

April 2024

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

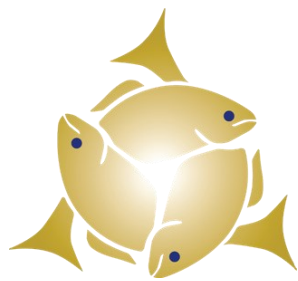


TRINITY TIMES



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 **May 2024** edition

The copy date is 14th April

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 :- The Gardening group .

One of the possibilities to volunteer at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell



Revd. Emma Harrington
Curate



Phil Harper
Children and Families Minister

SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

HOLY TRINITY

7th April Second Sunday of Easter

10.00 Parish Eucharist

5.00 Holy Communion (Traditional)

14th April Third Sunday of Easter

10.00 Parish Eucharist - Reality of the Resurrection

{with breakout group for children}

5.00 Choral Evensong

21st April Fourth Sunday of easter

8.00 Holy Communion (traditional)

11.15 Shakespeare Service

5.00 Parish Eucharist

28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00 Parish Eucharist – Life with Jesus

(children involved in leading the service)

5.00 Choral Evensong



ALL SAINTS, LUDDINGTON

All Sundays 9.30 Holy Communion



ST HELEN'S, CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

7th April 9.30 Morning Praise

21st April 9.30 Holy Communion



WORSHIP NOTES APRIL 2024

April begins on Easter Monday and so we continue our joyful celebration of the gift of new life in Christ during Eastertide this month.

The Shakespeare Service is at 11.15am on Sunday 21st April

This year's Shakespeare sermon at the annual Shakespeare Service will be given by Alison Shell who is Professor of English at University College London. She specialises in the study of Renaissance literature and is the author of *Shakespeare and Religion* (London: Arden Shakespeare).

The theme of the service is encouraging the God-given gifts of others and will include contributions from actors and musicians from the RSC, as well as a specially commissioned anthem by the composer Becky McGlade. The service is open to anyone to attend and you don't have to book a ticket!

The Parish Eucharist will take place at 5pm on 21st April

LORI AND MICHAEL SHANEBECK



On Sunday 3rd March we said a sad farewell to Lori and Michael Shanebeck who were about to return back to the United States. They have been with us at Holy Trinity for nearly 4 years and during that time have been involved in many aspects of the life of the parish, as well as the town. Patrick expressed our gratitude for the different ways in which they have used their God-given gifts to contribute to our life and work, and for friendships formed. He then prayed for God's blessing on them as they embarked on this new chapter of their lives.

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

With Easter having come in March this year, April will be filled with the Easter season, along with our annual celebrations of Shakespeare.

Three Aprils ago, when I was training for priesthood, I took a course in seminary called Interfaith Engagement. On the first day of class, the instructor took a poll of the students. The question was: Do any faiths other than Christianity offer a path to salvation?

As prospective priests in the Church of England, you might think we would have shared the same opinion on this question. But in the instructor's poll, we were split about half and half.

As it happens, Christian theologians are also divided on this question. Some are "exclusivists," believing that faith in Jesus Christ is the only path to salvation. Others are "inclusivists," believing that some are saved who do not confess faith in Jesus; for example, those who haven't heard of Jesus, or whose actions are Christ-like.

There are many other views too, including one that basically says that it's none of our business. Such judgements belong to God and no one else.

Not long ago I met one of the leaders of the Hindu faith in the UK, a man called Swami Sarvasthananda. Devotees in the Vedanta tradition are inclusivists, studying scriptures of all faiths and welcoming everyone, regardless of faith.

When Swami Sarvasthananda learned that I was a curate in Stratford-upon-Avon, he told me an interesting story. It was about a wealthy American woman named Elizabeth Leggett, who adopted Hinduism and became a devoted follower of Swami Vivekananda, the great leader of Vedantism in the last century.

In 1913, Elizabeth and her sister Josephine came to Stratford, where Josephine purchased Hall's Croft, the former home of Shakespeare's daughter Susannah. Elizabeth lived in Hall's Croft until her death in 1931; and a few years later, her niece sold the house to Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.



Swami Vivekananda (above)

Swami Sarvasthananda was especially keen to relate one further detail.

It seems that Elizabeth had sculpted a bas relief of Swami Vivekananda into the wall of an upstairs bedroom of Hall's Croft, which Elizabeth called the "prophet's room." But no one in the Vedanta community knows if the bas relief is still there. And so the Swami asked me: Could I visit Hall's Croft to see if the bas relief is there?

