

July/August 2023

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THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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

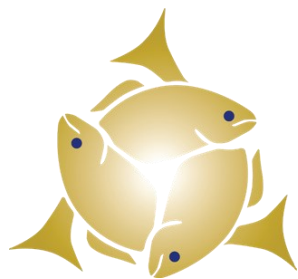


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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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

September 2023 edition

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If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine. Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Swan on the river Avon

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 and Families Minister

This is the Way: Emmaus, Eucharist & Star Wars

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him... (Lk 24:30)



As I write, I've just experienced a wonderful Eucharist at the Guild Chapel, where our friend the Rev'd Dr Paul Edmundson presided. It was a special day, as we were celebrating Corpus Christi – a day in the Church's calendar where we celebrate the institution of Holy Communion.

It also reminded me of the wonderful Caravaggio painting in the National Gallery of the post-Easter story of the Supper at Emmaus (Luke 24) where Jesus is revealed

to those disciples through the breaking of bread... a powerful experience where the "real presence" was made known.

So, what does happen in the celebration of communion, and why is it central to Christian spirituality?



For roughly the last 500 years, Christians have differed over the answer to that question, and these differences have hardened into what the proponents of each view call "theories". These theories play out in the language that people use to describe communion, the frequency with which they celebrate it, what they do with their hands, and even what they call the furniture on which the bread and wine – or grape juice is placed. And that's just a list of

some of the differences. Simply and crudely put, there are three main theories:

One theory holds that communion is symbolic and it is an act of remembering. We celebrate communion because Jesus celebrated a similar meal with his disciples and because Jesus told his disciples to do it. According to this theory communion is an ordinance – a prescription. But nothing else happens. So, the adherents to this theory avoid using the language of sacrament.

Celebrating communion this way can be a bit like Remembrance Sunday; in so much as it reminds us of Christ's work on our behalf. The stories associated with it inspire us. And the story of the last supper is an occasion for gratitude. However, we can over emphasise the celebration being of a past event, and undervalue its power to shape our present, and future.

The second theory is sometimes described as "real presence". Based on a different set of Bible passages, this theory holds that when we celebrate communion Christ is present when we break the bread and drink from the cup. Based on this theory, you might say Jesus joins us and offers his body and blood to us again, just as he did to the Apostles. It's not that the last supper or the crucifixion of Jesus doesn't matter.

Cont...

However, its observance is a bit like a Civil War re-enactment on Edge Hill, the difference being that the central character in the story makes it real to us again.

The third theory is called transubstantiation. This theory argues that when the bread and wine are blessed or consecrated, they become the body and blood of Christ. This, in the Anglican understanding, does not mean that the bread visibly becomes human flesh or that the wine becomes blood in a visible fashion. But – based on passages in John’s Gospel and Paul – this view holds that the Holy Spirit acts upon these elements to transform them, making them the instrument of God’s saving work. The more we take Christ into us, the more we become like Christ.



Here, too, history is important and in one sense, unrepeatable. Yet, the theory of transubstantiation holds that Jesus continues to work that miracle in the life of his church. We aren’t just inspired, then. God works on us, in us, and through us. This is why people who believe in real presence and transubstantiation describe communion or the Eucharist as a sacrament instead of an ordinance. Yes, Jesus commanded we celebrate communion, but it is also a reality he enacts in our lives.

These then are the three main theories. Each highlights a different dimension of communion: remembrance, presence, and transformation. Much of the debate down through the centuries suggests that you must choose one. However, I do not hold that to be true, and we should not let conversations about communion rob us of a rich understanding of its spiritual benefits.

The early church certainly did not think in such “either/or” terms. It believed that communion was a God-given gift, a means of grace, therefore, all notion of communion fitting a “theory” is not just alien to the mindset of the early church, the early church would have argued that we cannot use the word theory, because, well it isn’t a natural process, it is “...*the work of God!*” That is why the early church called communion a sacrament and a mystery.

