

October 2022

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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



TRINITY TIMES

1926



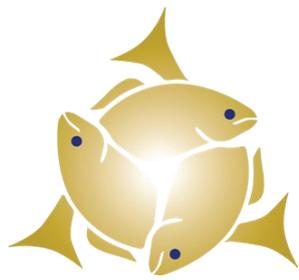
2022

Her Majesty

*Queen
Elizabeth II*

Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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

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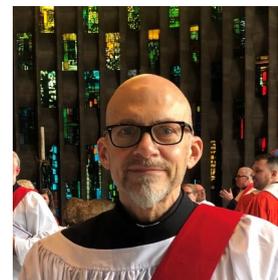
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Associate Vicar



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Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families
Minister

HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926-2022



Books of Condolence at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

God of our lives,
 we give thanks for the life
 of Her Majesty Elizabeth II,
 for her love of our country,
 and her devotion to duty.
 We entrust her now
 to your love and mercy,
 through our Redeemer
 Jesus Christ.
 Amen

Prayer by Books of Condolence



The young queen



The Queen and Paddington Bear
 Picture by Eleanor Tomlinson



Princess Elizabeth with her parents at Holy Trinity Church - Stratford-upon-Avon



Paddington Bear Tribute amongst the flowers



Her Majesty, the Queen



The Queen's love of horses



The Collegiate Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, with All Saints' Luddington and St Helen's Clifford Chambers

The death of the Queen has been of particular significance for us as Anglicans in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon as she was Supreme Governor of the Church of England. As we have been reminded in the countless tributes given to her in the weeks since she died, Queen Elizabeth II lived a remarkable life of service to this nation. Her influence across the world has also been beyond compare. Whilst she was careful not to express her opinions to the public, the one exception has been her willingness to speak about the importance of her personal Christian faith. In 2002 she said, "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."

The Queen's experiences as our monarch across such a span of recent history gave her a unique perspective and wisdom, which was of immense value. She displayed a deep understanding of human nature, and for her this meant knowing who we are in relation to God. In her Christmas speech in 2011 she said, "although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive."

Elizabeth II consistently and publicly honoured the God she served and was an extraordinary example of joyful, persevering, life-affirming, generous hearted, unstinting, wise service on behalf of others. We give thanks to God for all she was and did. May she rest in peace and rise in glory with all the Saints.

We now welcome our new head of the Church of England, King Charles III and pray that God will continue to give him strength, courage and wisdom so that his reign might be as fruitful as that of his late mother.

God save the King!

Patrick



STATE FUNERAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

by Roy Dyer

Watching the State Funeral Queen Elizabeth II on television was particularly moving, as I remembered the funeral of Winston Churchill. At the time I was a member of St. John Ambulance in Stratford upon Avon. As part of the advance planning I was based at the First Aid post, in St. Brides Street, so I was both in the church but also outside with the public.

The Day started early in the morning, joining a coach for the trip to London, on arrival in London we had breakfast, pre-planned in a restaurant, prior to going to the church first aid post.

I can remember the procession so similar to the Queen's Procession including his coffin being taken around the procession route on a gun carriage by sailors using ropes.

It is good that the Queen's funeral was just as professionally conducted as Churchill's.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

2 October - 16th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Taizé

9 October - Harvest Festival

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Choral Evensong followed by the AGM of the Friends of the Music

16 October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

23 October - Last Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Congregational Evensong

30 October - All Saints

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - All Souls' Tide Service of Remembrance for the Departed

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

2 October - 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Harvest Festival with Morning Worship

16 October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



Following a change to the pattern of services at St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers, the Phoenix Group will now be playing on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30am.

St Helen's has decided to switch to a twice-monthly service pattern with an informal, music orientated service on the first Sunday and a more traditional communion, with hymns, on the third Sunday.



All Saints' Church, Luddington

2 October - 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

9 October - 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

16 October - 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

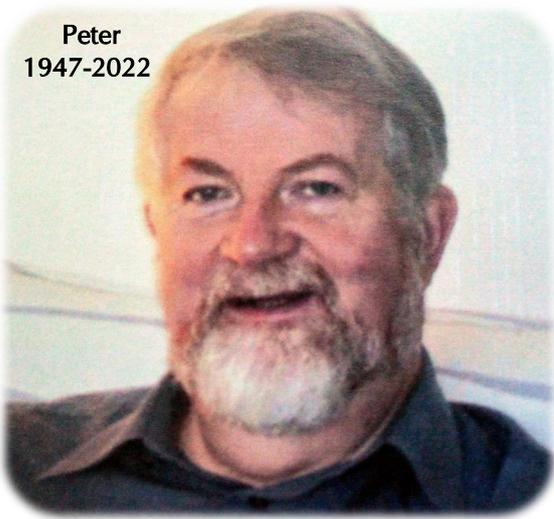
23 October - Bible Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

30 October - All Saints

9.30 - Holy Communion

Peter
1947-2022



Address given by the Rev'd Patrick Taylor at the Requiem Eucharist for Peter Rowland on 16th September

1 Corinthians 13 and John 6. 35-40

You will see on Peter's coffin the railway hat referred to in the eulogy: his Ticket Master's cap from his time volunteering on the Severn Valley Railway. Later in this service, at the end of the prayer of committal, we will hear a sound clip of a steam engine on the Severn Valley Railway, as we imagine Peter making his last

journey into the loving arms of God his creator, marked by the distant sounding of the whistle.

The attraction of steam trains is something Peter well understood. They are a thing of beauty. They are also sensory, with smell and taste, and you can feel heat. You can see how it works and what it does. It's all there, plain before you: boiler, steam, pistons, wheels. All you need is coal and water and you're off! This of course is very unlike modern, electric trains, which begin to move with just a whimpering sound and then whoosh along like a magic carpet! We don't really know what's going on underneath our feet in the carriages.