As it happens, I haven't been able to answer this question, since Hall's Croft is now closed (if anyone has an answer, please do let me know!). But my interactions with the Vedanta community have reminded me of the diversity of our faith traditions in the UK, and of the possibilities of interfaith engagement in our ministry.

And so this Easter season, as we reflect on the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, perhaps we can think of people of all faiths or none. How often do we engage with people of other faiths, and what can we learn from them? What does our redemption in Jesus Christ mean for our relationships with people whose faiths are unfamiliar to us, and for our ministry to everyone in our own parish?

As our eyes turn towards the Day of Pentecost, my hope is that the Easter season will remind us that, "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:17)

With every blessing, THOMAS



Pictured above Elizabeth Leggett, centre, attending the wedding of the King of Norway in 1906

Ring in the Spring



Saturday, April 27, 2024
in the Village Hall Clifford Chambers
7pm-10pm

**The Trinity Players present an evening of poetry,
prose and music with a Springtime theme**

Tickets £15 to include entertainment, a welcoming glass of fizz
and a two-course supper

Available from **Andrew Martin** on 07929 374442 (text messages preferred)
or **Angela Wylam** on 01789 268156

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if you can



MOTHERING SUNDAY



THANK YOU

To all the ladies who helped make the posies

TRINITY VOICES

In fine voice on Mothering Sunday



THANK YOU

To everyone who handed out posies





SOUNDBITES



After a brief period in which concerts have, very successfully, been taking place in the Parish Centre in April, Soundbites return to the Church. All concerts are on Wednesdays at 1pm, with refreshments available from 12.15pm.

The Soundbites series recommences for the Spring / Summer on April 10th with a recital being given by Madge Woollard. With strong family associations to Holy Trinity, Madge has asked that the proceeds from the recital go to support the Organ Appeal. Her 45 minute programme will include organ works by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn and Karg-Elert and piano pieces by Brahms and Price.



Madge Woollard grew up in London, where she was a student on Pimlico School's special music course.

She went on to be an Organ Scholar at Peterhouse, Cambridge 1989-92. After graduating and training as a teacher, Madge set up her own business teaching piano and keyboard privately and in schools.

Her business is still going strong thirty years later. She also plays organ for services in various churches, and has given recitals in Sheffield, Cambridge and London.

She lives in Sheffield with her wife Jo.

SOUNDBITES PROGRAMME FOR APRIL – JUNE 2024

April 10th Madge Woollard, Organ and Piano

April 17th Students from King Edward's School: A Level Recitals

April 24th Stien de Neef : Harpist (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

May 1st Pengye Song: Solo Pianist (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

May 8th Cara Preston Myakicheff: Soprano and Pianist (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

May 15th Ella Cordon Vieito: Solo Pianist (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

May 22nd Simone Damiane: Violin and Piano (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

May 29th, David Borsada: Solo voice

June 5th Mike Ashley Lute Ensemble

June 12th Year 10 musicians from King Edwards School

June 19th Sarah Potjewijd: Solo Pianist (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)

June 26th Hannah Hill, Wind Trio (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)



SHAKESPEARE ANTHEM 2024

The Friends of the Music are delighted to announce that they have commissioned a new work for choir and organ which will receive its first performance at the Shakespeare Service on 21st April 2024.

The piece, *Awake, Awake Oh Heart of Mine*, has been composed by Becky McGlade, and is a setting of words by Fanny Crosby. Becky McGlade is a significant young composer and cellist whose works include carols, psalm settings and settings of sacred and secular texts. A number of her works have been published by Oxford University Press.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC

With the aim of supporting the musical life of the church, in particular the choral activity, the Friends of the Music was established in Autumn 1983.

Now in our 40th year of existence, we are delighted to mark the occasion with a day of reunion on Saturday 11th May. The day will bring together former Directors of Music, Organists and Choristers from across these 40 years and will culminate in a celebratory Choral Evensong at 5pm, followed by refreshments in the Church.

We would like to invite all members of the Holy Trinity congregation and community to join with us in what promises to be a glorious evensong and joyful reception.

Do please save the date!

