

November 2022

£1.50

THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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

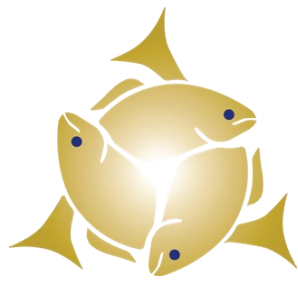


TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Editor - Revd Patrick Taylor
Design Editor - Felicity Howlett
Features Editor - Judith Dorricott
Associate Editor - Anthony Woollard
Subscriptions & Distribution - Paul Lageu and
Carole Askew
Advertising - tba
PCC Representative - Jane Armitage

Remember we love to receive material for articles, including wording, images and photographs which can be sent to the e-mail address below. However, we reserve the right to edit anything that is sent to us and final decisions on content and format are made by the Editorial Team.

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 **December 2022/January 2023** edition

The copy date is 14 November

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

Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:
timestrinity@gmail.com

For any questions regarding the distribution of Trinity Times please contact:
**Paul Lageu 07434 328 484 or
paullageu@hotmail.co.uk**

#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- All Saints' Church, Luddington

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Revd. Thomas Powell
Curate



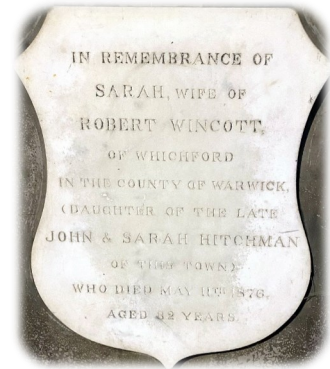
Phil Harper
Children and Families
Minister

EDITORIAL by Phil Harper

November is always a quite gloomy month as we start to really notice the darker days and the colder nights. In the church calendar it takes on a sombre mood as a month of remembrance. Beginning with All Souls' Day, remembering all the dearly departed, leading into All Saints' Day, remembering the company of Saints and of course Remembrance Sunday, remembering those who have served and died in the armed forces. The month ends with the feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the Church year before a new year begins in Advent. The end of things often causes us to look back and remember things that have happened.

As I was pondering on what to write for this editorial, I found myself investigating what was causing a puddle of water leaking from the north porch of Holy Trinity, which was thankfully

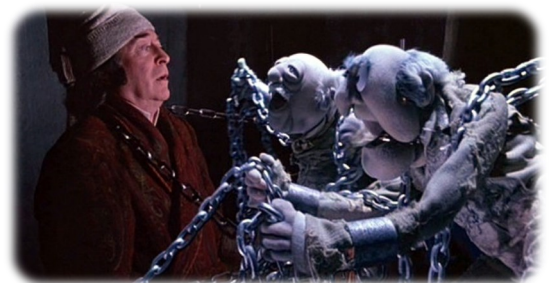
nothing of concern. But one word stood out to me on two memorials in the porch "Remembrance". The two memorials are on the wall, one above the other; the first for John and Sarah Hitchman, the other their daughter Sarah Wincott, both beginning "In remembrance of..." As I looked around me I took in all the memorials on the wall and floor of the church. Walking down the church path I looked at all the names on the floor, on gravestones and plaques on benches. It made me think about legacy and about what is our legacy? Is it just to be a name on a bench or wall?



In the month of remembering, what do we want to be remembered for? Or perhaps more importantly, what **will** we be remembered for? With the lack of space for many more names in the church, we'll need to do more than just have someone pay for a stone with our name on to be remembered.



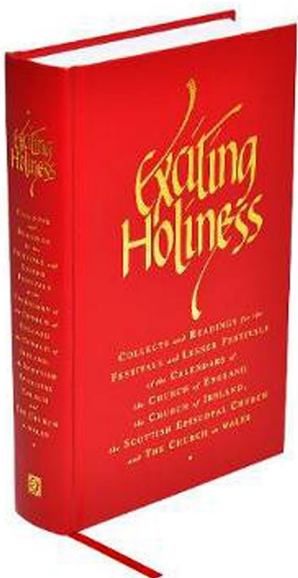
Reflections on legacy can start to feel a little morbid, but like Ebenezer Scrooge in my favourite Christmas movie, *A Muppet's Christmas Carol*, and the show once again gracing the RSC stage, the good news for each of us



is that there is still time for us, we have not reached the end of our life's journey. As the ghost of Jacob Marley visited Scrooge to remind him, there was still time to change.

In this month of remembering I invite you to reflect on what changes you may make to be remembered more than simply a plaque on a bench, or a name in a book of remembrance. Could our acts as Christians be enough to become someone mentioned in *Exciting Holiness*, a book we use at Morning Prayer when a particular saint or important person of faith is remembered in the church calendar? The book ranges from possibly the earliest entry being The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the most recent Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyred in 1977.

An entry in that book maybe beyond most of us, but that doesn't stop us inspiring people through our acts as Christians. To be remembered not just by those around us, but also those to come. To be remembered because of what we do, because of the positive impact we can have on the people around us and on the world that we are blessed to live in.



Worship Notes - November



Launch of New Informal Service in the Parish Centre

We are holding an initial trial of a new informal service called "Time Out", which will take place in the Parish Centre at **2.30pm on Sunday 20 November**. It's a gathering for all ages with worship songs, exploring scripture, and prayer in an informal setting with refreshments served from the start. We are intending for it to be accessible for everyone, especially those who are not used to going to church services. Do come, and why not invite someone to come with you?

Confirmation Service 6 November, 10am at Holy Trinity

We are looking forward to Bishop John being with us for this very special service, when several adult members of the parish will take this important step in their journey of faith. Some of them will be baptised as well. We will also be joined by some students from Warwick School who are joining us for their Confirmation.

Remembrance Sunday, 13 November



At Holy Trinity at 10am there will be a short All Age Remembrance Sunday Service without Holy Communion, lasting about 40 minutes. This is followed by the Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence in the Garden of Remembrance, which begins at 10.55am. The 5pm service at Holy Trinity will be Holy Communion.