"I am the Bread of life" says Jesus in the gospel passage Jenny has just read to us. This is God laid bare before us: the God we can see, touch, smell and taste. No magic or clever philosophy is needed. Jesus is God with us, present in the most basic forms of bread and wine. This is the God Peter knew, especially through his regular participation in Holy Communion. This is the God Peter served in so many ways, in this church and in other parishes and in many different communities.

I remember Peter fondly. As one of our Churchwardens remarked, he was the only person in this parish who could look down on the vicar! A Pastoral call to see Peter and Jenny was for me always really an excuse to talk about trains with Peter. He could be relied upon to know the latest news of what was happening - or not happening - in the world of railways. As many of you will know, rail enthusiasts are of course never really content: there is always another engine to see, another route to travel, another campaign to join to improve or reinstate a line. Steam engines are powered by the everyday elements of coal and water; Jesus comes to us in the everyday food of bread and wine but unlike the things of this world, this is all our souls shall ever need, and in him we can at last be content. In Christ we need never hunger for love and acceptance. In him our thirst for meaning and purpose in our lives can be fully met.

So, as we give thanks for Peter today and celebrate his life and his faith, we also proclaim, in the simplicity of the bread and wine of this eucharist, the power of God's love which cannot be overcome by anything, even death itself. We may not always fully comprehend this, like looking at a dim image in a mirror as St Paul put it in our first reading, but the only thing required of us is this: to receive the gift of Jesus himself, which is nothing less than the gift of life eternal, to which we commend Peter.

Amen



Peter and Jenny

Worship Notes - October



The season of **Harvest Festivals** is upon us. All Saints' enjoyed their festival service and lunch on 25 September and there will be special services at **St. Helen's on 2 October at 9.30am** and **Holy Trinity on 9 October at 10am**. Donations for the Stratford Food Bank will be welcomed at these services - please see the weekly bulletin for details on the sorts of items required. As we bring food and give thanks to God for the food we have to eat, we also consider how we can offer all of our lives to God, our spiritual and physical routines and actions.

9 October 5pm Choral Evensong to celebrate and give thanks for the work of the Friends of the Music at Holy Trinity. This will be followed by the Friends AGM (and refreshments!)

30 October is the feast of All Saints'. At 9.30am All Saints', Luddington will celebrate their patronal festival. There will be a special service at 5pm at Holy Trinity to mark All Souls' and remember those whom we have loved but who have died. We will be offering an invitation to those families who have had a funeral through this parish in the past year, but the service is open to anyone who would like to remember a loved one. **If you are coming to the service and would like the name of a loved one read out, please let the Parish Office know in advance.**

Patick

The All Souls' Service of the Departed on Sunday 30 October at 5pm will feature the "Requiem" by Gabriel Fauré.

JOINING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TEAM

It was great to begin the new school year with our blessing of the bags service. It was lovely to have families join us in church and online to mark the return to school and also to remember the work that each of us do for God in our daily lives.



I'm looking for people to join the Children and Families Team. The team help me in planning and delivering our work with children and families, if you would like to be a member of the team please let me know. This is an important time for the team as we plan and shape the way forward with this work. I would like to have the first meeting of the team in the next month, so if you are interested in joining or want more information email me phil@stratford-upon-avon.org or call 07791 005696

Phil Harper

CURSILLO

by Gillian Nunn



On 3 September, as a member of British Anglican Cursillo, I was thrilled and privileged to join Ultreya GB 2022.

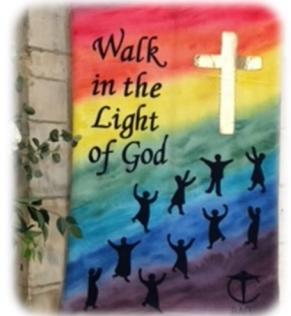
Many of you will be wondering what I am talking about! Cursillo derives from the Spanish “Cursillos de Cristiandad”, short courses in Christian Living, and dates from 1949. It came to the UK in 1981 and now operates in most Dioceses, including Coventry. Ultreya comes

from the Latin and means ‘Onward’.

When I lived in Kent, I made my initial ‘pilgrimage’ with Southwark Diocese, as Cursillo was not in Rochester at that time. It was a three day weekend of intensive worship, prayer and study. We looked at the main areas of Christian life; grace, faith and action. The movement is lay led and organized, although there are usually clergy present as Communion together is a feature of nearly every gathering.

I had regularly received newsletters from the Southwark Cursillo and was thrilled to be able to join their zoom Ultreyas during lockdown. It was with this group that I went to the Holy Land in 2013.

As the Ultreya this month was the first national one since lockdown the dioceses of London and Southwark hosted it jointly. We started under the dome of St Paul’s – free entry on production of our official invitations! I was greeted with a big hug from Martin Carr, the Lay Director of Cursillo in London whom I know well. He welcomed everyone, though not with hugs all round, and gave us instructions for the walk. There was a short service led by the Spiritual Director of Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of London. We sang ‘Walk in the light’ and were blessed by the Bishop of London.



Then, with large rainbow coloured paper butterflies –the rainbow and butterflies are both symbols of Ultreya, in our hands and shouts of ‘Ultreya’, we set out to walk to Southwark, via the Millennium Foot Bridge. Many dioceses have Cursillo banners and these lead us – I did not see one from Coventry. Sadly, although the walk was well stewarded so we could cross roads safely, there were so many other people on the bridge that the walk became a bit of a straggle! We reassembled to process along the Bankside to Southwark. Tea and coffee were laid on in the Cathedral – very welcome.



When everyone had reassembled we had our Ultreya. It took the familiar form with prayers and hymns, ‘floating group reunions’, witness talks and the gospel response, and the President of BACC gave an address. As part of the service we divide into very small groups and it was good to have a ‘reunion’ with three people I had never met before, and shall not meet again, to talk about our Christian lives, under the headings of Piety, Study and Action.