It is also why in place of “theories” about communion the early church instead told stories and used metaphors and images. For whenever we talk about God, we have to work from what we know – we cannot avoid using the familiar to understand the transcendent. For the early church, if you did not grasp just how real the work of Christ was on the cross and in communion, you did not really know what was at stake in life at all.

However, the biggest problem with talking about theories of what happens in communion, is that both the Bible and the church talked about communion using all three ideas... sometimes interchangeably. It talked about communion as an act of remembering, as a re-enactment in which Jesus is present to us, and as the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. If you listen closely, you will hear all three emphases in the eucharistic liturgy.

Maybe a better question about what happens in communion, is this: What can happen to us, to the church, when we receive it?

Cont...



This will sound totally off point, but lately I have been watching the TV series, the Mandalorian. It is a Star Wars spin-off, and you might describe it as a space western featuring a lone bounty hunter who belongs to a sect of warriors called the Mandalorians. Frequently, when they make a difficult choice or sacrifice after they have chosen the path that their tradition prescribes, they will say, “This is the Way”.

I’ve wondered why anyone writing a popular television show would feature a hero whose behaviour is tied to a tradition – and yet, I’ve come to the conclusion, that it is possibly the same reason that an increasing number of people from more low church environments are being increasingly drawn to the liturgy we use when we celebrate communion. In a world that is increasingly unmoored, unprincipled, and directionless, a growing number of people have concluded that the chaos we face – both socially and personally – is rooted in our failure to follow a “way” – a tradition – a pattern.

This is what we unashamedly offer as a local parish in our churches - “the Way”, and our worship - which is organised deliberately around the celebration of communion and the centrality of the Eucharist – is the Way ...Jesus’s Way. It is given us as a grounding, a centring, a place to stand, a source of love, wisdom, and direction.

So, when you next take communion, pray for Jesus to be present to you as you receive. When you have received the body and blood of Christ, ask God to use that gift to transform your own life. For if we want to see lives transformed by God’s love and the world to be marked by love, wisdom, and grace - we will need to receive it from the One who perfectly embodied all three and shares his life with us. This is the Way!

With every blessing,

The Rev’d Steve Jarvis

Associate Vicar



Worship Notes July and August 2023



Sunday 2 July is an important day for our parish, as our curate, Thomas Powell, will be ordained priest at Coventry cathedral in the morning. Not only this, but our newly arriving curate, Emma Harrington, will be ordained deacon in the afternoon. Emma's first Sunday in the parish will be 9 July and Thomas will preside at the Eucharist for the first time on 23 July at 10am. Please keep Thomas and Emma in your prayers as they adjust to their new roles and ministry in the Church. Pray too for Emma's family as they relocate to Stratford. Her ordination card is printed on page 11.

At the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity we continue during July our series **The Bible in Five Acts** which considers the whole of scripture and our place within its final act.

16 July Admission to Holy Communion. A special day for youngsters from the parish as they are welcomed and admitted to receiving Holy Communion, at the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity. This is followed by the Parish Picnic in the Vicarage Garden.

23 July 4pm Time Out Informal worship in the Parish Centre for all ages.

30 July 5pm Evensong will include the opportunity to receive the ministry of healing, with laying on of hands and anointing with oil for those who wish to receive this.



August brings two important feast days:

6 August The Transfiguration

We recall that remarkable episode where Jesus seems to shine with bright light and a voice is heard, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." We look forward to welcoming our neighbours from Stratford Methodist church to Holy Trinity for a joint service. The preacher will be the Methodist Minister, Deacon Jane Mills.

Also on 6 August at 5pm there will be special **Choral Evensong to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the death of Anne Shakespeare.** The Revd. Dr. Paul Edmondson will officiate, and there will be a visiting preacher.

13 August The Blessed Virgin Mary: we give thanks for the first person who said "yes" to Jesus in her life and so who is not only the Mother of God but also the first disciple of Jesus Christ.

