

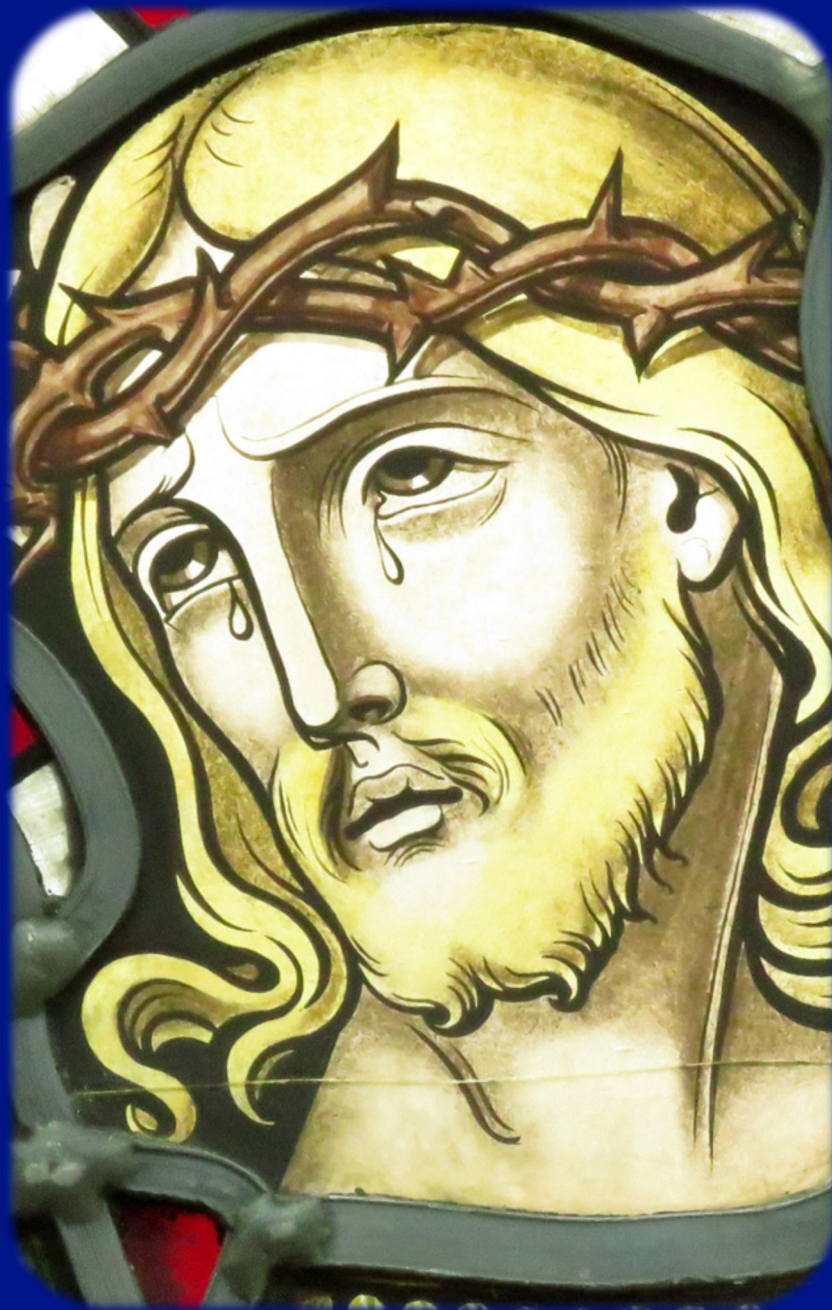
March 2023

£1.50

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

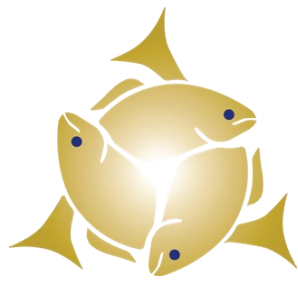


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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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. 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 2023** edition
The copy date is 10 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:
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Front cover :- Christ's Tears—stained glass in new extension

Holy Trinity Team



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Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

The Power of Light and Prayer

Are you looking forward to brighter, warmer days? You probably know that Lent is named after the lengthening of the days as we move towards the Spring. I had no idea how powerful the effects of long dark days could be, until I tried an experiment with a Poinsettia (those plants with red leaves on the tops of the branches) that I was given last Christmas. During the year all the red leaves had dropped off as fresh new green leaves grew, but if you put the plant in the dark for at least twelve hours a day from November onwards the green leaves do turn red, as shown in the picture.



If this is the effect that light or lack of it can have on plants, no wonder some people suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) as the lack of daylight affects their mood. Getting out into the garden or countryside is sometimes a help and walking through woodland is supposed to be particularly beneficial, because of the effects the trees have on the air quality.

Of course, not everyone is able to get out and about without help, so being near a window where you can see birds on seed feeders or the neighbour's cat might help lift your mood a little.

But what about the benefits of prayer and worship? If being exposed to sufficient daylight has such a positive effect, spending time in the presence of God could also have a helpful influence on our wellbeing. We were created to worship God and so listening to worship songs, watching Songs of Praise or tuning in to the Morning Service at Holy Trinity or one of the Cathedrals can also help with our health and healing. God's love and peace can permeate every part of our being, and if you find it hard to pray as most of us do, perhaps try "Pray as you Go" or "Lectio365" on your phone or tablet. It is good to remember that some people do not have i-phones or computers, so maybe visit them or telephone them to see how they are feeling and give them a few positive words of encouragement.