We had a break for lunch when some people ventured into Borough Market, others went to the cathedral café and I ate my sandwiches in the churchyard – we had been granted a special dispensation to do this. I admired the statue of Shakespeare in the churchyard and then saw another when I explored inside the Cathedral.

In the afternoon we had a Eucharist with the Rt Rev and Rt Hon Lord Harries of Pentregarth, Assistant Bishop of Southwark, presiding and The Rt Rev Rob Wickham, Area Bishop of London, preaching. The singing was whole hearted! There was a parade of Cursillo banners from many dioceses.

Finally it was, for me, a long walk back to Blackfrairs (London Bridge Station was closed for building work!) for a train back to Kent after an amazing and inspiring day.



Holy Trinity Luddington Walk by Faith Piper and Eve Archer

After a warm welcome by All Saints' Church team in Luddington village hall on Saturday 10 September, our walkers divided themselves into two groups, those up for the more strenuous walk along the Avon, and those who wanted to enjoy a less vigorous stroll. Rosalind kindly led us 'toddlers' along a flat path, past the church, to the lock and then to the river and weir.

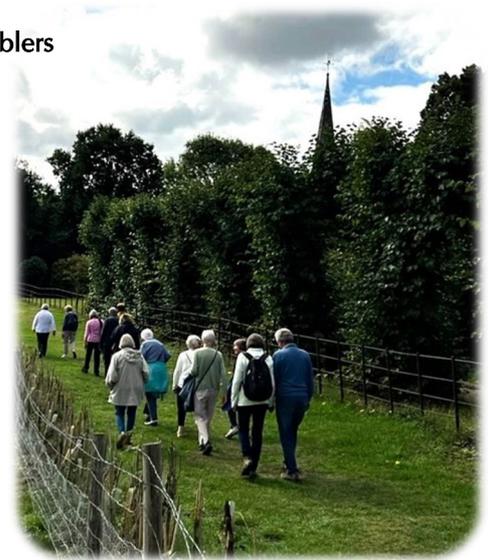


All Saints' Church
Luddington

It was a balmy morning with the willows dripping towards the canal and the delightful tumble of the water down the weir. A bench overlooking this meant that some could rest before our return via the lovely church where we enjoyed some quiet, rest and prayer in a worshipful atmosphere. A very interesting leaflet with a potted history of the building, by Mairi Macdonald, helped us appreciate our Luddington church family further. It was a relaxed sociable outing in a stunning location enjoyed by everyone.

The walk by the river commenced via a beautiful field just off the Luddington Road leading us to a path, guarded by two quite friendly swans. We walked past a recently ploughed field; we were not sure what had been planted there but the wildflowers that had sprung up on the path were so pretty in the morning sunshine.

Every few yards or so we spotted fisherman setting up their equipment. It seems that a wicker fishing creel and a fishing rod that I remember my father and brother taking with them for a day's fishing with a Tupperware box of maggots and another of sandwiches tucked safely away in the creel is a thing of the past. (I often wondered if they ever got the sandwiches mixed up with the maggots). Anyway, it seems you now need a large trolley with wheels to transport numerous rods that looked much wider than the Avon, buzzers, alarms, all sorts of bait and things to sit on, wade in the river, or keep cover under. A fishing competition was about to begin, just after the minute silence for the Queen and then they began. We left them to their digital fishing and continued our walk, hoping the fish were smart enough to avoid being caught.

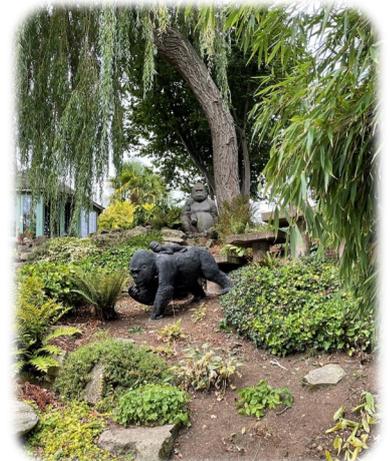


The ramblers



The river

We began walking past the beautiful houses that have enormous gardens leading to the river. Some houses had their own boats and a little wharf and others had beautiful laid lawns and trees and shrubs. I felt it was rude to stare but somehow, I couldn't help it. I had asked the walkers to look out for a family of gorilla's that lived on the walk. Everyone had looked at me a little oddly when I had announced this but later everyone spotted them. Daddy, Mommy and baby were there for all to see. I hope you enjoy the photo of the happy family.



The family of gorillas

Holy Trinity Luddington Walk by Faith Piper and Eve Archer *cont...*

It was at this point we met a walker coming the other way, he advised us to go no further as there was a swarm of angry wasps on the steps we needed to traverse, and he had been stung. Those of us who have an aversion to wasps and those who thought we should carry on came to an agreement that we should turn back and continue our walk to see the weir and Luddington Church.

As we passed the fishermen I enquired if they had had any success. One of the fishermen pointed at another and said, 'he couldn't catch a cold' and we all laughed and marched onwards.

Everyone on the walk was talking and enjoying the countryside and in good spirits even though we had to curtail the walk. However, the wonderful weir with the water tumbling over the rocks was such a beautiful and tranquil place that we sat on the benches and drank in the view and the sound of the gushing water.



The weir

We all agreed that we would be returning to enjoy the glories of Luddington in the future and had been made to feel so welcome.

Look out for further social events announcements. The team work hard to bring us such diverse and fun events.

If you are new to the church, and have not yet been contacted by the Welcome Team, or are interested in joining the team, then please do contact Eve Archer or one of the welcome team in church on a Sunday morning or by email (ega1912@yahoo.co.uk).



The longer walk ramblers

Valued Volunteer - Liesl Bolin



About Your Volunteering

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

I am on Worship Team One working to help plan meaningful worship experiences that engage all who attend worship.

I help in the church shop.