Please note that during August our Audio Visual team will be taking a break and so services will not be live-streamed.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

2 July - 4th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Act 3: Exile and Restoration
5pm - Taize

9th July - 5th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Act 4: Jesus, Cross and Resurrection
5pm - Choral Evensong

16 July - 6th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Admission to First Communion
5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

23 July - 7th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Choral Evensong

30 July - 8th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Act 5: The Church and Creation Renewed
5pm - Evensong with Healing Ministry

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

2 July - 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Morning Praise

16 July - 6th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Luddington

2 July - 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

9th July - 5th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

16 July - 6th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

23 July - 7th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

30 July - 8th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

6 August - The Transfiguration of our Lord

10am - Parish Eucharist - Joint service with Methodist Church

5pm - Special Evensong for Anne Hathaway

13 August - The Blessed Virgin Mary

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Blessed Virgin Mary

5pm - Taize

20 August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

27 August - 12th Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Congregational Evensong

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

6 August - The Transfiguration of our Lord

9.30 - Holy Communion

20 August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Morning Praise with Communion

All Saints' Church, Luddington

6 August - The Transfiguration of our Lord

9.30 - Holy Communion

13 August - The Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30 - Holy Communion

20 August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion

27 August - 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 - Holy Communion



An Anthology of Charity and Justice: for the Civic Service 2023

The Civic Service is always a great occasion for Stratford-upon-Avon. It's the church's and the town's way of giving thanks for the service that the new mayor and town council are offering to our community and praying that they will be strengthened and renewed daily in their work and responsibilities. This year the mayor herself, Cllr Kate Rolfe, requested to read a selection of verse about charity, justice, and our approach to others. She selected some herself, and Patrick and I put together an anthology which she read as part of the service:

From the prophets Isaiah, Amos and Micah, and the Gospel of Matthew.

Isaiah 42:6-7

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 58:10

If you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

Amos 5:24

Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 7:1-2

Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

Matthew 5:42

Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 10:8

You received without payment; give without payment.

Matthew 7:12

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.'

Cont...

Matthew 22:39

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Distilled, this anthology of verses asks us to:

- Set people free from affliction and hardship!
- Feed the hungry, and be blessed by so doing!
- Not to judge anyone!
- Give to all freely!
- Do for others what you'd like them to do for you!
- Act out of humility, not out of a sense of your own perfection, and know that God walks with you as you do so!
- Let justice and righteousness reign in our land!

Paul Edmondson, Town Council Chaplain.



Social Events in July

Sat 1st Board Games Evening
7-9pm at Parish Centre



Sun 16th Parish Picnic in
Vicarage Garden from 11.45am



Sat 29th Walk from Clifford
Chambers to Preston/Stour.





Your prayers are asked for those being ordained this Petertide, among them

Emma Harrington
to be ordained Deacon by
John, Bishop of Warwick

in
Coventry Cathedral at
4pm on Sunday 2nd July 2023



Please also pray for Richard and Lauren,
for the Rev'd Patrick Taylor,
and for the people of
The Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon,
amongst whom Emma will serve.



We are asked to pray for our new curate Emma Harrington, who is to be ordained Deacon on Sunday 2 July.
We also pray for Revd Thomas Powell who will be priested on the same day at Coventry Cathedral.



DENNE GILKES AWARD

Bethany Fletcher, one of our choristers, was recently awarded the Denne Gilkes Award for Outstanding Achievement. Rev'd Patrick Taylor, who presented Bethany with the award said that, as well as her musical ability, she had been a hard-working and reliable member of the choir for over five years.

Reflections on a Year as Deacon in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon

by Thomas Powell

They say that life is a stairway. When you reach the top, you find that you're not at the top at all, but at the bottom of a new staircase.

My first year as deacon at Holy Trinity Church has been a new staircase for me. After thirty eight years as a university professor, I found myself at the start of a new upward journey.

Not that being a deacon came as a surprise. Late in my academic career, I spent seven years in graduate studies in theology, and in training for priestly ordination in the Church. As part of this training, I did a placement in Holy Trinity Church. So I had a good idea what I was getting into, and was given plenty of time to think about my new role.