Here at Holy Trinity we are looking at the possibility of being involved in something called Anna Chaplaincy (after Anna in the Bible who was eighty-four and met the baby Jesus in the temple). This is a ministry that helps older people reflect on their spiritual journey and can support their relatives in understanding the spiritual issues that older people face. It can also help churches in their work with older people and enable younger generations to consider what constitutes 'successful aging' and so prepare for more positive experiences in older age.

We can all pray for each other and having a good foundation of prayer is like tilling the soil ready for sowing seeds. It provides the basis in which new initiatives can develop and flourish. It gives us more resilience when times get particularly hard and builds up our Christian life so that we can experience the abundance that God offers. So I pray that as the length of days increase and we experience the benefits of more daylight, we might continue this Lent to build up our reserves of prayer too and be ready to hear God's call to respond to the needs of those around us with energy and love.

Kay Dyer

GROWING OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The work that I can do as Children and Families Minister is limited to how much I can pack into the hours in a day. Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, I haven't managed to add any more hours into a day as there still isn't a 25th hour! To continue to grow and enable our work to flourish needs ownership by more people so I've been trying to re-establish the Children and Families team. A families team who meet to review and plan our work with children, but also to help prepare and support new initiatives.

I presented a vision to the Standing Committee of what our children and families ministry could be, what new initiatives we could begin. But to enable this to happen it needs more people willing to join a team and take their part in

the work. I was also clear to Standing Committee that this was a possible vision, but what I would like is a vision created and owned by the Children and Families team.

In my previous appeal for members to start a new team, I have had one new member. For this to be an effective team, we need more people. You don't need to be an expert in working with children or have a background in education. All you need is a passion to work with and support children and families in their journey of faith. We need a team with a variety of skills and backgrounds so that we can be creative in the vision we develop for our work in this area. If you might be interested or want to find out more, contact me on 07791 005696 or email phil@stratford-upon-avon.org



Timeout, our new informal service in the Parish Centre is going well. We held our second service at the end of January, trying a new time of 4pm. We've been experimenting during our first few services to see what works and what doesn't. Moving forward the service will be held at 4pm and below are the dates for the next few services.



26 March

30 April

28 May

Everyone sits around tables, with drinks available throughout. We begin with singing a selection of worship songs, then hear about the Bible story the service is focusing on. A reflection is led guiding people through the story, in a *lectio divina* style, putting yourself into the story. There is also an activity based on the reading for those who think in a more active style and this is followed by prayers and more songs. It's an opportunity to learn together and is open to people of any age. If you'd like to try it, everyone is always welcome.



Our **Tots@Trinity** service, held inside Holy Trinity, is continuing to give toddlers and their carers an opportunity to become comfortable in the building and starting a Christian foundation in their lives. If you don't have a toddler that you care for, please spread the word to others with toddlers. Our next service is on 22 March 2pm in St Peter's Chapel.

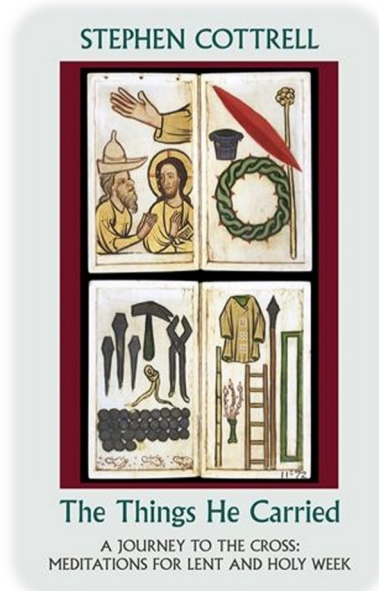


Phil Harper

Lent Reading

Our Parish Lent Book this year is *The Things He Carried* by Stephen Cottrell, The Archbishop of York. It's not a long read: there are eight short chapters (called 'meditations' in the book) with prompts for reflection at the end of each (these can be done either individually or a part of a home group). The 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity will follow some of the themes from the book on the Sundays in Lent (from 26 February), so if you are reading the book as well, you will be able to travel more deeply into the meaning of the suffering of Christ as we prepare to celebrate with joy the Resurrection at Easter.

The book is widely available online to buy and we will have an inspection copy available in the church shop. For those without the capacity to make online purchases, the shop will be happy to order a copy for you.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3 March

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

"I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH"

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues that they face geographically, politically and socially as well as their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith, just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

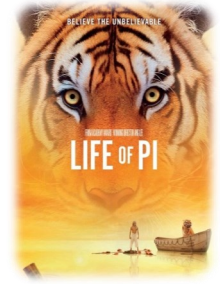
The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. Beginning in Samoa, prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa thirty-eight hours later.

Please join us at the **Methodist Church** on **Friday 3 March** at the new time of **10.30am**. We look forward to welcoming everyone, including pre-school children and men, to the service and chatting with you over refreshments.

'Deliver us from Evil': a film-based Lent course to engage the whole church.