I volunteer welcoming guests to the church and telling them about its history and answering questions.

I've helped with various events: Christmas walk-thru, Easter Walk-thru, Shakespeare weekend, Pancake Supper, decorating the Christingles.

I've recently started volunteering as a Lay Chaplain.

How long have you been a volunteer?

I've been volunteering since 2021 as the church was able to re-open to visitors.

What originally motivated you to become a volunteer?

I wanted to get to know more people in the community. I enjoy engaging with the public, sharing the history, but also reminding people that Holy Trinity is an active church, not just a tourist stop. As I continued to attend worship and feel part of the church family/community I wanted to be of use within the church's ministry. I started by joining a Worship Team and then moving into training for the Lay ministry.

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

There are six ways in which the parish is hoping to focus its ministry over the next five years: Worshipping, Making Disciples, Outreach and Engagement, Welcome and Care, Buildings and Environment, and Financial Sustainability. Learning about these got me to think of how I could help and to be part of the vision of the parish. What are the spiritual gifts that I have been given that can be of use? Volunteering supports the Outreach and Engagement ministry of the parish - sharing that I am not just a volunteer but a participant in the life of the church is important to me as I engage with the visiting public. As I felt moved to become part of the Lay ministry team this also helps with Outreach, and Welcome and Care. Helping on the Worship Team supports Outreach, as well as Worship, and the Welcome and Care mission of the parish. I can give of my talents to the church to be useful in these particular areas as part of my continued involvement with the church.

What aspects of your voluntary work give you the greatest pleasure/joy?

Each act of volunteerism gives me joy in important ways. Engaging in conversations with visitors about the church, sharing a detail that might go ignored is fun as you see the enjoyment. However, being able to be a presence when someone is in need of prayer is also a joy. We need prayer in our lives, as we pray, but also as others pray for us. As a church community we should be encouragers of each other and one of the ways I can do that is to pray for others. I also really enjoy the conversations I am engaged in when planning a worship service with Team 1. I come from the Baptist tradition (though my father did become an Episcopal vicar in the 1990s) so learning new hymns and a new approach to worship has been good for me.

How long have you been a member of the congregation at Holy Trinity?

I have been attending regularly at Holy Trinity since the doors were reopened while Covid had us social distancing and having to book a place for worship in 2021.

To be honest, at first it was Shakespeare. I came to the UK to study at the Shakespeare Institute. However, Shakespeare alone could not have kept me here. I have stayed because the people of the church have been warm and welcoming of me and Amelia. And the clergy who lead the church have been a significant reason to stay on. All of them have been helpful in making us feel not just a part of the life of the church, but also important as they get to know what we have to offer and how our talents can best be used within the ministry of the church.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

Having a favourite hymn is a tough one, there are so many wonderful hymns that each speak to a different aspect of a life of faith - journeying with God. So, the hymns I gravitate to often depend upon what I am going through in life. With my journey in the Baptist tradition the hymns I know may not be the ones known by others at Holy Trinity, or the hymn may be the same but the tune is different. My top five that I find either comfort in or feel resonate with me the most are 'Great is Thy Faithfulness', 'Amazing Grace', 'How Great Thou Art', 'Some There Are Who by Their Living' (a 1992 hymn found in the Chalice Hymnal published in the US), and 'The Solid Rock'. And I am quite fond of John Rutter's work.

Is there a particular bible passage that uplifts you spiritually?

The 121st Psalm has particular meaning for me and my family. I grew up reading it aloud whenever anyone headed off on a journey. It was a tradition handed down from my mother's side of the family and we still read it before anyone goes off traveling. Another is Micah 6:8 (NIV) 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

About You

Where were you born? Is there anything about your childhood that you would like to share with us?

I was born in Portland, Oregon, USA but we moved soon after I was born to Nashville, Tennessee. I did most of my growing up in Baltimore, Maryland and New York City, New York (specifically, Manhattan).

I grew up in a family of faith. Church every Sunday, even through the grumbling and complaining pre-teen and teenage years. My father was a minister and my mum was a teacher and later a professor. Growing up Baptist could have led me down a different path than the one I walk today. But my parents were liberal in their understanding of the message of the Cross and the love that God has for us all. I learned that questions of faith were not something to run from, or to be given pat answers, but rather my questions were encouraged. Dialogue with others around faith have helped me to understand more fully, and to experience more fully, the message of the Gospel, the unconditional love of God, and a personal relationship with a living Christ. I feel incredibly fortunate in this.

My family may be slightly different than most. I am a single parent and when my daughter was born my mum joined us to help out, we actually found that we like each others' company and decided to keep on sharing a home together. Since moving to the UK to study my mum, Frances, has been able to join us for visits as often as she can. My daughter, Amelia, started Sixth Form this year at Stratford School and is working towards the study of Egyptology at university. If you ever need a guide in a museum to tell you more than you ever wanted to know about ancient Egypt, she's the one to go to!

Can you tell us about your working life?

Before coming to the UK to be a student again, I worked as an administrator for a church. However, my background is in Secondary English Education and Drama. At the moment I am allowing myself a time of discernment as I figure out where God is calling me next. In the meantime, I work for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at Anne Hathaway's Cottage and enjoy engaging with the public there as I can connect some of what I know from volunteering at Holy Trinity with the story told at the Cottage.

Do you live in or near Stratford? If you weren't born in Stratford, what brought you here?

We live in Old Town in Stratford.

Shakespeare brought us here so that I could study at the Shakespeare Institute.

Cont...

Do you have any hobbies or pets?

I enjoy hand crafts. I sew, I miss my sewing machine that I left behind in the US. Last year as a break from dissertation writing I hand sewed an 18th c. men's shirt. Before Covid, and having no idea of coming to the UK for studies, I sewed a dress for Amelia so she could volunteer in Harpers Ferry, Virginia as a 'living historian' at the National Park there. I enjoyed the challenge of figuring out the pattern and then doing the sewing by machine and by hand. And I enjoy other types of needle work - needle point, embroidery, cross-stitch. And I do enjoy going out on a walk, it's good for clearing the head and refreshing the senses.