At All Saints' Luddington there is a 9.30am Remembrance Sunday Eucharist and at St. Helen's Clifford Chambers a special Remembrance Sunday service starting at the war memorial (situated on the edge of the churchyard) at 10.45am.

Advent begins on 27 November. The Advent Carol Service is a highlight of the year and takes place at 5pm at Holy Trinity, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Not to be missed!

Advanced notice of Christmas Services

Full details will be printed in the December magazine, but in case you're needing to make plans for Christmas, here is the schedule:

Sunday 11 December

3.30pm Christingle All Saints'
5pm Christingle Holy Trinity

Sunday 18 December

3.30pm Carol Service All Saints'
6.30pm Carol Service St Helen's

Friday 23 December

7pm Lessons and Carols Holy Trinity

Saturday 24 Christmas Eve

3.30-6pm Walk-through Carol service Holy Trinity
5pm Christingle St Helen's
11.30pm Midnight Mass Holy Trinity

Sunday 25 Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion Holy Trinity
9.30am Holy Communion St. Helen's
9.30am Holy Communion All Saints'
10am Parish Eucharist Holy Trinity

There will not be a 5pm service on Christmas Day. The above list does not include non-Christmas services.

Patick



SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon

6 November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

10am - Eucharist - Confirmation

5pm - Choral Evensong

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10am - All Age Remembrance Service

10.55am - Act of Remembrance in the Garden of Remembrance

5pm - Holy Communion

20 November - Christ the King

10am - Parish Eucharist - Christ the King

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

27 November - 1st Sunday of Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - The Jesse Tree. Beginnings: David and Ruth

5pm - Advent Carol Service - *followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

6 November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

9.30 - Morning Worship

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.45 - Remembrance Service

20 November - Christ the King

9.30 - Holy Communion



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

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



All Saints' Church, Luddington

6 November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

9.30 - Holy Communion

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

9.30 - Remembrance Sunday Eucharist

20 November - Christ the King

9.30 - Holy Communion

27 November - 1st Sunday of Advent

9.30 - Holy Communion

CHRISTINGLE and NEW TODDLER SERVICE



One of the great ways to prepare for Christmas can be at one of our Christingle Services. So that you can get the date in your diaries the Christingle Service at Holy Trinity will be on Sunday 11 December at 5pm. All Saints' Luddington is on Sunday 11 December at 3:30pm. St Helen's Christingle is on Christmas Eve at 5pm.



As well as the opportunity to see our churches lit only by the candles in the Christingles, one of the most important part of Christingle is supporting the work of The Children's Society, who are in need of our support more than ever at the moment. If you aren't able to make it to one of our services, but would like to support the work of the charity, or would like to make a donation as well as attending, you can do so at their website www.childrenssociety.org.uk

In December I'm hoping to begin a new venture, to build on the success of our Toddler Groups (Stay & Play at the Ken Kennett Centre Tuesdays 9-10:30am and Trinity Tots in the Parish Centre Thursdays 1:30-3pm). I'm hoping to begin a Toddler Service in December. To help find the best time for this service I'm appealing to everyone to reach out to any you know with pre-school children and to ask if they'd be interested and what time and day would suit. The service will have a story, craft, songs and prayers and be suitable for that age group. I'd appreciate your help with this research and the time and date of the service will be in the next issue of Trinity Times. Please let me know by emailing phil@stratford-upon-avon.org



Preparing to make Hedgehog Bread
At Ken Kennett Stay and Play

Hedgehog Bread - the final result.
(Unfortunately the eyes did not do too well in the oven!)



The Children's Society Box Opening

**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

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

A Spanish visitor, with little English, asked a volunteer when our church left the Roman Catholic Church. She started to explain that our King at that time wanted to get divorced, but as the Pope wouldn't allow it, the King decided to create his own Anglican church; our visitor interrupted with "Oh yes, I remember now. It was Principe Carlos (Prince Charles) who wanted to divorce, wasn't it?"

PCC REPORT by Jane Armitage



The meeting opened with a prayer from Anthony Woollard.

Outstanding items:

- no further action to be taken re rewiring until plans have been finalised.
- PAT testing has been completed at Holy Trinity and St Helen's.
- five year plan leaflets have been produced.
- the disability review is in hand.
- the shop manageress was appointed in August but has opted to retain volunteer status.
- the Parish Values are to be adopted as a Code of Conduct by PCC.
- the Church Desk database is currently being replaced by 'I know Church' and work is being done to implement this.

Music and the Choir. A presentation by Douglas Keilitz and Rebecca Mills.

The basic aim is to keep the music presentation running, managing the choir and all music applications, to plan the future music and adapt to the requirements of the 10am Eucharist service. Instrumentalists are still required to supplement some services.

Trinity Voices are looking to increase numbers from local Primary Schools, possibly by offering refreshments at rehearsals.

The development of a Choir School is trying to encourage musical education in the school aged members of the choir, ie learning to read music. The aim is to improve the quality of singing as well as the numbers.

The Current Financial Situation.

Most areas are close to budget. There has been some increase in staffing and utility costs but direct giving costs are declining and therefore visitor income is of great importance. By 2024 all reserves will have been used up leaving nothing to supplement income, although we still have assets. Since Covid Holy Trinity has been kept open for visitors by teams of volunteers but the donations per head are declining and it has therefore been decided to employ staff to lead the teams and open for longer hours. This would allow the opening of a charging point in the entry to the chancel for visitors to Shakespeare's grave, etc.

Christmas Charities - PCC members were invited to make suggestions for the third designated charity.

A bug hotel is planned for the Churchyard, in conjunction with Holy Trinity School and the Scouts.

Capital investment - current emphasis is on repairs rather than rebuild and Friends' of Shakespeare's Church will be advised of this.