Caroline Thomas
Chair, Friends of the Music.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Although we're moving into the Easter season, last month the focus of our work with children and families was Lent. At our Forest Church we made our own ash to put ash crosses on each other's foreheads. We also used charcoal sticks to fill the churchyard by drawing crosses so apologies to anyone concerned by the variety of crosses. In April our Forest Church services are on 10th and 24th April at 4:15pm, meeting at the Methodist Church foyer, before moving to Holy Trinity Churchyard. As we'll be exploring Jesus' resurrection stories, I'm currently looking at ways of baking bread in our fire pit.

Our new Breakout Group during the Parish Eucharist also had a Lent theme discovering more about Lent and made our own Lenten cross, which is now on display in the Creative Corner. The cross is covered in our prayers for help with things we find hard or difficult. This month the Breakout Group will be during the 10am Parish Eucharist on 14th April. The group is for Primary age children and after the Collect we gather in the Clergy Vestry to explore the theme of the service together.



BY PHIL HARPER

TRINITY



PLAYERS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18 April at 10.30am in Holy Trinity Church

COFFEE, CAKE & SHAKESPEARE



We look forward to seeing you at our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday with a programme of speeches, scenes, songs, and sonnets written by or inspired by Shakespeare followed by a ceremonial cutting of the Birthday cake and a welcome cup of coffee.

Admission free though a contribution to refreshments is very much appreciated.

Saturday 25 May at 7 pm in Holy Trinity Church

EXIT: PURSUED BY THE BARD!



Presented by Christopher Saul. Christopher, a local actor who has appeared in over twenty productions at the RSC, in many TV series and on film, will share with us his, often hilarious, adventures in Shakespeare.

Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine or a soft drink. Further details in next month's edition of Trinity Times.

Call Ursula Russell: 07887 642 216 or

email urussell93@outlook.com



THE SYMBOLISM OF FLOWERS

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow”

(St. Matthew, vi. 28)

BY JUDITH DORRICOTT



This month we’ve been surrounded by beautiful lilies in our three churches. But have you ever wondered why we have lilies at Easter? Over the last thousand years, flowers have become symbols of different virtues with their meanings passed down over time. Images of flowers were popular in Greek and Roman art, and their use in pictures influenced the Byzantine painters, the 14th century Italians Giotto and Simone di Martini, and the Renaissance painters like Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli and Raphael. In medieval Britain, beautiful illuminated manuscripts featured delicate flowers as decoration among their gold-painted pages. Under Queen Victoria in the 19th century the works of the Pre-Raphaelite painters grew in popularity; their paintings often needed to be “read” as they showed flowers as symbols of different virtues, which would have been easily understood by their contemporary audience.

THE WHITE LILY



Perhaps the most important flower in Christianity is the white lily as it signifies purity, and so is used at Easter. In Renaissance art, the lily was often used in Annunciation scenes, with the Angel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary, because the lily symbolised the Virgin Mary’s divine chastity. In Leonardo da Vinci’s painting of the Annunciation (c. 1452) the Angel Gabriel offers a stem of white lilies to the Madonna, and other Renaissance artists including Botticelli and Raphael painted versions of the Annunciation with lilies featuring prominently in their works. Paintings including lilies increased again in popularity with the Pre-Raphaelites. As well as frequently being painted in Annunciation scenes, the lily appeared at funerals as the flower symbolizing death. Nowadays, churches often have lilies on their altars and traditionally white lilies are used at Eastertime because they represent both purity and death.



**THE ANNUNCIATION
BY LEONARDO DA VINCI**

(c.1452)



THE ROSE

Shakespeare immortalised the rose in “Romeo and Juliet” when he wrote: “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” (2.2.43), reminding his audience that the rose is a symbol of love. Two thousand years earlier, the rose was a symbol of love for the

Ancient Greeks in the goddess Aphrodite as well as for the Romans epitomised by Venus. The Greeks believed that all roses were originally white but were stained red by the blood of the beautiful youth Adonis when he was killed by a wild boar. Like the lily, the white rose without thorns is associated with the Virgin Mary, because she was untouched by Original Sin, and the flower is often shown in paintings of the Madonna and Child to symbolise purity. In the Christian tradition, the red rose reminds us of the blood shed by Jesus Christ on the cross, while its thorns evoke Jesus’ crown of thorns. The Wars of the Roses feature large in our history books as the two opposing factions from the royal house of Plantagenet wore roses: the red Gallica rose was worn by the house of Lancaster while the white Alba rose was worn by the house of York- at least according to Shakespeare!