In the US we have cats and are missing the purrs and cuddles. I've thought about getting a goldfish, but it wouldn't be quite the same.

What are your tastes in music/books/films/plays?

My musical tastes are rather eclectic. I like musicals, Big Band, Jazz - from Ella Fitzgerald to Clare Teal, classical, I listen to Radio 2, and my daughter tries to expand my taste with her music which is not always successful.

As for books, I like a well written mystery. I controversially enjoy Anne Brontë over Emily or Charlotte. I enjoy an occasional biography. And I have an interest in the home front of WWII in Britain, the Women's Land Army is a particular interest of mine.

I'm an eclectic film watcher as well. I enjoy an occasional Rom-Com, action adventure, suspense, foreign films, and have been known to enjoy Bollywood films.

Plays. I enjoy a good musical, but also enjoy comedy and drama. Shakespeare, of course, but Noël Coward's, 'Private Lives' is a particular favourite. Other playwrights I enjoy are Richard Sheridan, Lillian Hellman, J.B. Priestley, Lorraine Hansberry, Jez Butterworth, Alan Ayckbourn, Frank McGuinness, and more recently, Juliet Gilkes Romero. I could go on, but then I'd take up the rest of the space in the Trinity Times!

By Judith Dorricott

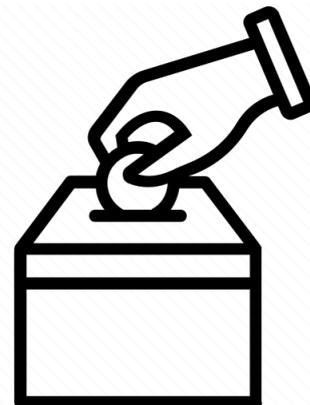


The Children's Society Box Opening

**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

This year's box opening for box holders in our parish will be between 1pm and 3pm on Saturday, 5 November, in the Holy Trinity Parish Centre. Further details will be sent to box holders nearer the time. All offers to assist with counting the money will be gratefully received. If you have any questions then please contact Paul Lageu (paullageu@hotmail.co.uk; Tel. 07434328484).





So, we have a new Prime Minister. She enters office at a time of multiple crises. Whatever our political views, we are duty bound to pray for her and her Government. But it should be increasingly obvious that she inherits a political and economic situation where a lot of things have gone very wrong. A climate crisis, an energy crisis, a cost of living crisis, plus what some see as a crisis of political integrity, all coinciding, ought to ring alarm bells for our very civilisation.

All politicians and their parties will have recipes for putting them right. They will tend to blame each other, or the pandemic, or Russia. And some of that may be fair. But many feel that the issues are far more fundamental.

Richard Truss, a retired priest living in Surrey, happens to be our new PM's uncle – which does not mean that he supports her or her party. He also happens to be a friend of mine and involved with me in the Modern Church movement. With some colleagues, he has set up the Public Square Initiative which is designed to tackle some of these big issues from a faith-based point of view. They argue that, just as the Beveridge Report during World War II sketched out a quite new settlement of our politics and economics – notably of course in the design of the Welfare State – so now once again we need a radical rethink of the very basis of our common life.

Frances Ward recently retired as Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk. She too believes that our relationships, political, social and economic, with each other and with the whole of creation have gone badly wrong. She meditates on this, in a deeply spiritual way and not at all “politically”, in a remarkable book called *Like There's No Tomorrow*, which Colin McDowall reviews elsewhere in this edition. Her approach is different from Richard's, but her conclusion is much the same. I am hoping that the book can soon be available through the church shop. The Novel Theology group will be discussing it at our meeting on 3 November; anyone who would like to join us should get in touch with me on (01789) 204923.

What can we do? We can and must pray, of course, and support those good causes which help to alleviate the symptoms of the crises. But we also have a moral duty to be as well informed as we can be about these massive problems and their possible solutions. We have access to our MP, and may soon face a General Election when we have a similar duty to vote in an informed way without party-political fear or favour. But, if Richard and Frances are right, we cannot simply expect the normal processes of political and economic life to sort these things out; the issues are too fundamental, and the problems too deep-rooted, for that. Where prophets such as these two may lead us, I do not know. But, as Lim Ho reminded us in his article on the climate crisis in our last edition, the Church is called to be a beacon of hope. In the years to come we will find out what that might mean. It may not be comfortable, but it is a task to which we are all called.



Like There's No Tomorrow by Frances Ward

reviewed by Colin McDowall

The next (November) choice for our church's Novel Theology reading group will be "*Like There's No Tomorrow*" by Frances Ward, an Anglican priest and theologian, Dean of Saint Edmundsbury Cathedral from 2010 to 2017 and now priest in charge of two parishes in Workington, Cumbria.

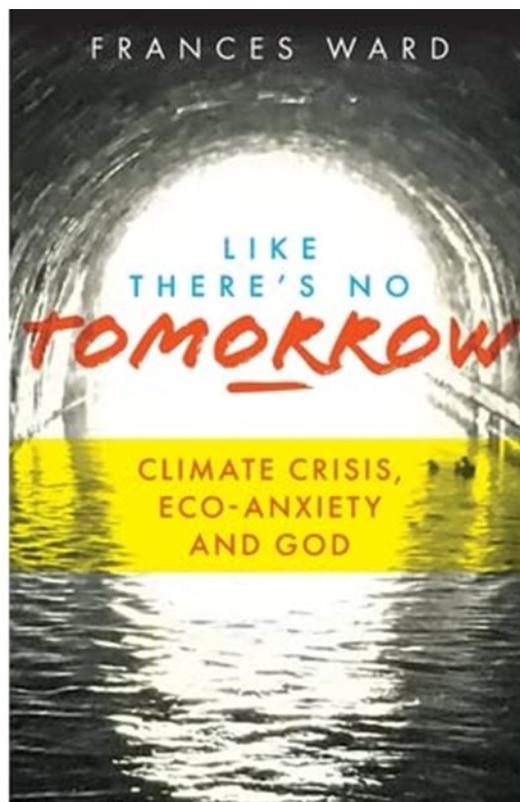
Normally, the chosen book would be a novel, from which any theological content is teased in group discussion, but this one, clearly labelled *Theology*, is much more important than any novel because it deals with the stark, non-fiction truths of climate catastrophe and the distinct possibility of an uninhabitable earth in the not so distant future.

