

August 2020

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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# TRINITY TIMES



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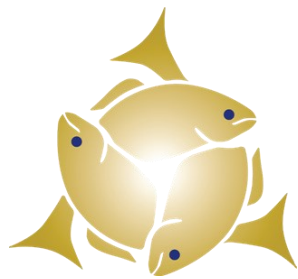


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It's wonderful to see Holy Trinity church opening up again to the public and being able to function, if only in a limited way, as the Parish Church for Stratford once more. We welcome those who wish to come to pray or just find a few moments of peace and reflection in this beautiful and holy place.

At 4pm on Sunday 19 July, Revd Steve Jarvis welcomed thirty-one people to the first service, with a congregation present, to be held in Holy Trinity church in over four months.

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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 **September 2020** edition

**The copy date is 14 August**

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

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- Back in church!

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis  
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer  
Associate Priest



Phil Harper  
Children & Families Minister

## Church Online or Online Church?

For us, as for most parishes, the immediate response to lockdown back in March was to try, as much as



we could, to carry on doing a church service as we had done them before, but in front of a camera so it could be live streamed, rather than with a live congregation. In other words we transferred our services to be “church online”. That kept us going for a while, but over the weeks we’ve reflected on our experience of this, asked for feedback using a questionnaire, and looked for inspiration from elsewhere to help us make the most of these extraordinary circumstances. What is becoming clear from this and from other research, is that in order for worship to be engaging and inspiring for people online, we need not just to transfer to online, but also to translate our approach to worship, to become “online church”. That

doesn’t mean losing the heart of what our worship is about - an offering to God of our thanks and praise and an encounter with Jesus through word and sacrament (albeit received spiritually at present). But just as a good translation holds the same content of meaning in a different language, so our services which go out via the internet may look and sound a bit different but will maintain the essence of what our worship is about.

Thank you to those of you who took part in our recent survey which has given us valuable feedback on your experience of church during lockdown. The responses to the questions on worship indicated some important aspects, including:

- a hunger for creative and engaging worship
- preaching which connects with people’s lives
- involving a range of people (not just clergy)
- avoid a feeling that we’re just going through the motions.
- a desire to see range of styles again, (especially TrinityCentre@10 informal worship)

We have responded to this by offering some variation in the style of the service which is broadcast at 10am. We know this may not suit everyone every week, and before Coronavirus we got around this by offering different styles of worship at the same time (e.g. in the church building at Holy Trinity and in the Parish Centre). However, at present we are being careful to use our limited resources wisely and to focus on producing the best we can for 10am, as well as making sure the 4pm Holy Communion service in Holy Trinity is a safe and positive experience for those attending.

“Online church” is of course not just about worship - we have adapted to new ways of connecting online through email pew sheets and Zoom Coffee, for example. Enquiries for funerals, weddings and christenings are now made online so that they can be responded to when there isn’t anyone in the office.

In the coming months we will need to consider how to respond to the undoubtedly increasing social needs in our parish as the devastating effect of the virus on our tourist industry starts to bite in Stratford. This is the essential work of the church which, as the body of Christ, needs to be embodied in serving the needs of others. This means our common life will probably have much more of a sense of a “mixed ecology” as we try to make the most of being online and also seek to grow the work of the physical presence of Jesus in this parish.