We propose to project in Lent the following films:

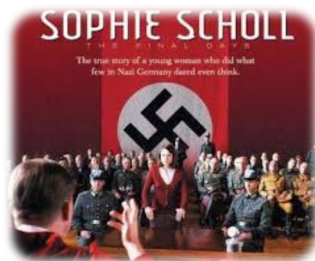
1 MARCH, *The Life of Pi* (dir. Ang Lee) explores, in glorious technicolour, questions of natural and moral evil through their common connection with violence: Pi, the only human survivor of a shipwreck, is in a life-boat with Richard Parker, a tiger. It is a vivid and exciting narrative with a first sight of the perspectives and problems of evil we need to be able to recognise and engage with – as humans, as people of faith, and as Christians.



8 MARCH, *I Daniel Blake* (dir. Ken Loach). One man's poignant struggle with the welfare system, of the consumer society, the unwitting cruelties of which finally kill him. The word 'evil' is never mentioned, but our unconscious complicity in manifest evil is challenged by its Christ-like hero. What is gained, what may be lost, by our discovery of 'systemic evil'?

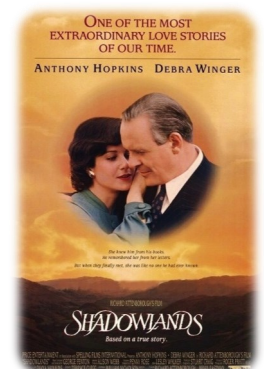


15 MARCH, *Lord of the Flies* (dir. Peter Brook): Adapted from the novel by Nobel prize-winner, William Golding, this 20th century parable of a group of English Prep school boys abandoned on a tropical island, shows things falling apart with apocalyptic effect; the loss of childhood 'innocence', 'the darkness of man's heart' and 'the fall'. 'Evil' is situated in our own time: at the threshold of an apparently *post-Christian* culture and civilisation.



22 MARCH, *Sophie Scholl: the Last Days* (dir. Marc Rothemund) Gripping and deeply moving account of German student resistance to the Nazi State. It is a powerful exploration of political power as a contagion of evil, confronted by suffering and martyrdom – all raised by 'Christ-like' allusions developed around the key-figure, of Sophie.

29 MARCH. *Shadowlands* (dir. Richard Attenborough) starring Anthony Hopkins, drawn from the autobiographical books *Surprised by Joy*, *A Grief Observed* by C. S. Lewis who, in the death of his beloved wife, faced the 'last enemy', death. Lewis's treatment of the major questions of this Lenten course, *The Problem of Pain*, will be used (sometimes critically) throughout, to launch the theme of evil and deliverance from it.



Film is a great way of bringing underlying problems to life; of making discussion of them accessible, stimulating, profitable. It can *turn to advantage* the *disconnect* between Christian faith and secular culture; a problem to which the church often responds poorly.

Holy Trinity has **two important stakes** in such a course: the first is **outreach**: drawing in an audience that is outside (or marginal to) our services, practices and the influence of committed faith: the second is **deepening understanding** of some of the most central questions of Christian faith.

This Lent-long menu of first-rate films will be shown on **Wednesday evenings in KES Sixth Form Common Room at 7pm**, with opportunities for online (and, on request, some 'in person') discussion on **early Sunday evenings**. Access is from Church Lane entrance and parking is available. It is designed to run alongside and interact with Lenten readings and sermons.

Steve Jarvis, Paul Gifford, James Sorel-Cameron.

WORSHIP NOTES



This year the Sundays of March fall rather neatly across the middle of Lent. So, the normal pattern of services continues as we journey together through this important season of reflection and preparation for our celebration of Easter next month.

We look forward to Trinity Voices joining us at the 10am Parish Eucharist in Holy Trinity for Mothering Sunday on 19 March.



Rebecca Mills leads our young Trinity Voices in song during a church service

The next 'Time Out' informal service in the Parish Centre takes place at 4pm on Sunday 26 March.

Patrick

NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

Dates for your Diary

5 April in the Chancel of Holy Trinity Church at 7pm

WITNESSES

The Players will tell the Easter Story in the Chancel during Holy Week as if they had been there in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. As usual there will be no charge but you are invited to donate to a charity. Depending on circumstances in April, this may be for the UNICEF emergency appeal for the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

21 April in Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am

COFFEE, CAKE AND SHAKESPEARE

Our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday now in its 15th year (we resorted to YouTube during Lockdown) when we read from Shakespeare's Plays and Poems or from works inspired by Shakespeare. We round off with a Chorus of *Happy Birthday Dear William* followed by Birthday Cake and Coffee. Admission free.

For further information, contact Ursula Russell urussell@joyousgard.org.uk or 07887642216





SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

5 March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Rebirth

5pm - Taizé

12 March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Refresh

5pm - Choral Evensong

19 March - Mothering Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist - Mothering Sunday with Trinity Voices

4th Sunday of Lent - 5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

26 March - 5th Sunday of Lent

10am - Parish Eucharist - Revive

5pm - Choral Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

5 March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Morning Praise

19 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

5 March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

12 March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

19 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30 - Holy Communion

26 March - 5th Sunday of Lent

9.30 - Holy Communion

PCC REPORT by Jane Armitage

Eve Archer was invited to attend as an observer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Outstanding items were discussed including an upgrade to wiring for AV and screens in Holy Trinity, the Eco project, worship opportunities for youth, choir school and disabled access review.