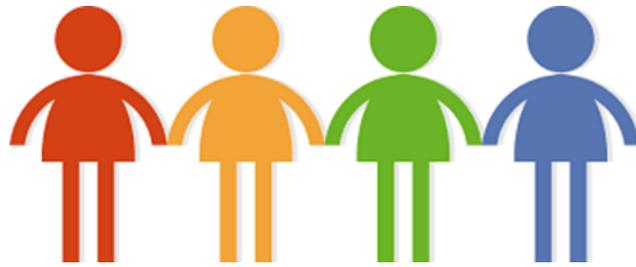
The author shares, with us, her Sabbatical pilgrimage by narrow boat along canals from Cambridgeshire to Skipton in Yorkshire. On this water-borne 3mph journey we meet many of her friends, family and canal-side characters. We eavesdrop on conversations about the wonders of local flora and fauna together with lamentation on the loss of so much wildlife resulting from human neglect or ignorance. She wrestles with the problems of the tragic loss of so much creation and finds comfort in the wisdom of the psalms and poetry; reflecting on being (her words) a priest, prophet, pastor, poet, preacher and regrets also having to be an eco-warrior like Greta Thunberg.

Throughout the many weeks of the journey, Frances shares with us her favourite books, poems and anecdotes that create a sense of real hope for what seems to be a bleak future for a world that appears to lack sufficient faith, hope and love.

As a theologian, she is extremely interested in the concept of the church trying to grow in a world that no longer seems to care about God; a church that hasn't succeeded in commending its traditions to a generation not formed by church-going, choir-singing habits. However, while she describes her book as "a fierce and hopeful lament for the world's future" she knows that "God does not abandon His own creation".

It's intriguing to see that the book was published before the pandemic and to speculate how different it might have been if it had been written more recently. Whilst so much (both political and fiscal) seems to have changed in the past two and a half years, it's tempting to say that ecologically there has been little improvement. Frances Ward's Sabbatical thoughts might well be one of the most important books I have read. I shall re-read it soon *like there's no tomorrow*.





TRINITY LADIES

Our October meeting will be on Wednesday 19 and Jo Golby is coming to tell us about the “Life of a Ladies Maid” in the 19th century. Jo comes in Victorian costume and is going to tell us about what it was like living in one of the grand houses in our country at that time. I hope that this talk will make us appreciate the improvements that have been made in the lives of women since the Victorian age.

At a recent Committee meeting it was decided not to increase our annual fee, it will stay at £5 but we would appreciate it if members would contribute £1 each month when they come into the meeting which will help us pay for speakers and other small expenses.

Our meeting will start at 2 p.m. as usual and be in the Parish Centre. If you would like to join us please come along and we will be delighted to see you.

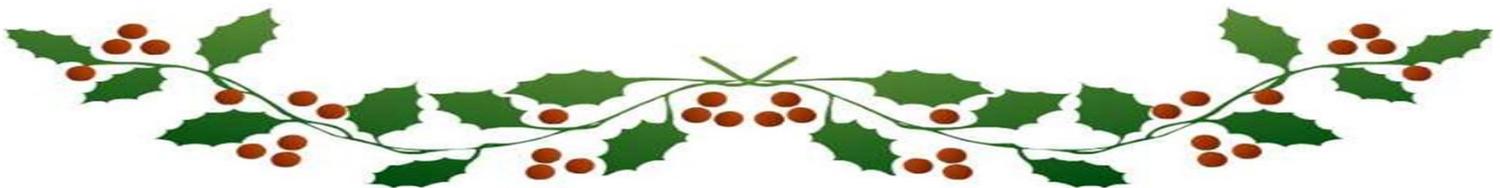
Gina Lodge



CHRISTMAS CARD AMNESTY

Although it is still only October, we wanted to remind people about the Christmas Card Amnesty.

Rather than sending cards to members of the congregations, people are invited to make a donation towards our Christmas charities and have their name printed in the December/January edition of Trinity Times. More details in the November edition.



Zoom coffee mornings at 11.30am.

- Rev'd Kay Dyer and Roy are the regular hosts for Zoom Coffee each Sunday morning and would be delighted to meet you online at 11.30am. The link to join is sent out around 11am if you have joined the church email system and gives those who cannot attend church in person a chance to discuss the morning's service and other interesting matters.

Kay and Roy Dyer

FROM THE REGISTERS - SEPTEMBER

CHRISTENINGS

11 September Hugo Elijah Loquens
25 September Bunty Robbins
25 September Archie Hunt
25 September Otis and Milo Bolton

WEDDINGS

2 September Sandy Mackie and Joanne Mary Bell
10 September Robert Sprason and Alison Gray
24 September Thomas James and Victoria Cowley
24 September (Wedding Blessing) Marco Lorenzana-Sanchez and
Naomi Cessford

FUNERALS

15 September Barbara Clifton
16 September Peter Rowland
20 September Barbara Mathews



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 5 October. If you think it would help to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time in your life please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2 p.m. We will finish at about 3.30 p.m. Our future meetings will now be on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 2 p.m. There is no need to make an appointment; we will be very pleased to see you.

