. It did not need to be understood, simply



enjoyed.

After we had had our food, back they came to give us another set. This time, the many children we had with us could not resist. They came forward and danced too, poor Phil having to try and keep the children's enthusiasm out of the dancers' way. This was briefly necessary but, after they had finished their set, the professionals invited the feasters, who were encouraged even, to come before the stage and be inducted into a few simple Bhangra moves.

All in all a wonderful evening, full of the light of its many pleasures that we were able to carry out into the dark February night.



Photographs by  
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