Friends of The Music

A presentation was given by Caroline Thomas (Chair) and Martin Stanley (Treasurer) explaining how the church music was assisted financially in a variety of ways through the work of the Friends, especially the Soundbites lunchtime concerts. This is the 40th anniversary for FOTM and they would appreciate increased membership and assistance with marketing.

Other Matters

Patrick and Steve gave presentations on the role of the clergy and the day to day opportunities and challenges.

It is proposed to appoint an organist, supported by FOTM, and seek outside funding support for the role of Assistant Director of Music.

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church are prepared to fund work undertaken by the PCC on the South Aisle roof and the interior of the North Transept, making it a more usable public space.

Finance and draft budgets for All Saints' and St Helen's were presented and discussed; these were accepted.

The Parish will continue to adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy until such time as a new Parish policy is developed. The choir is to be congratulated on its work with Safeguarding training.

Seven documents with Terms of Reference for various sub-committees were approved.

The Parish Administration maternity cover will commence on 31 January and fourteen visitor assistants have been appointed, with the new opening hours to commence 11 February, including a mix of employees and volunteers.

Next meeting 21 March 2023.

*We were very saddened to hear of the death of a member of
our congregation, Margaret Wilcox.*

Our deepest sympathies go to her husband Graham and all her family.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Lilian Hopkins and the Hospitality Teas team say they will miss Margaret's contributions to the weekend teas served in church in the summer. Margaret was a committed helper from the start and the team could always rely on her smiling positive attitude. For Margaret, nothing was too much trouble, and everyone will miss her legendary coffee cake.

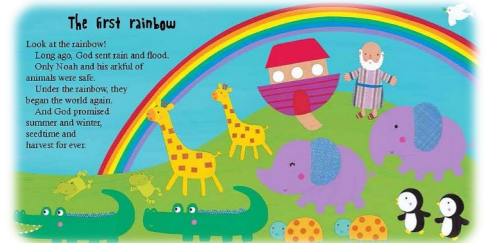
Her funeral address by the vicar will be in next month's magazine.

BIBLE GIFT FUND



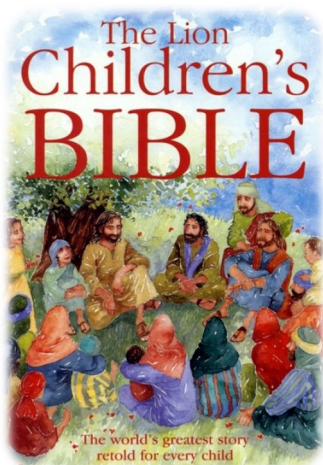
**Baby's First Bible
(outside cover)**

One of the greatest gifts that can be given is the gift of a Bible. Across all the churches in our parish, at christening services, we always give a Bible as a gift to the newly baptised. With the rising costs of these Bibles, we may not be able to continue doing this. The cost of the children's Bibles has risen from £2.88 to at least £5.99, if not more. Considering last year we had forty-three Christenings, this is a large jump in costs.



**Baby's First Bible
(inside)**

We are starting a fund to help pay for these Bibles and would be grateful for any donations people are able to make. Rather than being an ongoing fund, the plan is to raise the money to cover the costs for the next three years.



Lion Children's Bible

The other gift we annually give is to the Year 6 leavers at Holy Trinity Church School. Previously we have given them a small book from SPCK called *It's Your Move*. It has tips and suggestions for navigating the transition from primary to secondary school, and although useful for a short time, there is no longevity for the book. I would love it if instead we could give all the children a Bible which will help them in the transition and throughout the next stages of their lives. With on average sixty children each year in Year 6, this again has a higher cost.

I am praying that others will share the importance I place on giving these first Bibles to those beginning their Christian journey and those facing this milestone in life. Through people's donations, if we could raise £2,500 this should cover both christening gifts and Year 6 leavers for the next three years, including further price rises.

If you are able to donate something, no matter how small or big it would really be appreciated. Donations can be made via internet banking. The information you will need is:

To:- Stratford-upon-Avon PCC

Sort code:- 40-43-19

Account number:- 20649430

Reference:- Books + (your surname). That will allow us to claim gift aid if appropriate.

Alternatively, by cheque made out to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC and sent to the Parish Office. Please write on the back of the cheque that it is for the Bible Fund.

Phil Harper



MEET LIZ MARSHALL

Our temporary operations manager

With Lola away on maternity leave, the church sorely needed a replacement to cover her post this year, and luckily some-one with all the right attributes applied. Liz has a background in working with children, young people and family services, is a committed church-goer, recently retired – and has just moved to south Warwickshire.

Liz was born near Nottingham, where she attended school and was very involved in her local church. She originally trained as a nursery nurse, but quickly moved into management, working for Nottinghamshire County Council and supervising the team work with vulnerable families, managing a centre for families and working closely with Social Services in the Mansfield and Newark areas.

At the same time Liz was Church Warden in her home town of Sutton-in-Ashfield, where she was particularly involved with safeguarding, growing disciples, and even taking on the role of lay chair of her local deanery.

She has a grown-up daughter, Laura, who has recently married and who is a primary school teacher. But in 2019 life changed.