But nothing can really prepare you for being at the bottom of the staircase. From the beginning I felt uncertain, out of my element, and rather incompetent.

For example, the first time I served as deacon in a worship service, I didn't know what to wear. And when I'd learned the proper robes for the week – white cassock-alb and red scarf – I had to figure out how to put them on, which is not as easy as you might think!

Every week I learned new things, through training or trial and error. I learned how to enter a worship service, where to sit, and what to say. The first time I preached, I tripped over my robe on the pulpit stairs, so I learned how to avoid that. I learned about candles, which have a tendency to go out for no reason, spill wax everywhere, and refuse to light while hundreds of people are watching. The first time I attended a clergy meeting, I arrived early and sat in someone else's customary chair; and for the whole meeting, people called me by the name of the person who normally sat there!

But the truth is, I've enjoyed it all immensely. It has been a privilege to serve as deacon and curate in the churches of this parish. Patrick has given generously of his time to answer questions and to give training in the various aspects of the role. The clergy team, wardens, and staff have been welcoming and supportive during my learning process. And above all, the people have welcomed me and made me feel blessed and at home in the churches.

I wish I could say that my training is nearly complete, but I know that's not true. On the positive side, I've seen the full liturgical year and experienced the rhythms and celebrations of the seasons. I've served as deacon in different worship services, served communions, met a lot of people, and visited and preached in all the parish churches.

But I've also learned that an essential part of my vocational journey is to set aside expectations from the old staircase, and to be open to all the blessings and challenges of the new upward journey. Based on my experiences so far, I expect the second year of my curacy to be every bit as blessed as the first – and every bit as challenging.

My ordination as priest takes place this year in Coventry Cathedral on the morning of 2 July, led by Bishop Christopher. The service is open to all, and though it conflicts with our Sunday worship services the same morning, I hope that some of you can attend and share this moment with me.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone for your support and patience in my year as deacon; and I look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

All blessings,

Thomas

A BUSY TIME FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The highlight in July will be the first group of **children to be admitted to communion**, since the pandemic. On **Sunday 16 July** at our 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity, we'll be admitting the children as part of a special service. I hope that people will be able to attend and support the children on this next step in their Christian journey. After the service will be our Parish picnic, in the Vicarage Garden.

It may seem a long time off, although thoughts are turning to the start of the school holidays, a date for your diary is

our **Blessing of the School and Work Bags Service**. This will be on **10 September** at the 10am Parish Eucharist.

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and we will soon be giving the Bible to the Year 6 leavers at Holy Trinity School. I'm sure you're aware that we've started a book fund, to cover the costs of Bibles for Year 6's and to give out at Christenings. It's not too late to donate to this fund. 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.

In July our **Tots@Trinity** service will be on **Wednesday 19 July 2pm** in St Peter's Chapel, inside Holy Trinity. We have Bible based crafts, a story, songs and prayers. It's a great introduction to church for the youngest members of our church family. There won't be a service in August.

The **Time Out Service** will be on **Sunday 23 July 4pm** in the Parish Centre. This is our informal service with worship songs, sitting around tables and with refreshments

throughout. In our service in May, we had a selection of Prayer Stations based on the Lord's Prayer and in June we explored our part in God's creation. Anyone is welcome to join us for this service.

Phil Harper



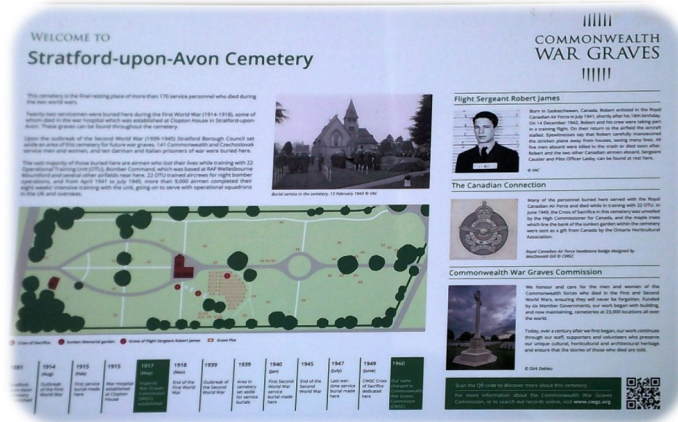


Many of the graves had photographs of the service person concerned next to the grave stone.