Gina Lodge

Bereavement Co-ordinator

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"The Trinity Times committee is very grateful to Karen Hollis who has managed the advertisements in our magazine for some years, but Karen has had to step down from her role due to the pressures of work.

Would you like to join the Trinity Times editorial team?

Do you have a couple of hours free each week?

If so, do get in touch with us.

At Trinity Times, our parish magazine, we are looking for a volunteer to manage the small amount of advertising in the magazine. We need a person who can make and take telephone calls and emails, as well as search out new advertisers. Sending out invoices and chasing up payments is also required.

This job would suit someone with a little spare time during office hours, as contact with local businesses is needed. Previous sales experience would be a bonus!

For further information, please contact Paul Lageu at paullageu@hotmail.co.uk in the first instance. Thank you!

We're Going

TEN PIN BOWLING

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER FROM 6:45-8PM

at Ten Pin, Tachbrook Park Drive, Leamington Spa, CV34 6RH

This is a great opportunity to have fun together as a church family, and to invite friends along.

CHILDREN £3.50 ADULTS £4.28

This price is for one game (approx 1 hour)
Food and drinks may be purchased separately on the day if required.

**FOR
ALL
AGES**



**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

To book your place, please sign up
by 18th October
using the link on the e-bulletin.

**HOLY TRINITY
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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



The message God wants me to tell

On 31 July our curate Thomas was preaching at the 10.00 service. He said two things that really stuck with me. One was his story of a bishop speaking to a group of people, including him, who were about to be ordained and telling them they were there because God thought they were a good idea. He linked that to us and that we were all there because God thought we were a good idea. That's quite an amazing thing when you stop to think about it: that the almighty and holy God thinks we are a good idea – wow!

The sermon was about following our calling and the second thing Thomas said that has stuck with me was this: in following our calling there is a message that God wants us to tell. His message was to do with helping people not to worry. He asked the question "What is the message that God wants you to tell?" My response, as I sat in the pew, was an immediate "That there is no situation so bad that it cannot be redeemed." Now that might seem quite an obvious thing but, sometimes, we can say things like that and do not have the lived experience to really know it. In my life I do have experience of a really bad and dark situation that God has redeemed. So, I thought that if God wants me to tell this message, where better to start than with my community at Holy Trinity?

As a child I was sexually abused by several different people over a range of eight years from the age of two. Mostly relatives were involved but not always. I don't want to go into any more detail about those events because that's not the important part. What is important is what happened subsequently and God's interventions. I went on with my life keeping what had happened as far from my consciousness as I could. I passed the 11-plus and went to grammar school and ultimately on to university. During my teenage years I was a bit of a rebel and was getting involved with what my mother would call "the wrong crowd". In the early 1970's, at the age of fifteen, I hooked up with someone who was on drugs and by this time I was already smoking and drinking. Who knows whether or not I would have gone on to take drugs, but God intervened first. My mother found out about the boy and would not let me see him anymore. My sister by this time was a Christian and I was sent with her to London to what was known as the Festival of Light which was a big Christian event in Trafalgar Square. I was very moved by the occasion, and it started my seeking after God and I gave my heart to Him three months later in December 1972.

Still life carried on and I went to university where I met Paul and we became engaged and married in 1981. I suffered from lack of confidence and low self-esteem believing that there was something bad about me but not really knowing what that was: I still kept all the bad stuff as far away as possible. Paul and I had some issues in our marriage and as they were being resolved, all the early stuff began coming out of the woodwork. It was a very difficult time. The long and the short of it is that what had been done to me left me with some quite severe mental health issues: anxiety, depression, complex post-traumatic stress disorder, and dissociative identity disorder. I had flashbacks, nightmares, panic attacks and resorted to self-harm to cope. On one occasion I came close to being sectioned under the Mental Health Act due to having strong suicidal thoughts. God provided for me in that the very first therapist I approached was a Christian and also very experienced in dealing with sexual trauma. I stayed with her for many years due the extreme mental health issues. God provided us with the finances to pay for therapy for which I am eternally grateful. The work that my therapist and I did together was so hard that I don't really have words for it but apart from her I had some close friends around who were an amazing support, especially, of course, Paul.

I had lots of struggles with God about what had been done to me. Please notice my use of language: I don't say "what happened to me" as, for me, that implies it happened by chance and it didn't. People chose to do what they did: it was done to me. So, the "Why me?" question was massive, and I knew the answers about free will and living in a fallen world but for a long time, they did not satisfy, although it makes sense now. I used to go to the lady chapel in Chichester cathedral and wrestle with God there. One time I asked Him where the h*ll he had been and His reply was that He had been right there and that He was weeping for the abusers as much as for me. That was a tough one to take but I have come to realise that sinning in that way not only hurts the person being abused but the abusers too.

Cont...

The message God wants me to tell. *Cont...*

Another struggle was to come to terms with the fact that God loves the abusers as much as He loves me. I don't know the status of most of them with regard to their relationship with God, but if they have truly repented, He will have forgiven them and saved them because He loves them. I have fully come to accept this now and I have also come to forgive the perpetrators for what they did. That took a while, but I realised that by holding what they did against them, I was only hurting myself: it wasn't affecting them in any way. Bitterness, anger, resentment and the like are not good for either our physical or mental health, so learning to forgive took me some time but has been worth it.

I had been involved with a Christian charity in Chichester called Lifecentre. This charity provides both therapeutic and crisis support for people who have been sexually violated. I had been helping to train people who were going to work on the crisis helpline (training was one of my professional activities). I was doing this because I wanted God to be able to bring some good out of what had been a very grim situation. At the age of fifty-ish, I decided to retrain from being an occupational psychologist to being a counselling psychologist, this with a view to working face to face with Lifecentre clients. So, I embarked on a professional doctorate course and became Dr Lynn (finally!) in 2014 and also became Lifecentre's Clinical Lead. Helping others in this way was, in my view, part of God redeeming what had been a really bad situation.