Insulation of the Parish Centre is being planned and quotations reviewed.

Security has been improved in the Parish Centre.

Next meeting 20 November 2022.

Where was Shakespeare buried before this church was built for him?

Visitor to volunteer
"Do you have to pay to be a member of this church?"

Little boy to volunteer "How far down in the earth is Shakespeare buried?
Probably at least 60 metres!"

Choral Evensong and *Friends of the Music* Annual General Meeting

Choral Evensong on Sunday 9 October was attended by a sizeable congregation. During the service, Director of Music, Douglas Keilitz, presented two young choristers - Alonso Alvarez and Florence Jackson-Bettles – with their surplices. Several choristers also received awards from the *Friends of the Music* which were presented by Douglas.

Helen Yates Cup - enthusiasm and progress (junior age): Alonso Alvarez

James Walker Cup - improvement (junior age): Florence Jackson-Bettles

Joan Everett Cup - enthusiasm and progress (secondary age): Kade MacDougall

Hudson-Evans Cup - demonstrating leadership (secondary age): Bethany Fletcher

Standards Cup - overall attitude and attainment: Sofia Gilson

Practical Musicianship Award - effort and achievement: Amelia Parkin

Exemplary Attendance Award: Charlotte Mulryne

In addition, The *Friends of the Music* provided each of the young choristers with a copy of the Royal School of Church Music's newly published "Chorister's Prayer Book".

After refreshments, the *Friends of the Music* held their first AGM since July 2019. Summary reports from the Treasurer and the Chair were shared with attendees. Josephine Walker, in her report as Chair, mentioned the detrimental effect Covid had had on the weekly Soundbites concerts which were the main fund-raising activity. However, a full programme was once again being delivered each Wednesday lunchtime and the audience had returned in even larger numbers. The concerts this year had provided a wide variety of music with excellent performances from local musicians and students from the Birmingham Conservatoire. She thanked Rebecca Mills for arranging the performers as well as the committee and volunteers who ensure that the weekly event takes place so successfully. Above all she thanked the audience for returning so supportively. The Treasurer, Martin Stanley, in his report also mentioned the effect of the pandemic on the *Friends* fund raising but the finances were recovering due to the generosity of the audiences. This year the *Friends* are once again able to build reserves to support new projects.

The election of the committee followed. Josephine Walker was retiring as Chair and her place is taken by Caroline Thomas, a member of the Choir from 1997-2012, who has recently returned to the area. Also standing down were Jane Taylor who had given long service to the *Friends* as Secretary and Soundbites volunteer organiser, Robert Hornby and John Cohen. The new committee were elected comprising of Caroline Thomas (Chair), Martin Stanley (Treasurer), Sam Bridges (Secretary), Stephen Dodsworth, Carolyn Laverty, David Laverty, Liz Johnson, Tim Raistrick and Heather Fletcher and with Douglas Keilitz and Rebecca Mills ex-officio.

The committee is grateful for the support and interest of all at Holy Trinity. If you would like to get involved, e.g. as helping on a rota basis with the running of Soundbites, do please get in touch.

Soundbites Autumn 2022

And if you haven't been to a Soundbites concert yet do come along and bring your friends. It is a half hour concert in the Church every Wednesday from 13.00 - sandwiches, tea and coffee from 12:30.

Caroline Thomas, Patrick Taylor, Josephine Walker



DENNE GILKES by Tim Raistrick

Internationally-renowned pianist Peter Donohoe is giving a piano recital in Holy Trinity Church to mark fifty years since a remarkable lady, Denne Gilkes, died and a charity, of which I am the chairman, was set up in her memory.



From her arrival in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1936 until her death in 1972, Denne Gilkes was the teacher of voice production and singing for the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre (later the RSC). In the large panelled music room in her “ruined palazzo”, an Elizabethan home over what until recently was Blacks in the High Street, she taught many actors including Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Ian Richardson, Diana Rigg, Paul Scofield and Donald Sinden. She always claimed she could teach anyone or anything to sing “except a lamp post”. When Donald Sinden went for his singing lessons she declared “I have met my lamp post”.

Denne Gilkes had been born in 1889 and attended the Royal Academy of Music where she obtained the Licentiate as both performer and teacher in 1910. She was awarded the Gold Medal for piano and was elected an ARAM for services to music.

She returned to her native Scotland and became well-known as a singer, with a particular interest in German lieder, and also a sympathetic interpreter of music by British composers including Somervell and Bantock. She appeared in early revivals of Monteverdi’s operas, as well as Bantock’s Seal Woman at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Many actors such as Diana Rigg and the young director Mike Leigh rented rooms and flats within Denne’s Stratford home. I visited Mike earlier in the year and he spoke warmly of her hospitality and care for her various tenants. Maroussia Frank, Ian Richardson’s widow, told me of various labels around the building: ‘the one on the lavatory chain said “Pull gently. It is better to live by love than fear”’ and on a bannister rail “Be careful. This equipment is old and frail, like its owner.” Another actress, Wendy Gifford, recalled listening to James Galway, then a musician in the theatre band, playing his flute in Denne’s music room which she made available to him for practice.

Despite becoming frail in her old age, these young people of the theatre loved and respected Denne and, in particular Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave led the call for a fund to be set up in her memory. So fifty years on, the Denne Gilkes Memorial Fund is still distributing small grants to young actors and musicians for their training. Among the countless people it has helped at the start of their careers are the violinist Tasmin Little, now the Fund’s President, and Ben Elton who had just started studying drama at Manchester University in 1977 where he said he hoped “to continue with my play writing and producing” and thanked the charity for its award which “came as a very welcome encouragement to me, at a slightly depressing time.”