Roy Dyer

WAR GRAVES

It was good to see the New War Graves Plaque, recently dedicated by The Rev Doctor Roy Lodge, overlooking the War Graves in Stratford upon Avon Cemetery. These graves are maintained beautifully by Volunteers for The Commonwealth War Graves Commission who are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the grave plots. In addition tours of the graves were given by volunteers.



SAVE THE DATE! 23 September 2023 Holy Trinity Fete

You are invited along with all Stratford-Upon-Avon and surrounding villages to a FUN FILLED afternoon for all ages!

The Holy Trinity Fete will take place in The Dell from 12 noon to 4:30pm on Saturday 23 September.

An opportunity to promote Holy Trinity Church and bring to together the town, villages, families and visitors to for a joyous family-orientated event in the shadow of Holy Trinity, next to the river Avon in the wonderful space of The Dell, kindly donated for our use by the RSC for the day.

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ASCENSION DAY



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON FOODBANK

In March, the foodbank experienced its busiest month ever, feeding over 550 people. This is a result of the longer term impact of the cost-of-living crisis and recovery from the Christmas period. The level of donations from the public remained constant and high throughout March and into April, and as numbers requesting food parcels levelled off into May, our warehouse stock levels are beginning to look better. We also had a very successful Tesco food drive, taking just over 1 tonne of food in a day as well as receiving some very generous public giving.

We are expecting our numbers to rise again throughout the summer as families approach the school holidays.

In May, the foodbank launched the option to have fresh fruit and vegetables in every food parcel. This has proved to be a very popular choice, taken up by 95% of our clients.

The first week of June saw us celebrate volunteers week. It provides a great opportunity to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make to the running of Stratford food bank. We are blessed to have over 150 individuals who give their time selflessly and willingly to help others and support the local community. This year, against a backdrop of price rises, more people hitting crisis point and increasing reliance on community support, the role of volunteers has and will continue to be vitally important.

We also believe the church community is so important and has a unique role in supporting food banks. You support us in a myriad of ways, including financially, by hosting community food projects, by volunteering and donating food. Thank you for the work you do as a church community to support the food bank and to open your doors as places of welcome, belonging and worship.

Best wishes to you all

Fiona

Fiona Macvie

Stratford Foodbank Churches Link



The logo for the Stratford Chamber Choir, featuring the words "Chamber Choir" in a white, elegant cursive script on a red rectangular background.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Registered Charity No. 1106497

Stratford Chamber Choir

Conductor: Stephen Dodsworth

Organist: Charles Matthews

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Bruckner, Palestrina, Stainer, Stravinsky and more

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Stratford-upon-Avon

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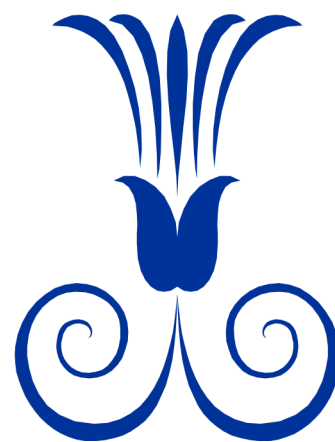
The mid-20th century theologian J H Oldham was famous for saying “Real life is meeting”. Many of us sometimes feel that real life is MEETINGS! Lots of them, in our church and our work and elsewhere. Sometimes tricky to arrange, and not always successful in their outcome. In the days before I began to write this, I had two experiences of the problems, A meeting at Diocesan level which Patrick and I attended, which I am not sure was really a meeting of minds and hearts. And attempts to arrange a meeting of one of the very small worship planning teams, which I convene, where I knew that such a real meeting would happen, but people’s diaries meant that the planned date had to change several times in a few hours!