Liz went on a retreat, where she felt that God was calling her to do something different with her life, so she decided to retire from her job and take up a voluntary post at a women's centre run by nuns in southern India. An exciting plan – until Covid19 hit the world! Because of the pandemic, overseas travel was cancelled and Liz was no longer able to fulfil this dream. However, she had already handed her notice in to the County Council, so decided to spend six months on the south coast of England where she needed to "learn how to be retired".

Eventually Liz moved to Warwickshire where she has a good friend and started worshipping at Holy Trinity Church where she found everyone has been most welcoming. She tells me "I've always been a practising Christian and my spiritual life is very important to me".

Liz tells me that she is excited about her new post with its new challenges, and we are sure she will have a happy experience working with the clergy and staff of Holy Trinity Church.

Judith Dorricott



Our new Visitor Welcome Assistants at their induction afternoon, with Paul and Helen (churchwardens), Patrick and Liz.

8 February 2023



The Friends of the Music – The Next Chapter

In 1996, as a young adult, I joined the choir of Holy Trinity Church. This was to be my introduction to the richness and beauty of the Anglican choral tradition and to a world of music in worship that I would now never want to be without. I spent an enlightening and fulfilling fifteen years as a member of the choir, under the direction of Peter Summers, Stephen Dodsworth and Andrew Jones, before re-locating to the South East of England between 2013 and 2021.

Enjoying music, through singing, playing and listening is a defining part of my life. Over the years I have sung in choirs, attended concerts and performances and, most recently, as a very amateur viola da gamba player, indulged my passion for 'early music'. Perhaps most importantly though, I can't imagine my life as a Christian without music. Music is fundamental to the experience and expression of my faith whether through the formal place of music in liturgy and worship or in less formal contexts such as facilitating prayer and contemplation in Taizé style services.

Consequently, in 2022, having returned to Warwickshire and seemingly with more time on my hands (!), I was delighted, if a little daunted, to be asked if I would take up the role of Chair of the *Friends of the Music* at Holy Trinity following the retirement of Josephine Walker.

So what was I taking on? As many may already know, the role of the *Friends* is to promote and support all forms of musical activity at Holy Trinity. This includes both music in worship and music for external audiences. To this end the *Friends* are involved in income generating activities, managing donations and legacies and, to a lesser extent, fundraising. In short, as we might hope of any 'friend', the *Friends* have a vital role to play in supporting, encouraging and enabling the musical life of Holy Trinity.

Consequently, individuals, particularly youngsters, have their commitment recognised and rewarded with trophies, prizes and scholarships; funds are made available to enable the purchase and maintenance of instruments and equipment and communities are united and supported around their enjoyment of music.

Undoubtedly the past few years have been particularly challenging for the musical life of the church with activities hugely constrained. However, with the steadfast and admirable commitment of the music leaders, Douglas Keilitz and Rebecca Mills, and of the Choir, we have seen a return to 'normal' through 2022 of the musical life of Holy Trinity.

One of the clearest indicators of this has been the success of the Soundbites concerts. Notably, in the past year the *Friends* hosted an astounding forty-four lunchtime concerts, welcoming audiences of typically between eighty and one hundred people into the church, many of whom would not normally attend regular services. Performers included local musicians and students from London and Birmingham music colleges, all of whom gave their time free of any fees.

Now that we can look ahead, what will occupy the *Friends* in 2023?

This is a significant year for us as October marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the *Friends of the Music*, so we are excited to begin planning an event which will celebrate and showcase the richness of the musical life and facilities at Holy Trinity and the associated churches.

In addition, at the most recent meeting of the committee of the *Friends*, we spent time considering our priorities. At the heart of our activity will be our ongoing commitment to working with the Church Leaders to maintain the valued and significant place of high quality music in worship at Holy Trinity. In particular, the *Friends* will continue to provide appropriate financial support for music-related activities, roles and equipment. Specifically for 2023, we are aware of the plans for an appeal to enable work on the church's organ and will be looking to contribute to this.

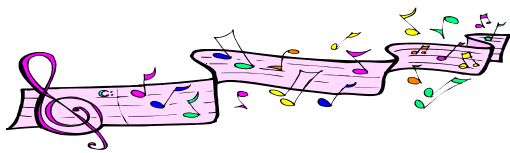
Cont...

With the post-Covid reduction in the number of younger choristers, another priority will be to fund activities that will help the Director of Music both raise the profile of the choir and enhance a sense of community amongst its members. These are likely to include a reciprocal weekend visit to a similarly significant church, a cathedral weekend and some purely fun social activities! We are also keen to continue to support talented young musicians, involved in any form of music-making in the church with bursaries that will contribute towards tuition and course fees.

Last, but by no means least, we will be looking outwards. We are delighted to announce another full and varied programme of 'Soundbites' concerts. [Please see below for this month's programme]. In addition, drawing on the reputation and facilities of Holy Trinity, we will be looking at the feasibility of hosting a series of evening concerts.

Thank you for letting me introduce myself through this update. Do please get in touch if you would like either to join the Friends, share any ideas or perhaps even contribute to the Soundbites programme. We'd love to hear from you.

Caroline Thomas
Chair, Friends of the Music.



SOUNDBITES

Wednesday 1 March - Venesca Yapson - RBC pianist
Wednesday 8 March - RBC Brass Quintet
Wednesday 15 March - Houston High School Orchestra, USA
Wednesday 22 March - KES A Level Recitals
Wednesday 29 March - KES A Level Recitals

He is Risen

As we approach Easter, we would like to fill our beautiful church with Easter Lilies to celebrate our Lord's rising from the dead.