I feel Ben Elton’s comments are typical of many struggling to get a foothold in the equally precarious professions of music and drama. Although the Fund’s resources only allow us to make very modest awards they can make a difference as to whether students can embark on or continue their studies as well as often helping to unlock grants from other bodies. The Fund also gives annual prizes to local schools and Holy Trinity’s choir, sponsors the Guy Woolfenden Prize for Conducting at the Birmingham Conservatoire and organises the annual Michael Tubbs Memorial Masterclass. We also have musical instruments which we lend to young musicians.



Sketch of Denne Gilkes and John Gielgud c.1920



Denne Gilkes teaches Leslie Caron

Cont...



Peter Donohoe

In this anniversary year, Dame Judi Dench, who also knew Denne, kindly accepted my invitation to become one of the Fund's Patrons. The concert by Peter Donohoe on Thursday 17 November, presented by the Fund within the Stratford Music Festival, starts at 7.30pm and features music by Chopin, Rachmaninov, Busoni, Albeniz and Granados. Tickets cost £20 (under 18s £5) and are available in advance via the Playhouse box office. Any unsold tickets will be available on the door.

Pictures courtesy of Tim Raistrick

THE BIBLE - SHAKESPEARE'S MUSE by Judith Dorricott

Friends of Shakespeare's Church and their guests were treated to a fascinating talk called "How did Shakespeare use the Bible?" by Rev. Dr. Paul Edmondson, Head of Research at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. This lecture, the first in a new annual programme, was introduced by Kevin Taylor, the newly elected Chair of the organisation. Kevin reminded the 100 strong audience that the aim of the Friends was to raise funds to finance work within the church, and that currently repairs to the south roof were urgently needed.

In his talk, Paul was accompanied by the actor Robert Lister, who read quotations from Shakespeare; linking to the lecture subject, the King James Bible, which has recently undergone extensive conservation work, was on display for the audience to view.

Paul explained that Shakespeare would have been well versed in the Bible from studying the scriptures daily at school, and the poet drew on biblical quotations in his plays and sonnets more than from any other source. His main source would have been the Geneva Bible, printed in 1560, from which he took over one thousand references, especially from the Psalms and from the Gospel according to Matthew. Other books of the Bible that feature prominently in his works are Genesis, Job, Proverbs, and the Gospels according to Mark, Luke and John. References to the many themes and emotions shown in the comedies, tragedies, history plays and sonnets, such as love, penitence, temptation, freedom, mercy and mortality can all be traced back to the Bible.

Many of the biblical allusions are spoken unknowingly, such as Falstaff saying in Henry IV, part I, "I have escaped by miracle" which comes from St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. In Hamlet, the prince's doubts on mortality reflect words from the Bible, and Richard II's words before battle, saying that he has faith that God will protect him, are taken from Matthew, chapter 34. Another example shows that in the play King Lear, the King and Edgar become almost Christ-like figures as, in the wilderness, they are stripped of everything they possess.

The title of Love's Labour's Lost is an allusion to Psalm 127, as the theme of the play concerns three young men all of whose efforts are in vain, as they have lost God. Another allusion to God can be found in the marriage scene of The Tempest when Prospero remembers "the enemies at the gate" and dissolves the nuptial mass of his daughter Miranda and Ferdinand as an Act of God.

Paul concluded this inspiring lecture by explaining that Shakespeare's use of the Bible serves to elevate and enhance the whole canon by adding a scriptural resonance. To understand Shakespeare, Paul suggested, we must first understand the Bible as it was the Bible that made Shakespeare into Shakespeare.



Robert Lister and Dr Paul Edmondson



"I like a dog", says G K Chesterton's priest-detective Father Brown, "so long as he is not spelt backwards". I think I know what he means. It is easy to idolise our pets, and perhaps especially dogs. Lovers of James Herriot's *All creatures great and small* will remember Tricky-Woo and his mistress!

Why do we do this? Dogs are renowned for showing what seems like unconditional love to their owners. There is nothing quite like waking up in the morning to a wagging tail. Whether they really do "love" in this way is debated by experts. But they give us something we need.

We can learn much about our relationships with people, and maybe with God, through our relationship with a beloved pet. For example, we can come to realise just how much we project onto others emotions and attitudes which have more to do with us than with them. Confronting others as they really are, rather than as we project them to be, can be a salutary experience.

Many members of the congregation will have encountered our own Aphra. She is now the doggy equivalent of over 100 years old, and in her often infuriatingly naughty way has been loyal to us for nearly 15 years. Like so many humans of a similar age she is showing serious signs of aging: deafness, partial blindness, some dementia and incontinence. She will surely not be with us for all that much longer. And when she goes she will leave a massive hole in our lives.

November is the Month of the Dead, and of Remembrance. Can that too apply to pets, as well as to the human ancestors and companions that we have loved and lost? One of my favourite characters in Catherine Fox's *Lindchester* novels is an elderly woman priest who takes in rescue dogs, and talks endlessly to them - almost as a kind of prayer - about issues in the world, the Church and her own life, using them in particular as substitutes for her daughter killed in an accident. She also becomes convinced that, when they die, they are not lost but caught up somehow in God, as we are. Does any of that experience ring true for readers?

Dogs (and other pets) are not God and should not be put in the place of God. It is because the grossly spoilt Tricky-Woo is virtually worshipped that she and her mistress are such absurd characters. Yet might they not in some sense be sacraments of God? That "unconditional love", however much of a projection of our own needs it may be, tells us something about an unconditional love at the heart of Creation (which as a whole is also a sacrament). We do wrong to put them on a pedestal, but we do not do wrong to love them while they are with us, mourn them when they leave us, and even just maybe hope for some inconceivable sort of reunion in eternity.

So, as we remember all who have gone before us, and especially this month the human casualties of wars, it may not be wrong also to think also of the creaturely casualties of war, accident, disease and the other tragedies of life, including those resulting from what we humans are doing to Creation by our carelessness and greed. And most especially we may remember the pets that we love and have loved as companions in this broken world.

Visitor, staring upwards, "Is all that wood on the ceiling to stop the roof from falling in?"