I had a third experience also about that time – not a meeting but a tiny “murmuration”. Many of us will long remember our Pentecost Eucharist and Patrick’s use of a video of a murmuration of starlings – natural “meetings” in the sky, on a vast scale, which are (in both senses of the word) moving – as an illustration of how the Holy Spirit can bring us together to do unimaginable things. This particular murmuration took place outside my study window – a group of American visitors led by Paul Edmondson. I was able to tell them how much our meetings, formal and informal, with certain US members of our congregation (who are also involved in worship planning and much else) had meant to Holy Trinity’s life over the past couple of years. Alas, all those members expect to have to return to the US next year, and that will be a great loss to many of us, and to the life of the church. But more of all that on another occasion.

What I would call “real meetings” do happen, whether organised or spontaneous (or both). By the time you read this, the Parochial Church Council, newly commissioned on Trinity Sunday, will have been on an awayday to consider their work for the coming year. Again, there will no doubt be more about that in a subsequent edition. But I can say two things in advance. Such events don’t just happen; they take a lot of organising! Yet I know for certain that there will be a genuine meeting of minds and hearts. Because our church community – perhaps rather more than other parts of the Church at other levels – really is like those starlings. No large group is perfectly at one on everything; think of the trouble which St Paul had with the church in Corinth! Yet so many times, particularly during the struggles of the Covid years, we have had the sense of being drawn together by the Spirit in a single moving “murmuration”.

Those movements of starlings are wholly natural, not consciously organised so far as we know! Patrick and I have been reading an interesting paper recently, comparing natural church development to the ecological movement for “rewilding”, letting nature grow back naturally rather than forcing it into our preferred patterns. There is something important here for our community life as well as our care for Creation. We are bounded by the teachings and practices of our faith. But, within those boundaries, we should be more open to unexpected growth and development. The worship planning teams, enabling far more people to contribute directly and spontaneously to the shaping of our common life, have been a special example. It would be wonderful if that aspect of our life, as well as others, could grow, and more people become involved to replace those whom we are sadly losing.

**High Point University,
North Carolina Chamber
choir
singing in Holy Trinity
Church**



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 5 July. 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 shall 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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TRINITY LADIES

In June we had a talk about the work of the Coventry City Mission. This organisation works with the poor and those in need in Coventry. At this present time with the cost of living being so high their work is more important than ever. We had a talk about their work a few years ago and it was extremely interesting to hear how much the people of Coventry value their work.

In July we are giving ourselves a treat. We have arranged for Mr Barry Jukes, a well known local singer, to come and entertain us before we enjoy a strawberry and cream tea together. There will not be a charge for this event but if when you come in and put your £1 in the pot you could put a bit more this will help to pay for the strawberries etc. I do hope that as many of you as possible will come to this tea party.

We will have a break in August and meet again in September; Tina Allen our speakers' secretary has a very full and varied programme arranged for us. Our first speaker in September is Mr Peter Preece a wild life photographer. This should be very interesting.

As from September our group will be called *Trinity Fellowship* and we hope that gentlemen will feel welcome to join us with our new inclusive name.

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

Gina Lodge
Chair.

Felicity Howlett has been doing the job as design editor for Trinity Times for a few years and wishes to stand down from the role. We are looking for someone to take over so that we can continue to produce Trinity Times. The role involves receiving articles submitted for the magazine, formatting them and placing them in the template of the magazine. You do not need to create any content but make all the pieces fit together to produce the finished magazine. Currently the magazine is edited in Microsoft Publisher but full training can be given if you are not used to the programme.

If you are interested, please contact Patrick Taylor at :
vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org

Tea on the river with Trinity Ladies

by Anne Blair



On a beautiful sunny afternoon in May, a group of ladies, and some intrepid gentlemen, from the Holy Trinity Ladies Group, boarded a boat for what has become our annual cruise and cream tea on the river.

The lady and her crew who run these excursions knows us well now, and everything was beautifully organized in every respect. So, having completed the safety checks, we set off up the river, at a slow speed, in order to see all the beauties of nature unfolding along the way, and there is plenty to see.