THE VIOLET



In early illuminated manuscripts, violets adorned the pages as a sign of modesty, and Christian iconography suggests the violet, with its nodding head, is an example of humility; in fact children, in past times, gave violets to their mothers on Mothering Sunday. On the other hand, the Greeks attributed both sensual and sexual qualities to the flower because it was

associated with Aphrodite.

In A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Shakespeare gives an evocative description of a beautiful bank of flowers, saying “I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows, where oxlips and the nodding violet grows, quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine with sweet musk-roses and with eglantine” (2.1.149) showing us how important imagery of wild flowers was for the population at that time. Many other flowers have special meanings: a branch of palm signifies martyrdom, while an olive branch means peace.

Rosemary for remembrance is well-known and anemones signify the crucifixion as these flowers were said to grow at Golgotha.



The masterpiece, on the left, best illustrates the symbolism of flowers and was painted by Sir John Everett Millais in 1851 titled ‘Ophelia’ and was inspired by the drowning scene in Shakespeare’s “Hamlet”. In this beautiful work of art, every flower around Ophelia’s body has a symbolic meaning. The banks of the river are covered in daisies to proclaim her innocence, the violets round her neck symbolise her faithfulness, there are forget-me-nots floating around her in the wa-

ter, and the poppy she is clutching in her hand signifies death. Once we can decode the floral symbols in a painting, we understand the message he wants to give to the viewer. Lilies, roses, violets, and many other flowers, all convey an extra meaning to the painting.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS

REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN 2023

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

Members of the team during 2022 were: Liz Johnson, Marion Mitchell, Bridget Sorel-Cameron, Valerie Thompson, Mary Heron, Melissa McLean and Lindsay MacDonald. We had a two-hour session on alternate Monday afternoons, with a total of 20 sessions between February and November. The total time contributed over the year was 196 person-hours, giving an average attendance of 4.9 volunteers per session. The team continues to be notable for its great spirit of cooperation and camaraderie, and for its “can do” approach. The award for best attendance went again to Valerie, who was present for all 20 sessions, a remarkable achievement.

Litter in the churchyard is not much of a problem, at least when the bins are not overflowing, but there are always lots of branches and twigs to be picked up, especially after a storm. The lime trees seem to be particularly prone to shedding bits in autumn and winter. We pile it all up inside the west gate, for the Town Council team to take away.



OTHER TASKS ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED:

- Kept the main avenue and western avenue and pathways free of litter;
- Removed grass and weeds along the edges of paths and around church building;
- Cleared leaves and debris from the drain covers below the down pipes;
- Removed weeds from base of wall on Mill Lane (outside on road);
- Cut suckers from the lime trees up to a height of 4 metres;
- Maintained the shrubs in bed alongside the southern path;
- Maintained the enclosed garden behind the Parish Centre.

In autumn the Heart of England Woodturners delivered the first batch of wooden bowls, made from fallen branches of the great cedar tree by the west door of the nave. These had come crashing down in a severe storm in February 2022, and were cut into logs and stored for a year to dry out and season. The bowls are now for sale in the church shop and are notable not only because of their beauty and tactility but also their direct link with the Garden of Gethsemane. The tree was brought as a seedling from Jerusalem in 1872 by the Reverend Chafy Chafy MA DD FZS FSA, Rector of Rous Lench.



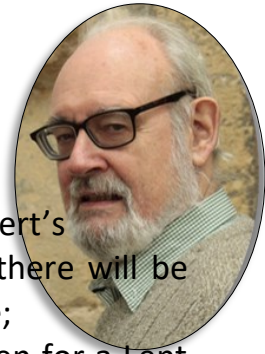
The year ended very sadly when we lost a much loved friend and valued member of the team, Mary, who died suddenly and unexpectedly in October.

She had made a great contribution throughout the year and was always cheerful and full of energy.

We continue to miss her.

The experience of volunteering is positive and we work well together as a team. The appearance of the churchyard is maintained at a high standard, and we receive many compliments from both visitors and members of the congregation. And it's therapeutic and enjoyable! We welcome anyone who would like to join us, even occasionally, to assist with this satisfying activity in such a glorious situation. These two acres around the church are like a little piece of heaven.