Visitor leaving church "So what relationship is Anne Hathaway to Shakespeare?"

HARVEST COLOUR FROM THREE CHURCHES.

All Saints' Church
Luddington



Photo by Ruthie Copeman



Photo by Ruthie Copeman



St. Helen's Church
Clifford Chambers

Photo by Pat Woolvin

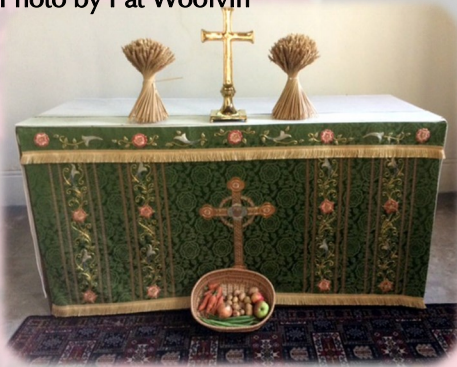


Photo by Pat Woolvin



Holy Trinity Church
Stratford-upon-Avon



Photo by Judith Dorricott

The three churches of
All Saints', St. Helen's
and Holy Trinity
looked beautiful with
the flower
arrangements of
Autumn colours for
their Harvest services.



Photo by Judith Dorricott



*Worship the Lord
in the beauty
of holiness.*

Psalm 96:9
King James Bible

A big thank you to everyone who worked so
hard to decorate our churches.

Harvest Flowers at Holy Trinity Church

The flower teams at Holy Trinity Church enjoy creating original arrangements for Harvest Festival. We are divided into four teams, so that each group arranges the flowers just once a month, but for major festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter, we all come together to decorate the church. Harvest Festival is always great fun with apples and pears, wheat and corn, pumpkins and squash decorating the church!

Our team members, and our extra occasional helpers, include Veronica Talbot, Gladys Curran, Stella Webley, Margaret Dale, Jane Hemming, Sue Smith, Judith Dorricott, Carole Pullen, Anne Jordan, Marie McDougall, Penny Lyon, Christine Ross, Wendy Strophair and Heather White. Some of our members are new to flower arranging, and to the church, but others have been doing sterling work for many years.

Our four flower teams have had to work especially hard in 2022. Following the Covid pandemic, and with many couples having to cancel or postpone their weddings, this year has been exceptionally busy for our flower ladies. There have been about 25 weddings between February and November and on some Saturdays there have been two weddings, one following the other. Fortunately our brides are always happy to discuss details of their floral displays and come to an arrangement over colours and it is a great pleasure to see the church filled with glorious arrangements, not to mention the delicious scents from the flowers.



Judith Dorricott





Rather than sending cards to members of the congregation, people are invited to make a donation towards our Christmas charities.

These are: **CMS** - Supporting Tom and Verity Clare.
Trussell Trust - charity working to end the need for foodbanks and provide help to people in crisis
CAB Fuel Poverty supporting people in fuel poverty.

Names will be printed in the December/January edition of Trinity Times.

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:- C card and your name

Or, 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 Christmas Card Amnesty and on the back of the envelope your name/s as you wish them to appear in the magazine.

Please, if you can, send your names to me digitally by the Trinity Times website:
timestrinity@gmail.com

for inclusion in the December/January edition of the Trinity Times. Any names reaching me after 14 November will not be included in the magazine.

Many thanks.

Felicity Howlett



Zoom coffee mornings at 11.30am.

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

Kay and Roy Dyer



TRINITY LADIES

On 16 November we will be holding our AGM. This is an opportunity for members to let the committee know what sort of speakers, outings etc. they would like us to include in our programme. Also there will be more time at the meeting to get to know each other. All being well one of our members will be telling us about her memories of the late Queen's Coronation. I am sure that most of us will remember that day in 1953 and so if any of you have any special memories perhaps you would like to share them with us.

November is also the Anniversary of our group; it was started in 1945 after the war by the ladies of the church who raised the money to buy the land which the Parish Centre was later built on. It has been our custom, before Covid, to celebrate this day by attending Holy Communion. So, can as many of you as possible please join me at the Guild Chapel at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 2 November to give thanks for our 77th Anniversary.

On 21 December we will hold our Carol Service followed by mince pies/cakes and as usual tea.

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

Gina Lodge
Chair

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING by Paul Lageu

We held a coffee morning in church, on Friday 30 September, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. We raised £830 towards this great charity plus, hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable time. A number of people, who had come to see Shakespeare's grave, joined us for coffee and cake and there were lots of positive comments about the welcome they had received. A great big thank you to everyone who came and/or donated the delicious cakes. Special thanks go Tina Hillyard, Diane Edwards, Brenda Pitt and Barbara Bartos, who did such a wonderful job in keeping everyone fed and watered, Fiona Main, who made and sold cushions and greetings cards, and, also, to Eve Archer for her work welcoming people.



Photographs by Harry Lomax

FROM THE REGISTERS - OCTOBER

CHRISTENINGS

9 October	Alfred Inns
9 October	Alexander Carter
23 October	Oliver Chapman-Wheeler
23 October	Noemie Carrel
23 October	Theodore Stone
23 October	Adriana Stone

WEDDINGS

8 October	Michael Grendon and Sarah Hope
22 October	Michael King and Gillian Swann

FUNERALS

3 October	Christopher Julian Whiteside (Chris)
5 October	Robin Draper
6 October	Roger Boucher
6 October	Gladys Doney
10 October	George Swinton Hughes
20 October	Frederick William Salvin

HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

Gina Lodge

Bereavement Co-ordinator

A.E.BENNETT & SONS

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Family owned and run since 1848

Private Chapel of Rest

Members of the N.A.F.D.