The boat's crew had been keeping watch, for some time, on a swan's nest, and everyone was delighted to see five tiny cygnets taking their first exploration on the water, watched over by their protective parents.

Spring is such a beautiful time for new life, both flora along the river banks and wild life on the water in abundance and we weren't disappointed; there were baby ducklings and even a family of minute moor hens venturing out, and blossom and new life everywhere.

Tea was excellent, and plentiful, so we forgot the calories and just indulged in the sandwiches, scones with cream and jam, followed by lovely cakes. The tea pots were frequently "topped up", and more scones offered!

The greatest pleasure on these occasions is just being with good friends and making new ones, so there was a great deal of happy chat and laughter, --- with no washing up at the end!

We floated gently up the river, past our beautiful Holy Trinity church, waving to people walking on the river bank.

It was such a very happy afternoon and, as Ratty said to Mole in *Wind in the Willows*, "There is nothing, absolutely nothing half as much worth doing, as simply messing about in boats!" One lady even brought her little dog with us, who appeared content and relaxed; so it shows we make everyone welcome, what ever age, canine and human, ladies and gentlemen. After all Jerome K. Jerome took his little terrier dog, Montmorency, on a rowing boat holiday, as told in the book "Three men in a boat, not to mention the dog!"---- but that's another story.

Huge thanks must go to Gina Lodge, our wonderful Chair, for arranging these lovely days out, and to Diane Edwards who controls the finances and pays the bills and I know that Tina Allen our speakers' secretary has more enjoyable afternoons lined up. In fact at our July meeting we shall have a strawberry tea, so yet another afternoon to look forward to, this time on dry land, but with just as much happy fellowship. However, this time there will be washing up, where there will be as much laughter and chatting in the kitchen as over tea in the parish hall!

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

“Save the Date”

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 29 September

11am - 1pm
Holy Trinity Church

The best cakes in town



How did we
do financially
in 2022
compared
with recent
years

In 2022, parish financial surplus continued to grow — slowly.



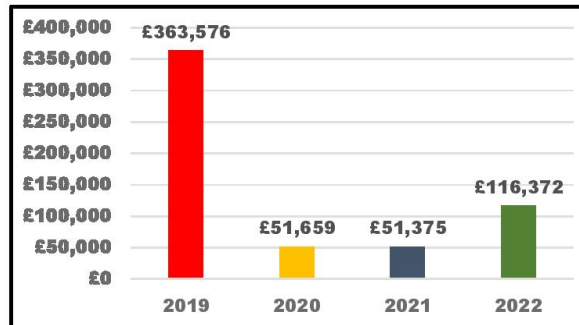
2022 Results by each church

How does that look like for each of the churches in the parish?

	2022 Actual		Better/ Worse than 2021	
Holy Trinity	£17,394	😊	£19,371	😊
All Saints'	-£2,632	😞	-£12,306	😞
St Helen's	£3,131	😊	£87	😊
Total	£17,893	😊	£7,152	😊

How important is visitor income to our recovery?

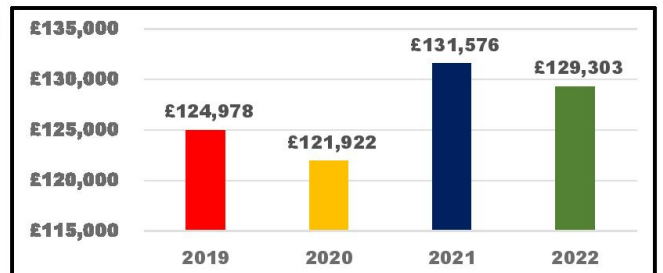
Visitor income is key to our financial health, yet stewardship provides the major contribution.



In 2022 visitor income doubled.