BY LINDSAY MACDONALD



I write this column in the middle of our remarkable Lent course on George Herbert's poetry. That course does not finish till Easter Day, and I have no doubt that there will be more to be said about it. A remarkable contribution by our leader Richard Cooke; a remarkable participation by larger numbers of attenders than I have ever seen for a Lent course; and a remarkable subject – one of the greatest Christian poets of all time.

And now, as if we had not had enough of 17th century poetry, we move into April – Shakespeare's month!


That is a big deal for all of us in Stratford, and especially in Holy Trinity. Sandra MacDonald's article, elsewhere in this edition, reminds us that some have called our church "Shakespeare's mausoleum". That is not how most of us want it to be seen; we know it as the place of a living present-day Christian community. But our past comes into our present, both through the hundreds of thousands of visitors whom we host each year, and through our participation in the Shakespeare Weekend celebrations.

And, whatever the precise nature of Shakespeare's own faith, there are strong links here. I vividly remember a conference eight years ago, in which I was much involved, on the relevance of the Bard to faith today. Rowan Williams, still a good friend to Holy Trinity, was one of the keynote speakers. Another was one of our own, the late Ronnie Mulryne. Paul Edmondson was the chaplain, and led us in one of his famous Poetry Masses, using Shakespeare's own words in the context of the Eucharist.

There is no space to discuss that topic in detail here. But I am mindful of George Herbert's saying that poetry can sometimes get through to people spiritually where sermons fail to do so. Our links to Shakespeare, and to the tradition of English poetry and drama to which in many ways he is the key, may be a crucial part of our mission, in ways which we can scarcely imagine. We read in our last edition how one of our number was brought to faith in part through his work as a staff member in Holy Trinity welcoming all those "Shakespeare pilgrims". How many of those pilgrims themselves might have been similarly touched by our witness?

Of course, we must not allow ourselves to be captured by our past, Shakespearean or otherwise. That is always a temptation in the life of any community, and especially of the Church. But that past need not be an idol; it can also be a springboard. Any who think that all this drama and poetry stuff, and classic culture generally, will simply be boring to new generations, should look at our young choristers and the enthusiastic participation by some of them in the work of Trinity Players. And they should note that the ages of those participating in the Players ranges from 14 to 86. In an age where some of our biggest social problems are linked with generation gaps, how inter-generational is that?

Our memorial to Shakespeare is not simply a tomb in a beautiful mediaeval "mausoleum", but a living participation in all that he brought to humanity. I think that he – and Herbert – would be proud of us.



LIFE WAYS CARERS CAFÉ – A LIFELINE FOR CARERS

Do you care for a loved one or friend at home?

Would you like to come to a friendly group of carers for support, events, activities and refreshments?

Meet with people in a similar situation every 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoon in the month 2-4 pm

Refresh and rejuvenate – “It’s a lifeline for me. I love it, it really helps break the loneliness”



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Nicola Harvey 0786 282663 or Biddy Peachey 07799841193



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LENT LUNCHESES

**'It's better to eat soup with someone you love
than steak with someone you hate'**



12 gallons of soup, 17lbs of cheese, 30 baguettes,
100s of pats of butter.....

Yes, the Lent Lunches were once again held in the
Parish Centre.

Thanks to volunteers from the congregation and
home groups, these lunches are taking place from
12 noon on five Fridays in Lent, providing a simple
meal of homemade soup, bread and cheese.

Most weeks, over 30 people enjoyed
sharing a meal and fellowship, with
Diane Patterson, Brian Russell, John
Hall-Matthews, Kay Dyer and Graham
Wilcox providing the thought for the
Day

The generous amount donated by
those attending has been sent to
Stratford Food Bank.



TRINITY FELLOWSHIP



Our Charity Tea Party is being held on Wednesday 17th April this year in aid of "The Bible Gift Fund" This is a fund which Phil Harper has started to enable us as a church to provide bibles for children baptised at Holy Trinity and those leaving Holy Trinity Primary School in year 6.

Please come and support this event, we ask for a donation of £5, tea includes as much cake and tea as you can consume. Please can members bring their pretty tablecloths, some flowers and cakes, if you could all bring a few cakes we will have plenty to go round and a nice selection.

Looking ahead to May 15th we have arranged to visit the Shakespeare gardens at Nash's House. This used to be a garden that we could visit, take a picnic lunch or tea at any time but since the gardens were redesigned it is not so easy just to pop in. The garden visit starts at 2 p.m. As locals we can go into the gardens free of charge but we need to prove that we are residents i.e. show a utility bill to prove that we are local Stratford people.