If you would like to donate towards the Lilies in memory of a loved one, or just feel that you would like to, the Flower Team would be extremely grateful.

Donations can be made either by cheque and posted into the Parish Centre, marked Easter Lilies, with your dedication (if required), or by direct bank payment to:

Stratford-upon-Avon PCC

Sort Code: 40-43-19

Account No: 20649430

Reference: EL(and your Surname)

If you are donating by direct bank payment, in memory of a Loved One, can you please email the Loved One's details to

office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Window on the World



Looking at the headlines, you would think that our Archbishops and Bishops are currently totally involved with the debate about same-sex marriage. But they have other work going on also. Recently, they produced a report on the state of our country's social care system. And, as you can imagine, it was pretty critical.

The Church report is careful not to go too deeply into the highly political topic of how social care should be paid for – the balance between the responsibilities of taxpayers and the State on the one hand, and of individuals and their families on the other. But it is clear that our Church leaders regard the present provision of social care – both for the elderly, and for the disabled and others who need it – as simply not worthy of a civilised society. There are too many scandals and failures. It looks as though we just do not value the elderly and certain other categories of people. And the Gospel condemns such attitudes.

Nobody can pretend that this is an easy issue. Those in such categories have increased, and are increasing, due to advances in medicine and so on, They are becoming more of “a burden on society”. Some novels have envisaged a time when “the survival of the fittest” might require widespread euthanasia for such people. Yet the Gospel presents us with a vision of the Body of Christ in which those with the least “worth”, the apparently “unfittest”, are given the most “honour”. And in the eyes of our Archbishops we must not accept any system in which the most apparently “disposable” members of society are given less worth than any others. Each and every one is precious, has unique gifts, and has his or her place in the Body until their dying day.

A great many people, organisations, charities, and for-profit care providers too, really do try to value those in their care. Whoever they are, they should be praised, not criticised. But does the system as a whole really encourage that valuing? That inevitably leads us into the political arena, whether it is the amount of public money available, the considerable and growing role of private profit, or many other sensitive matters.

The same is true, of course, of that parallel “problem area”, the NHS, of which some of us have had unfortunate experiences recently (along, I gladly admit, with others whose experiences have been very different). It is true in many other public services as well, and in our national life more generally. Sixty years ago, the notable economist J K Galbraith spoke of “private affluence and public squalor”, and lately we have seen a good deal of both. Is this purely a matter of party politics, where the Church should avoid taking sides? Or is it a moral matter, where taking sides is unavoidable?

Our Lent course is focusing strongly on the problem of evil. That is not simply about individual sin, but also about the public life of our nation, and of all humanity and indeed all creation. A great number of public evils seem to me to be in much clearer focus now than when I was young. At the very least, this should be a matter for prayer. But, for all of us, as citizens, as consumers and as voters, this may be an area on which we need to focus far more clearly in our struggle against evil. Our Church leaders are showing us the way.

EVIL

Did you know.....

That the kneelers in Holy Trinity Church were worked by members of the congregation in the 1970/1980s to designs by Will Hawkes and are based on the words of the Benedicite?

The Benedicite is a canticle in which the whole of God's creation is praised and it is recited at Morning Prayer and Matins.

It begins: "O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him forever."

Then each verse begins "O ye....."works".....bless ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him forever."

There are thirty-one verses hence thirty-one "works" and it was decided that the "works" would be illustrations and that they would be alternated with text: either, O all ye works of the Lord, or Praise him and magnify him forever.



Thirty-three designs were drawn up and a total of three hundred and sixty-four kneelers were required to fill the church, with each row of chairs having one design. The project took twelve years to complete and one hundred and twenty-nine persons were involved in making the kneelers. All kneelers have the initials of the maker on them. The dedication took place on 25 October 1987.

Recently we began to sort out and arrange the kneelers in their correct order, but now that there are fewer seats in the church there is a surplus of kneelers. Sadly, some are being stored under the stage in the parish centre. Considering the amount of time and dedication that went into the making of them and how much they are admired by church members and visitors alike, it is a great pity that the surplus ones cannot be displayed in a more appropriate manner.

If anyone has any idea of how the kneelers might be utilised or displayed please let us know.



Stella Webley
Anne Blair, Tina Allen,
Gay Gott.



Photographs by Felicity Howlett



TRINITY LADIES

At our March meeting we will be holding our Charity Tea Party in aid of the Shakespeare Hospice. This has been our annual fund raising event for many years now. Last year we raised £385 for the Fred Winter Centre which we increased to £400 out of our funds. It would be lovely to raise a similar amount for our local hospice which badly needs funds to continue providing care for those in need in our community. Please bring your cakes, decorative table cloths, flowers for the tables etc. Please can we have a few extra raffle prizes for the event in order to raise as much money as possible. We try to make the parish centre into an attractive tea room for the afternoon. Please also bring your families, husbands, brothers and sisters and of course your friends. We ask for a donation of £5 which all goes to the Hospice

Please make a note in your diary that the World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3 March in the Methodist Church at 10.30am

Our meetings start at 2pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like to join us please come along we will be delighted to see you.

Gina Lodge
Chair.