The change from believing myself to be female, bad and dirty, the change from having real mental health issues to the person I am now is quite amazing. The therapy has helped immeasurably but God's faithfulness and goodness has helped more. With God there is the redemption of a situation that is quite remarkable. I looked up the meaning of the word redemption and one definition is "the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil". I was saved not from my own sin or error but from the impact of someone else's – I still see that as redemption. I know that people often don't like to talk about this topic of sexual abuse but by hiding it, the dynamic of the abuse is perpetuated. When children are abused, keeping it a secret is the abuser's first priority and the child is frightened into doing that. Bringing the abuse into God's light and redemption helps to release the shame that the abused person so often feels. I thank God that I don't feel that shame anymore.

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this article, support can be found at sexualabusesupport.campaign.gov.uk or contact a local charity, safeline.org.uk on 01926 402498

Dr Lynn Suter

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For more information
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Marie at: mariemcdougall73@gmail.com

**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH**
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 

St Helen's Bell Tower Makeover

Now the bells are being rung regularly we have treated the bell tower at St Helen's Church to a long overdue make-over. Years of dust and rubbish have been cleared out and the old mats removed. Grateful thanks go to Barbers Flooring in Stratford who kindly donated the carpet which has now been fitted. As you can see from the photo, the tower is a much better environment to ring in now. Incentive indeed for our novice bellringers to continue learning!



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NOVEL THEOLOGY

Here is a list of the books which have been studied recently by the Novel Theology group – to give an idea of the huge range of types covered, from the classics, to light detective novels, to serious (but accessible) theology! Anyone interested in joining us should contact Anthony Woollard on (01789) 204923 or by email on awoollard@jouysgard.org.uk We normally meet on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm – currently on Zoom for the sake of one of our members who finds it difficult to come out, but it may be possible to get together at 1 Chestnut Walk in the future. You could contribute to our choices!

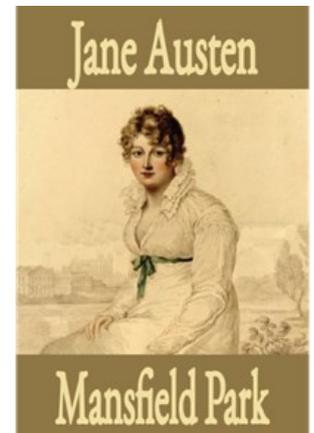
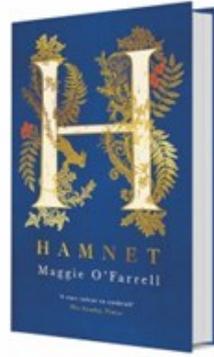
2020

- August – Antonia White, *Frost in May*.
- September – Hilary Mantel, *The Mirror and the Light*.
- October – Barbara Pym, *Jane and Prudence*.
- November – Pat Barker, *Silence of the Girls*.
- December – Robert Harris, *The Second Sleep*.



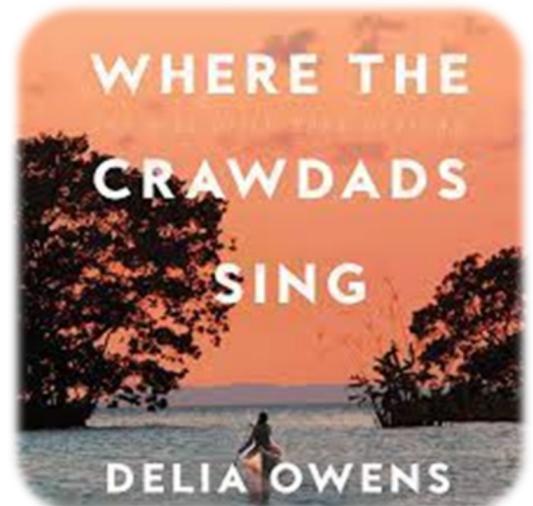
2021

- January - John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*.
- February – Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*.
- March – Daniel Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Year*.
- April – Irene Nemirovsky, *Suite Francaise*
- May – Maggie O'Farrell, *Hamnet*.
- June – Carys Bray, *When the Lights go out*.
- July – Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*.
- August – Stephen Cottrell, *Dear England*.
- September – Francis Spufford, *Light Perpetual*.
- October – Richard Osman, *The Thursday Murder Club*.
- November – Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*.
- December – Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, *How to Eat Bread*.



2022

- January –Delia Owens, *Where the Crawdads sing*.
- February – Paula Byrne, *Belle*.
- March – Amor Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow*.
- May – Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*.
- June - Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges are not the only Fruit..*
- September – Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*.
- October – James Runcie, *The Great Passion*.
- November - Frances Ward, *Like there's no tomorrow*.
- December - To be decided.



PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town

Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
Curate	The Revd Thomas Powell	01789 266 316	thomas@stratford-upon-avon.org
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
The Revd Penny Harrison	01789 266 316
The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

Readers

Paul Gifford
David Harrison

Staff

Operations Manager:	Lola Spetsioti	01789 266 316	lola@stratford-upon-avon.org
Parish Administrator:	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	sarah.cushing@stratford-upon-avon.org
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Church Wardens

Paul Lageu	07434 328 484	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	07989 318 965

Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Alan Haigh	01789 290 128
Friends of St Helen's Church	Angela Wylam	01789 268 156
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Roome	01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Josephine Walker	01789 266 316
Home Communion	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Stewardship Officer	Chris Kennedy	01789 299 785
Trinity Players	Ursula Russell	01789 204 923
Trinity Tots	Phil Harper	07791 005 696
Pastoral Contacts	Parish Office	01789 266 316 or office@stratford-upon-avon.org
Welcome Team	Eve Archer	07826 574 854 or ega1912@yahoo.uk

Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396

Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110
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| 12 October | Clarinet Quartet |
| 19 October | Piano Trio |
| 26 October | Junction Saxophone Quartet |

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