Pre-payment plan available

Tel: (01789) 267035 (24hrs)

34 SHEEP STREET, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, WARWICKSHIRE. CV37 6EE

AMEN



AMEN SHOEBOX APPEAL

For the second year running, we will be supporting the work again of Malcolm and Anne McCulloch of Stratford-upon-Avon Baptist Church, in collecting Christmas Shoeboxes for Families which will then go to Romania. The charity running the project is AMEN, which is a UK based charity that channels resources to many overseas Christians, working to make a difference in their own countries. AMEN partners across the world are serving God and their communities. As you will see from their web site – these partners are seeing amazing things happen.

Leaflets and instructions on putting a shoebox together will be available at the back of church. The collection point will be Stratford-upon-Avon Baptist church. www.amentrust.co.uk

FOR
ALL
AGES

We're Going

TEN PIN BOWLING

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER FROM 6:45-8PM

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

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

CHILDREN £4 ADULTS £5

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



SOCIAL
EVENTS

To book your place, please sign up
by Tuesday 8th November
using the link on the e-bulletin.

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



Special ringing marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II by Charles Wilson

It was a privilege for the ringers to be involved with marking the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8 September. Within minutes of hearing of the death on national media, we were in touch with each other via our group email offering support and confirming the protocol for the days ahead.

Our steeple keeper, Peter Bridges was straight to work muffling the bells, a complicated process which involves attaching a leather pad or muffle around the ball of the clapper, which strikes the inside of the bell. However, on the death of the Monarch both sides of clappers are covered apart from the largest and deepest sounding bell, the tenor, which is only muffled on one side.

On Friday 9 September in line with the rest of the country, we rang for a full hour - a momentous time for us all and nerve racking.

The bells were specially recorded, and this recording is now available on the church website - we rang rounds with muffled bells with a single toll of the tenor bell at the end each time. It makes the hairs stand up on the back of your neck!

On Sunday 11 September, fully muffled bells rang out for the morning service and then the front six bells were un-muffled in time to ring following the reading of the Proclamation of King Charles III at the Town Hall at 2:00pm.

In recognition of the official period of mourning, no bells rang again until Sunday 18 September, when they were rung for both the morning service and in the afternoon for a special choral evensong dedicated to the Queen, marking her seventy years of service and dedication.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, we rang muffled on all ten bells for the period leading up to the beginning of the State funeral at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19 September. We rang mostly rounds with the tenor bell tolling each time, and call changes into Queens, 1,3,5,7,9, 2,4,6,8,10 and Kings 9,7,5,3,1, 2,4,6,8,10.

This was for everyone involved an incredibly special and deeply emotional time, and we were proud and honoured to have played a small part remembering a person who had dedicated her whole life, whether it be long or short, to her people, the British people and the Commonwealth.



Photographs courtesy of Marion Mitchell

THANK YOU from Jenny, Ruth and Helen

Peter Rowland

We would like to say thank you for the prayers and support shown to all of us during Peter's illness and since his death.

Holy Trinity has been special to our family since Jenny's time here as a Curate. Peter left his wishes for the services so our thanks go to everyone involved in making sure it could be as he wished.

To Patrick for his ministry and special thanks as a fellow rail enthusiast for finding the perfect steam train recording.

To David for verging throughout three services.

To Douglas and members of the choir, particularly for Peter's favourite, Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you".

To Diane for assisting, and to Chris, Emily and Heather.

To Helen and sides people.

To the flower team.

To Ursula for moving Trinity Players rehearsal into the Parish Centre.

Also for the generous donations to church and the MSA Trust.

Jenny, Ruth and Helen



Come And Start Your Festivities With Our
**CHRISTMAS WREATH
MAKING WORKSHOP**

Saturday 3rd December from 2pm - 4:30pm
at Holy Trinity Parish Centre

**GET CREATIVE WITH THE HELP OF
FLORIST SALLY WELCH**

£35 per booking
Families can work on one wreath together

Mulled wine, hot drinks and mince pies on arrival.

Please sign up by 20th November
using the link on the e-bulletin

 **SOCIAL
EVENTS**

For more information
please contact
Marie at: mariemcdougall73@gmail.com

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

Winter Fuel Allowance

If you're over 65 you will probably have received or be receiving a winter fuel allowance from the government. It is not means tested so almost everyone receives it, irrespective of their financial situation. It would cost the government more to means test it than it does to just send it to everyone. For a lot of people, including many in our own congregations, this payment is essential if they are to stay warm throughout the winter months. Without it, it can come down to a choice of do I feed myself or do I keep warm?

However, are you one of those people who, when you receive it, thinks it's nice to get something back from the government, but you are well able to pay your fuel bills without it? Although the government has taken steps to cap fuel prices, this winter's bills will still be significantly higher than last year. Would you be interested in donating some or all of it to Citizens Advice South Warwickshire, who can use it to help people who cannot afford their bills?

As CASW Chief Executive, Julie Robinson, writes:

Financial problems already experienced by so many Warwickshire residents are now being compounded by the worst cost-of-living crisis in four decades.

As a result, more people will flock to local Citizens Advice services in increasingly desperate circumstances. Difficulties with benefits, housing and debt are now also set against a backdrop of daily essentials becoming increasingly unaffordable.

With no financial cushion to soften the blow, debts are likely to accrue.

More households will be tipped into fuel poverty, and many will be forced to make huge sacrifices in the weekly food shop. The squeeze is tight and a few nifty lifestyle changes won't make the difference needed.

To help clients through their darkest financial moments, Citizens Advice frontline staff and volunteers are having to think as broadly, thoroughly, and creatively as they can. And the service is delivered with gusto and commitment regardless of whether a client is returning or new.

Education is key; informing clients what to expect from the cost-of-living crisis, energy-saving measures, or local and national support, for example. Fuel poverty means that people are frightened to turn on their heating or to use any electricity or gas at all.

In amongst all of this, we rely on our local generous funders to support us with Hardship monies, which we can distribute to the people with whom we are working and guide them through what additional help may be available. Applications for Hardship monies are made by caseworkers, based on their assessment of the client's needs, and approved by the CEO. Our grateful thanks go out to everyone who is willing help fund our pot of Hardship monies in these very challenging times.