In 2023, we plan to grow by 140% with chancel charges and staff

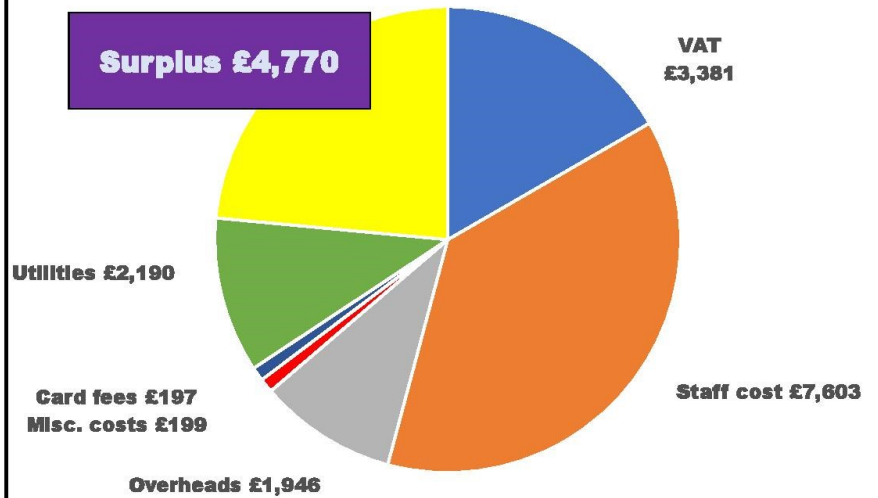
Stewardship remains the major source of income in 2022



How much does the Chancel contribute now we have to pay VAT?

Chancel takings in April were £20,286 and generated £4,770 surplus

April 2023 Cost Allocation



As volumes increase, staff and overhead costs are fixed while utilities should reduce—generating a larger surplus.

What do our reserve levels look like?

Holy Trinity Reserves

£121k
4 Months Reserves

****WARNING****

January 2024 Holy Trinity needs £57,000 to pay for the organ restoration

£73k
10 Years Reserves

All Saints' Reserves

£12k
2 Years Reserves

St Helen's Reserves



Commissioning of
church wardens and
PCC members - Sunday
4 June



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ECO-POSTERS

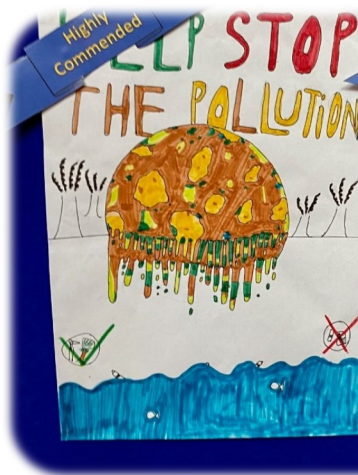
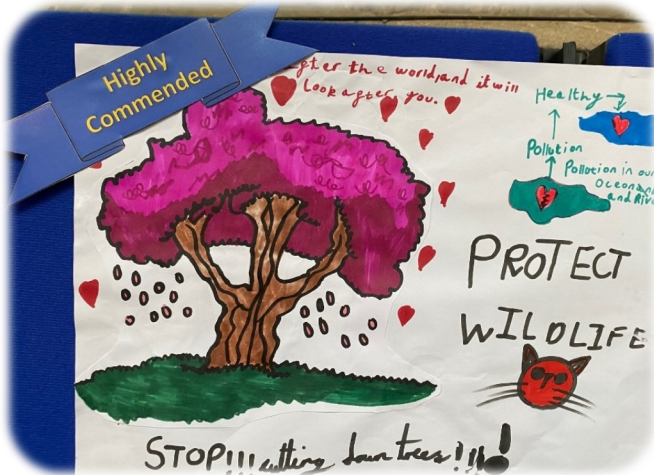
“We ran a competition at Holy Trinity Primary School to design an eco-poster and all the entries are on display in Holy Trinity Church”



ECO TIPS

We invited pupils from Holy Trinity Primary School to design a poster to encourage people to look after our world.

Here are their top Eco tips...



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.powell@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	Lynn Suter	07387 971 632	
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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From Psalm 148

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea creatures snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,

you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all
rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

Praise the Lord.