Following the visit round the garden we have arranged a cream tea at the RST in the upstairs restaurant at 3 p.m.

There is a lift to take us to the top floor which I hope will round the day off nicely.

The cost of the tea is £8.00 per person. If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to Stratford upon Avon PCC.

If you did not pay for this outing in March please contact me on 01789 204850 if you would like to join us. **Gina Lodge.**



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NICOLSON'S FACTORY VISIT



At the end of January, the Friends of Shakespeare's Church arranged a visit to Nicholson's organ works to see the restoration of our own organ. I am not sure that any of us knew exactly what to expect but Andrew Caskie, the Managing Director, brought this all to life with an enthralling explanation of how each of the various

components worked and how they could best be refurbished.

It was a fascinating experience and we were all impressed by the craftsmanship of everyone involved. Skills ranged from cabinet making new sound boxes, through cleaning and tuning each of the 3,000+ pipes, to rebuilding the electronics of the console. Timing for the restoration work on the organ has been split into two phases due to Nicholson's workload with other major projects. For Holy Trinity, the console, upper pipes and removal of scaffolding will be complete in time for Holy Week while restoration on the lower pipes and lower case will be in the last quarter of 2024.



The cost of the work including scaffolding is now close to £75,000. The organ appeal under Richard Hartley's leadership has now raised close to £65,000 but this is not the time to take the foot off the pedal. With a final push, we should find the whole cost of the restoration by the time the organ is back in full voice.

BY MIKE WARRILLOW



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY MARCH 1ST 2024



The United Reformed Church hosted a very special ecumenical event on March 1st . A congregation of 170 men, women, and children filled the church to share a service, prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine, on the theme “Bear with One Another in Love.” Holy Trinity Primary School Singing Group, comprising 50 children, beautifully sang two choruses in Arabic, especially written for the service. Rev’d Sue McClellan spoke, with great feeling, about her first-hand experience of visiting Gaza, on behalf of the charity Embrace the Middle East. All Stratford churches were represented as we prayed for reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land.

Elements of Palestinian life and prayers, written by our Palestinian sisters, were illustrated in the church and appreciated by many of those present during the delicious refreshments provided by the ladies from the United Reform Church.

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. The service in 2025 will be prepared by the women of the Cook Islands and will take place at 2pm on Friday March 7th at the Baptist Church. All are welcome to join us.

BY CHRIS COTTRELL





FUNERALS IN MARCH

Friday 8th March	15:30	Peter Witherington
Friday 15th March	11:00	Shirley Edkins
Friday 15th March	14:00	Myra Lillian Sandford

BAPTISM

Wilfred Sprason on 3rd March at St Helen's Church.



PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 3 April. 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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Holy Trinity, the Shakespeare Club and the Birthday celebrations

Part 2

The Shakespeare Birthday Procession



In the Shakespeare Club's early years, the Birthday processions it organised were elaborate and magnificent, with the route encompassing most of the town and, as in 1827 for example, taking 3 hours to complete; at that stage, however, Holy Trinity wasn't on its itinerary.

By the 1850s the Club's energies and limited finances were focused on attempting to address the run-down condition of the Birthplace, which had been purchased in 1847 by the joint Stratford and London Committees set up for the purpose. The organisation of the Birthday celebrations was thus devolved to local residents and shopkeepers, but by 1853 the town's neglect of this obligation was painfully evident.

This regrettable state-of-affairs prompted a large contingent of Birmingham Bardolators to make a 20-mile pilgrimage in a fleet of omnibuses to celebrate the Birthday in 1853. They were ignored by the Shakespeare Club and antagonised Stratfordians by delivering an oration in front of the Birthplace, 'properly rebuking the apathy of the townspeople'. At Holy Trinity, they complained that they had to pay to visit the grave and proceeded to fill the rest of their day with concerts and a celebratory dinner. To Stratford's chagrin, the Birmingham invasion made national headlines in the illustrated London News.

In 1904, the decoration of Shakespeare's grave in the chancel was adopted by the Club as part of the procession, following the recent custom of the Stratford schools to walk through the town to lay flowers there. Many hundreds took up the Club's invitation to join the procession, the Birmingham Daily Post, 25 April 1904, reporting that the crowds consisted of: 'all sorts and conditions of men and women'. They were rewarded by being entertained in the afternoon by the Bidford Morris Dancers. For the first time in 1907, the Birthday Procession start from the Birthplace in Henley Street, instead of the Town Hall, following the cradle-to-grave route to Holy Trinity that it continued to take until 2016.