How to donate

If you would like to help those in fuel poverty by donating part or all of your winter fuel allowance, you can do this by sending the donation via the church. The Treasurer will then combine all the donations (together with any Gift Aid that can be claimed) into a single payment, which makes it easier for Citizens Advice's financial planning.

Payments can be made on line to the following account:

Account name: **Stratford-upon-Avon PCC**

Sort Code: **40-43-19**

Account number: **20649430**

Reference: **Fuel - <Your Name>**

Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque, payable to Stratford-upon-Avon PCC. Please leave your cheque at the Parish Office in an envelope marked 'Treasurer – Fuel Donation'.

Important Notice:

Please only make a donation if you are sure you can afford it. You MUST NOT make a donation at the expense of your own well-being.

GREEN ISSUES by Tricia Hall-Matthews



I came away from October's Eco-chat meeting - part of Stratford's Great Big Green Week - feeling encouraged, and more determined than ever to do what I can to contribute to the effort to save our planet from Climate Disaster. The theme this time was Climate Justice, and focused on the injustice by which the countries least

responsible for bringing about climate change are the ones worst affected by it. Restorative work by Christian Aid, the Fairtrade Foundation and many other charities is happening worldwide, and badly needs our support, but what is most needed is a fundamental change of heart by world leaders. This calls for political action!

Like many others, I have never considered myself to have power politically. Often in elections I have voted for a losing candidate and just thought "well, that's that!". Now, however, I'm told that, by joining my voice with others', my views can be heard and taken seriously. Our politicians really are influenced by the opinions of their constituents. When something matters so much that it deeply effects the lives of our children and grandchildren, as well as millions of poor people around the world, it is worth speaking out. A letter to our MP, Nadhim Zahawi, has been prepared, giving him support from the churches and people of Stratford to ask the government to step up actions for Climate Justice and to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. The letter reminds him of the three key issues that need addressing :- Climate Finance, Reparation for loss and damage, and Debt Cancellation.

Regardless of individual party loyalties, as Christians it behoves us to make this request to our MP. If you would like to add your name to a list supporting this letter, please contact me on:-

triciahallmatthews1@gmail.com or 07972 815843.

I can also send you a copy of the draft letter.

As well as political action, we can be - and many of us are - involved in climate action in our local communities. Kevin Bond, from Holy Trinity, has initiated an inspiring project involving Stratford schools, and there are numerous groups locally offering opportunities to be involved with others in ways that appeal to us. Our church involvement in the monthly Stratford Churches Together Eco-chat meetings is one of them. Each of us individually, in small ways, also contribute to the mitigation of the effects of Climate Change, and the weekly eco-tips in our parish bulletin remind us that "every little helps", not least because it reminds us of our own responsibility to do what we can to care for God's world.

November's Eco-Chat is on Saturday 5 November at 10.30 am at Stratford Methodist Church. It is the meeting deferred from September because of the death of Queen Elizabeth. Godfrey Armitage - Coventry Diocesan Environmental Officer - will present and lead discussion on "What does aiming for Net Zero mean for us and our churches?". With Holy Trinity's bid for an Eco-church award back on the agenda, we should benefit from attending this.



5 YEAR PLAN 2022-2027

Do pick up a leaflet in church.

Worshipping God

We are planning to:

- ◆ Set up a new informal service in the Parish Centre.
- ◆ Establish a new worshipping community in the parish.
- ◆ Improve the sound system in Holy Trinity.

Making Disciples

We are planning to:

- ◆ Set up new house groups, with lay facilitators.
- ◆ Expand our youth ministry by organizing youth events and involving the youth group in organizing the 10am Sunday service.
- ◆ Encourage our congregations to deepen their faith study by accessing the library of material available via the Diocesan Equiphub.

Outreach and Engagement

We are planning to:

- ◆ Create a volunteer programme and thereby encourage congregation members to work in the community.
- ◆ Revitalise the Holy Trinity in the Community programme for those in need.
- ◆ Establish a discussion group with lectures on topics likely to inform or stimulate the congregation and wider parish.

Welcome and Care

We are planning to:

- ◆ Expand our Welcome, Lay Chaplain and other pastoral teams and achieve 'Inclusive Church' status.
- ◆ Provide a programme of stepping-stones to help all newcomers and age-groups integrate into church life.
- ◆ Ensure a safe environment for visitors through ongoing safeguarding and first-aid training for volunteers and stewards.

Buildings and Environment

We are planning to:

- ◆ Continue our programme of maintenance and repairs including the south side clerestory windows and organ.
- ◆ Make our buildings better insulated and eco-friendly.
- ◆ Develop the use of the Parish Centre.

Financial Sustainability

We are planning to:

- ◆ Promote a volunteer culture while balancing with essential paid staff.
- ◆ Improve the visitor experience and increase income from visitors.
- ◆ Encourage all fund raising activities including regular stewardship and legacies.

Our Parish Values

Holiness Hospitality Humility

Harvest Ceilidh Saturday 8 October

Last Saturday, I arrived at the Parish Centre, alone, having booked a ticket for the harvest ceilidh. I was greeted by two lovely ladies at the door, given my name sticker and off I went inside. I found tables were set up with flowers, cups, a quiz. It looked really lovely. People came up and said hello and told me to find a seat. Everyone was so welcoming. It turns out that I knew a few people there too.

The band, The Malt Whiskers, were set up on the stage and before long were calling for people to join them on the dance floor for the first set. The caller was so encouraging that soon there were many lined up ready to give it a go. He gave clear instructions and we had a run through before the band struck up.

My first partner wasn't a young chap but my goodness, he could swing you around with ease!

First dance over, it was time for a drink but there was no sitting around as the band and caller were ready to go again! There were many dances - some easy and some needed a little more concentration but the dance floor was filled every time. Young children to older folk all joined in.