Charity Tea Party

Trinity Ladies

would like to invite you to a Charity Tea Party
in support of the Shakespeare Hospice
on Wednesday 15th March, at 2pm in the Parish Centre.

All ladies and gentlemen are welcome -
both members and non-members

We ask for a £5 donation
which will go to the hospice.

For more information, please contact Gina Lodge on 01789 204 850.

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

FROM THE REGISTERS - FEBRUARY 2023

CHRISTENINGS

12 February Rory Thomas Kemp
12 February Elsie Martha Rose

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

1 February Maxine Clarke
2 February Martyn Ridgley
3 February Colleen Vaughan
9 February Gordon Joseph Mucklow
13 February Margaret Stevens
14 February Christine Scarff
17 February Margaret Wilcox
23 February Robert Riley



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 1 March. 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 2pm and we will finish at about 3.30pm.

There is no need to make an appointment; we will be delighted to see you. Come and join us in the lounge area of the Parish Centre.

David Harrison
Bereavement Co-ordinator

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Eco matters - Net Zero in my neighbourhood

The monthly Eco Chat meeting held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 4 February was attended by over twenty people representing at least five Stratford Churches. This is encouraging (although the complement of Anglicans was small).

Steve Hucklesby, the policy adviser for the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) - an organisation of Baptists, Methodists and the United Reformed Church working together - gave a very informative presentation on "Net Zero in my Neighbourhood".

It started hopefully. From seven "good news" headlines we were asked to pick the only false one. Several seemed highly unlikely, but nobody identified the false one, which was "Seahorses could hold the secret to climate adaptation in their tails"!

Steve went on to state that churches should be - and are - involved in climate issues, at local, national and international level. He had been present at COP 26 and found that the voice of churches and faith campaigners was welcomed in discussions as representing large numbers of the world population. He encouraged us as Churches in Stratford to get involved politically at local levels.

In small groups we discussed what was our dream for change in our area in response to the climate emergency. Issues that arose included housing, transport, energy production and waste. Discussion points raised included how our faith influences what we wish for, as well as bus services (electric buses?), upgrading building regulations to include solar panels and better insulation (can we influence the developers' responsibilities in this area?), councils' budgets for eco-issues, and choosing our bank to influence disinvestment in new fossil fuel developments.

We realised that in order to influence these things we need to be informed and involved in conversation with our local councils.

We discussed how we might interact with our local councils. We felt that it's important to let them know that we - the churches - ARE interested in what they do. We can find their proposed plans (each council has different, though overlapping, areas of responsibility) on their websites, identify problems and areas of concern, and put questions to them at public meetings or by email. Suggestions for what to ask them were:- "What has been achieved so far?", "What barriers do you encounter in implementing eco-changes?", "What can we do to help" and press for specific timelines for their actions (to prevent putting off difficult issues!). We can remain informed by joining council-based email groups, and should join forces with other eco-groups in Stratford in order to show a united front. We can build a relationship with our own local councillors and support them in their eco-efforts.

There are opportunities to do this at our Eco-chat meetings in the next few months. On Saturday, 4 March, Councillor Jenny Fradgley will represent Stratford Town Council at our meeting at 10.30am in the Methodist Church. Jenny is well known in the town and is very committed to working to mitigate the effects of climate change.

On 1 April (same time, same place), Cllr Bill Fleming, from Stratford District Council, will meet with us for discussion, and on 13 May (avoiding King Charles' coronation on 6th), Cllr Heather Timms will come from Warwickshire County Council.

As Christians we are committed to caring for and living in harmony with God's creation. For some of us this must mean getting involved with making changes in the ways that we inhabit the earth.

Tricia Hall-Matthews

Pull Out All The Stops

Holy Trinity Church Organ Restoration Year of Fundraising



Did you know that 'pull out all the stops' means to do everything possible to make something successful? Pulling out a 'stop' or 'stops' on an organ gives a full and rounded sound. Pull them all out and then you have a crescendo!

At Holy Trinity we are blest with a beautiful and historical church, a wonderful choir that play an integral part in church life, and our organ, masterfully played by the Director of Music, Douglas Keilitz.



An organ at Holy Trinity Church can be traced back to before the Reformation (1600s), and we know that a new organ was built in 1731 for the cost of £50 (about £12,917.00 today). Throughout the years, many changes, additions, and restorations have taken place, to ensure the organ is cared for and cherished. Fast forward to nearly three hundred years later and the organ continues to support the services and life events at Holy Trinity, and now once again requires restoration to clean the organ pipes and leaking bellows, at a cost of over £50,000.



You might ask “why bother, when an electric organ would be easier to maintain” There are many answers to this.

1. An electric organ does not last forever and would also need renewing every thirty years or so and it can never replicate the grandeur and sumptuous sound of a pipe organ.
2. We have a piece of history in our church, an organ that has played on so many different occasions and in this throw-away society, do we not have a duty to preserve and maintain such a beautiful instrument?
3. The organ has already lasted a very long time and it is expected to continue for decades and centuries to come.
4. The organ and the clock were the world's two most intricate and complex human-made artifacts.
5. The organ can play softly and loudly; it represents hundreds of different instruments and combines them to sound like a full orchestra or a gentle flute.