Images on this page courtesy of The Shakespeare Morris and The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

The Shakespeare Club Wreath

In 1956, one of the Club's Vice Presidents provided a permanent laurel wreath, to be placed on Shakespeare's Grave on behalf of the Club. Each year from then onwards, the Club's wreath has been carried to the church in the procession and placed among all the others; in 2024, the Club will once again carry its wreath to be laid in the "Shakespeare Mausoleum", in celebration of its bicentenary year.

With thanks for information about the history of the Shakespeare Club to Susan Brock & Sylvia Morris: *The Story of the Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon, 1824-2016*, published by The Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon.

BY SANDRA MACDONALD





SAVE THE DATE

Greek Evening

Saturday 22nd June

Parish Centre

With dancing by
Ithaca's dance team
"Vicky Drakopanagiotaki"

(No plates will be smashed at the event)



More details in the
next issue of
Trinity Times

A selection of
Greek food



SOCIAL EVENTS

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON





FUND RAISING FOR THE UKRAINE

By Bethany Fletcher

It has now been more than 2 years since Russia invaded the Ukraine, in that time we have raised over £5,300 and the ribbons we have made are now being worn all over the world. We started making and selling ribbons around 2 weeks after the invasion of Ukraine, after watching the horrors that were unfolding on the news and having discussions as a family, about how helpless we all felt. Brain storming ways we could try to help, it was my Gran who gave us the idea.

She had wanted to show her support for the people of the Ukraine by wearing a ribbon, but she couldn't find one where the money was actually going to benefit the people who needed it most and not being sold for profit. So, we bought some ribbon, then started cutting and sewing. In the beginning it was a group effort, with my mum, gran and brother (Nathaniel) and I making the ribbons. Nathaniel and I sold them for a donation to the Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal. Initially, we were only selling them in our village, from our doorstep and in the primary school, Nathaniel going from class to class and in the playground at the end of the day. They were selling faster than we could have hoped and we quickly had to make another batch to keep up with the demand.

The ribbons were in the village coffee shop, Nathaniel's Scouts troop, even a local hairdresser in Stratford, who saw of the Cubs/Scouting parents wearing one during an appointment and reached out wanting to support us in raising money. During this time, the church's support for our efforts were incredible, as they continue to be. There is one member of the community, who even now has some in her pocket and sells them whenever anyone comments on the one she is wearing; thank you A.

Now my mum makes most of the ribbons and I collect the donations, a job I take very seriously and it continues to be fascinating. One thing I didn't expect to find, was the number of foreign currencies, we have seen; euros, American dollars, money from all over the world including Australia and the Republic of Georgia. It has been interesting to see and research the special edition 50p and £2 coins we have received. We have also seen some very unusual things in the collection boxes, including; a German pharmacy token, some half pennies but the most fascinating, was a pound note, which surprisingly the bank did accept!

We love seeing the people out and about in Stratford wearing the ribbons (we must look strange, whispering to ourselves as they walk by) and knowing that visitors to Holy Trinity are wearing them in their communities as well. It has been the incredible support that the members of the church have shown for the people of the Ukraine that means the most, I see all the ribbons people are wearing and I can't help but be astonished in how much we have raised so far. We couldn't have done it without you, so thank you for your kind and generous your donations. The ribbons are our small way of trying to help people in need but more importantly, they act as a reminder that the war is still ongoing

We continue to pray for all those who are suffering and dying in conflicts around the world, hoping that those in power can bring their misery to an end and restore peace.

PARISH CONTACTS

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PARISH CONTACTS

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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

Holy Trinity Office Staff

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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 07759 008023

Village Contacts

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St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers Pat Woolvin 07989 318 965

Other Contacts

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Bell Ringers Charles Wilson 01789 295 467
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Trinity Fellowship 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
Lay Chaplains Keith Payne 01789 266 316
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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
Social Team Chris Cottrell 01789 204273

Luddington Walk



**Saturday 13th April
10am**



**Meeting at
Luddington Village Hall**

Short and longer route available

**Refreshments
after walk**



**Opportunity to visit
Luddington Church.**



**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

For more information
please contact Chris
on 01789 204 273

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