At the break, food, including any dietary requirements, was served for everyone. The aroma of jacket potatoes filled the air with many toppings to choose from. Special thanks to Marie for the amazing food. Pudding came next and once again there was a fabulous choice.

More dancing followed and everyone was having a great time. I met new people, laughed and danced until it was time to go home.

All I can say is, thank you everyone for a great night - sign me up for the next one!

Lisa Campion



Photographs by Marie McDougall
and Phil Harper

Social Events Programme 2023

Sat 7th Jan
Fish & Chip Supper



Tues 21st Feb
Pancake Party



Sat May 6th
Coronation Party



Sat 10th June
Skittles and BBQ

July 16th Parish Picnic

Sat 10th Sept Treasure
 Hunt & Afternoon Tea
7/8th Oct Harvest
Celebration



Social Events Programme 2023

Since our re-launch last year as a team of ten, we have unfortunately lost three members for various reasons. To organise all the proposed events on this programme, we need additional members, with basic computer skills, who could deal with admin tasks. This would greatly help the remaining members of the team who find themselves under increasing pressure.

Please contact Chris Cottrell if you can help us to continue to serve the Church family and wider community in this way. Email: cottrellfamilysoa@hotmail.com

Contact 01789 204 273 mobile 07843755506.

Thank you

The Social Team



Joseph Haydn

Mendelssohn *Lobegesang* and Haydn's *Theresienmesse*

At their Autumn concert on 19 November 2022 Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society will perform Mendelssohn's *Lobegesang* and Haydn's *Theresienmesse*, both important works from the Choral repertoire. *Theresienmesse* is the fourth of Haydn's last six great masses, of which the *Nelson Mass* is probably the most famous. This mass, in the warmer key of B Flat Major, was dedicated to the Empress Maria Theresa of the two Sicillies,



Felix Mendelssohn

empress consort of Francis II. The second half of the concert is Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise)*, officially the last movement of his second symphony, about 50 minutes long sung in the original German and often extracted as a stand-alone work with wonderful choral writing and some amazing arias. This concert, on **Saturday 19 Nov 2022 at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, part of the Stratford Music Festival, is not to be missed.

Music Director, Oliver Neal Parker, will conduct the Choir, The Regency Sinfonia, professional soloists and Douglas Keilitz, organist at Holy Trinity.

The Choral Society was first formed in 1836 and has the accolade of being one of the two oldest choral societies in the country, now in its 187th season.

Tickets for Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's concert on 19 November 2022 £20 (adults) or £10 (students) available from <https://www.stratfordmusicfestival.com>, Choir members, www.stratfordchoral.org.uk or on the door on the night if seats available.

Further information: Carol Jackson on 01386 841440.

Beautiful tiles,
direct from Italy



M2
Tile Marketing

M2 Tiles Ltd
Unit 26 Waterloo Park
Waterloo Road Ind Est
Bidford on Avon
Warwickshire B50 4JG
Tel 01789 778700
Mob 07836 601662
m2tiles@gmail.com
malcolm@m2tiles.co.uk



Local Plumber

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN

**FULL BATHROOM DESIGN
AND INSTALLATION SERVICE**

No job too small
Reliable Friendly Service

CALL HUGH ON
Call: 07768 360 420

localplumber46@gmail.com
References Available On Request · Fully Insured

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

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

Assistant Ministers (Hon)

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

Readers

Paul Gifford
David Harrison

Staff

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

Church Wardens

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

Village Contacts

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

Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Kevin Taylor	01789 266 316
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
--	-------------------	---------------



**ALL INCLUSIVE
FEES**

- DEDICATED VIDEO TOURS
- PERSONAL 1 TO 1 SERVICE
- HONEST ADVICE
- HIGH END MARKETING
- NO SALE, NO FEE



**PERSONAL PROPERTY SALES - 102.3% OF
ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED**
LANDLORD LED LETTINGS
01789 532211
HELLO@NIKKIHOMES.CO.UK



SOUNDBITES

2 November	Solo Brass
9 November	TBC
16 November	KES Exceptional Music Students
23 November	RBC Saxophone Quartet
30 November	Fosseway Café Orchestra

Food available for purchase from 12.30pm

Music starts at 1.00pm

E-mail from Paul and Tina Berry - from Norfolk

Dear Revd Taylor and team, We're just back from a couple of days stop-over at Stratford to attend a performance of Richard III, and as we travelled across from Norfolk on Thursday news of concern for the Queen's health at Balmoral began to be reported. Yesterday (Friday) we were drawn from the town along the river from Bancroft gardens by the sound of beautiful peals of muffled bells coming from the parish church. On the gate was the Rev Taylor's perfectly written tribute to a dear, departed and massively loved and respected Queen. Your words were well chosen, Sir, and the message brought us comfort and solace. We re-read them as we left. (I think we may have passed each other: a tall clergyman heading towards the gate who smiled in welcome.) We sat for a long time along the avenue leading to the entrance listening to the bells, thinking, reflecting. We live close to Sandringham and the connections with the Royal Family are especially close and strong hereabouts. If we could not be at home at such a time, then Holy Trinity church, where rests one who has chronicled well this country's kings, queens and history, was surely the next best place to be. My wife was welcomed inside to sign the book of condolence and has spoken fondly of hearing and sharing in the prayers quietly and unobtrusively spoken by your chaplain. I just wanted to say a sincere and warm thank you to all at Holy Trinity for your welcome words, prayers, the sound of your bells marking history and paying tribute and the peace of your very special space. Above all, to say how important it was, for us, that you were there as the enormity of our loss slowly dawned. Thank you to everyone. Your ministry, so suited to the occasion, helped a great deal. With kind regards, From Paul and Tina, passing through.



PS. The play yesterday evening was pretty good, nay excellent ~ and we were in a much better place, mentally and spiritually, to appreciate and enjoy it, I'm sure, thanks to our time within Holy Trinity's precincts.