Richard Hartley and I have been tasked with leading the year-long fundraising for the refurbishment of the organ which will take place in January 2024, when we are hoping that the pipes will be taken away to be cleaned and reinstalled in time for Easter.

The financial climate we are currently living in is not favourable for asking for donations, so we are looking for benefactors and have enlisted Tony Bird OBE who is one of Stratford's eminent business owners as Patron of the fundraising.



Businesses in Warwickshire, the Clergy and congregation will be invited to a launch of the appeal on Thursday 30 March at Stratford upon Avon Town Hall. Canapés and drinks will be served, and the guests will be able to hear about, and hopefully pledge donations or assistance in raising money for the organ. Tickets will be on sale soon.

To support the major contributors which we hope to find, we will also have our own fundraising plan to invite our parishioners, the good people of Stratford upon Avon, and visitors, to become involved too with events across the year.

So, how are we advertising the fund and what exciting and fun ideas do we have in store? Firm dates have not been established yet so an indication of the months is given below:

Donation points in the church. We will endeavour to find an organ pipe that we hope will attract people to view and post their donations in. If we are not successful in obtaining a real organ pipe, then we may need the creative skills of our parishioners. Please get in touch with me if you can help ega1912@yahoo.co.uk

Donation Thermometer somewhere in or outside the church to show how much we have raised so far.

Friends of the Music have offered to match-fund personal donations up to a total of £5,000 which we are so grateful for. Please support them throughout the year at the free Sound Bites lunches, which have such a vast array of musicians [Soundbites - Holy Trinity Church \(stratford-upon-avon.org\)](http://Soundbites - Holy Trinity Church (stratford-upon-avon.org)) Also check out the website which lists all the Concerts they have planned for the year. [Friends of the Music - Holy Trinity Church \(stratford-upon-avon.org\)](http://Friends of the Music - Holy Trinity Church (stratford-upon-avon.org))

Guess How Many Pipes - a chance to guess how many pipes will be cleaned. Nearest to the number the winner or winners, will share a percentage of the money raised.

Sponsor a Pipe depending on the number of pipes and sizes we have we will be asking for sponsorship of a pipe. We will take a picture of the pipe once it is cleaned, and your name will be in the thankyou brochure at the end of the year.

Cont...

Pull Out All The Stops

Holy Trinity Church Organ Restoration Year of Fundraising cont...

CBSO choir evening at Holy Trinity – negotiations are currently in progress to see if an evening with the CBSO choir can be arranged.

Old Time Music Hall – Late May. Time to dress up and enjoy an afternoon/evening of the ‘good old days’ with songs, sketches, and good music hall fun. Fancy joining in? Can you sing, dance, act, play a musical instrument? Then let me know on ega1912@yahoo.co.uk



Auditions to be held soon.

1940s Afternoon - Sept/Oct. Join in the nostalgia of the music and dance of the 1940's with fabulous costumes on display and a time for everyone to ‘keep dancing’! Charlotte Didora will be producing the spectacular.

Golf Tournament – I think there are a few people who enjoy golf and Richard Hartley will be looking for players to shout ‘fore’ and some such words that golfers shout for a fun tournament. Venue to be agreed. Otherwise, the rest of us can toddle over to the Pitch and Putt on the other side of the river and hold an alternative tournament.

Summer Fete Late September – Looking forward to agreeing with the RSC to hold a summer fete in The Dell. It will be like Midsomer Murders without the murders! We need plenty of volunteers to get this up and running so let us know if you can help. We hope to involve local schools and musicians and have lots of amusement with a hula hoop competition. Not only will this give everyone a chance to enjoy a good old fashioned summer fete but also learn about our fundraiser and our wonderful Church. Please let me know if you have experience in setting up fetes and where we can find bunting and stalls and old-fashioned fete games such as sack races, bean bag tossing, hula hoop contest, tug of war, three-legged race etc. There will be plenty for all ages to enjoy what we hope it will be a very happy day.



Stratford Town Walking Tour – We have secured the services of Mark Spriggs to donate a percentage of summer Stratford Walking Tours to the Organ Fund.

1960s night November – enjoy an evening of 1960s music and relive the era.

Cheese and Wine Party December – sample wines and cheese from around the world.

How can you help with raising money for the Organ Fund?

Richard and I would value any ideas, contacts you may have for people we could ask to perform or appear at events. Also, if you can help locate interesting prizes for raffles and silent auctions across the year.

Do you like filling in forms? We have a lot of forms to fill out to apply for funding from various charitable bodies. Can you help us? We could probably do them in an afternoon or an evening as we just need to find the facts and then fill in the forms. Sounds easy but needs a good eye and a steady hand to ensure our applications tick all the boxes.



Finally, we would like any assistance you can offer us with this mammoth task. There is so much planning and help to get these events up and running, so anyone that would like to be involved in organising or be part of the think tank then please let us know.

Thank you

Eve Archer - ega1912@yahoo.co.uk

Richard Hartley - r.hartley49@gmail.com

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PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
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:	Liz Marshall	01789 266 316	liz@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	David Harrison	01789 612 634	e-mail preferred - davidianharrison@hotmail.com
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	tba		
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	Caroline Thomas	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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Lola's maternity leave
presentation.

We were saddened to hear of the death of a member of our congregation, Maxine Clarke.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family and friends.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



Lola

Patrick giving Lola her present



Patrick, Lola and Liz