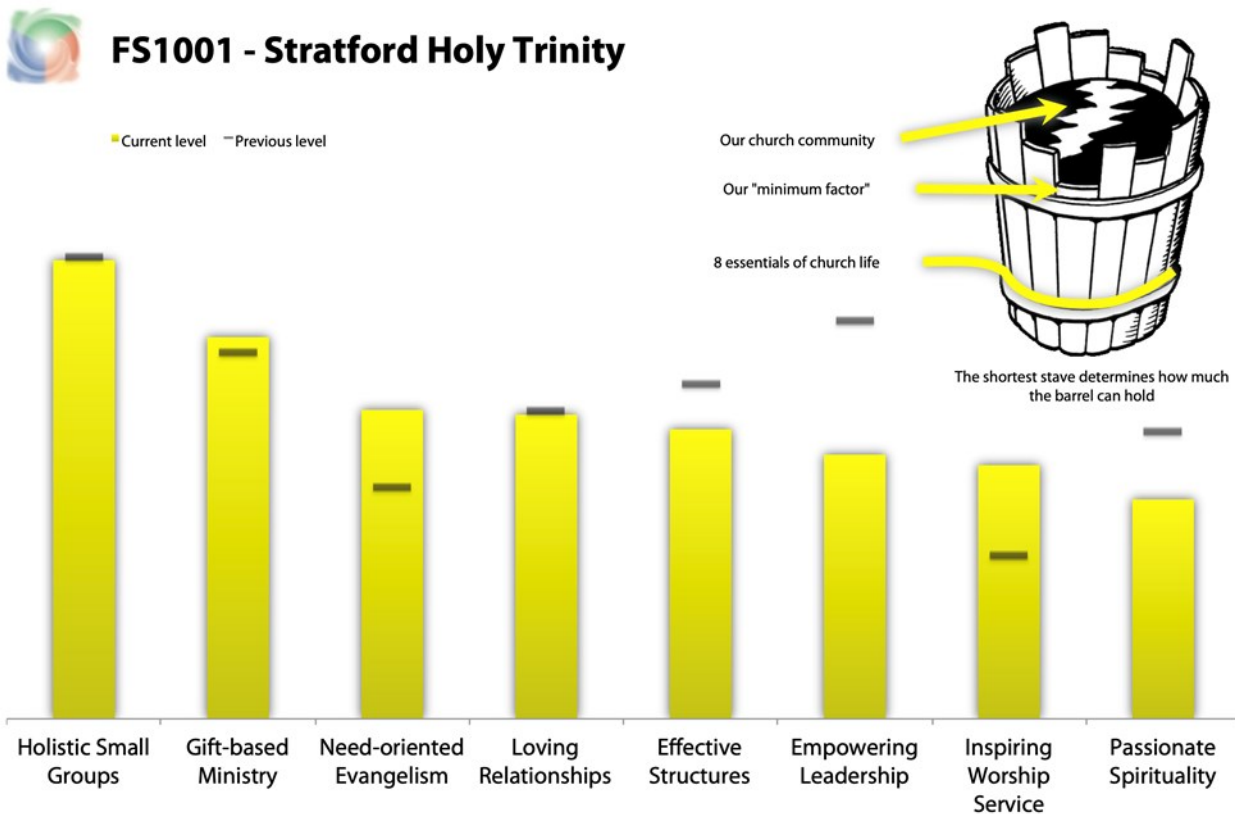
*Patrick*

# Eight Essential Qualities Survey Results for Holy Trinity

On 7 July the PCC received (via Zoom!) a presentation from Tim Mitchell (Coventry Diocese Healthy Churches Development Mentor) on the results of our latest "Eight Essential Qualities" survey. The previous survey took place in 2017 and so the most interesting thing is to compare the results to see how our life as a church has changed and developed over the past three years.

The results can be seen in the bar chart below. Each bar represents our relative health in each of the eight areas that are considered to be necessary for any church to be healthy and grow. The grey line is the score from 2017, so we can see which areas are stronger, which are weaker and which have stayed the same.

In 2017 our two weakest scores were *Inspiring Worship* and *Need-orientated Evangelism*. We responded to this by forming a Worship Review Group which considered ways of strengthening the nurture of faith through worship. One outcome of this group was the development of the "TrinityCentre@10" service each week in the Parish Centre. "Reaching Out" became a major focus of our Five Year Plan and our outreach work at the Ken Kennett centre came out of this. As a result you can see both of these scores have improved.



Two areas that have dropped are *Effective Structures* and *Empowering Leadership*. The PCC have commissioned a Leadership and Governance Review to help us look at the ways in which our structures need to develop, as other areas of church life grow.

The diagram below represents the results in a way that shows the areas that come more naturally to us (where the line is closer to the black ring) and which we struggle with more (closer to the centre). As in 2017, as a church our bias is towards fellowship and service, and we struggle more with faith and spirituality.

cont.....



Our current culture and values ———●———  
 Our previous culture and values - - - - -  
 Our current average . . . . .

As we consider what it means to be a growing church in what are now very different circumstances, these results are a very helpful analysis of where our strengths and areas of bias are as a church community at Holy Trinity. They give us an indication of which areas we should focus our attention on in order to thrive in the future. As the hymn reminds us, “The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord” and so the beginning and end of all we do must always be Jesus. However, these survey results hold a mirror up to who we are and give us helpful insights into the work of the Holy Spirit in the past and what the Spirit may be leading us to in the future.

*Patrick*

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From the visitors' book at Holy Trinity Church 2019

Nous reviendrons - Julien, Paris

Glory be to God - Susan, North Carolina

It was quiet enough to pray - Vanessa, Gosport

A serene place to remember those we have loved  
Gary and Wendy, Chinnor

## Worship notes August 2020

This month we shall be continuing the pattern of offering two services for the parish each Sunday:

-a 10am service which is streamed on the internet (either as a live feed or recorded)

-a 4pm short service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity church

Attendance at the 4pm service is limited and must be booked in advance. **If you have not been sent an invitation to register to attend and would like to go, please do ring 01789 632 812.**



All the change and uncertainty of lockdown means many of us are looking forward to some rest in this holiday month and so we shall be taking up an offer from Coventry Diocese who are providing services, which have been recorded, for parishes to use so that local clergy and those involved in producing worship can take a break. We shall be making use of these services on two Sundays in August, so our schedule will look like this:

### 10am Services in August

**2 August** Parish Eucharist. Preacher: The Revd Patrick Taylor

**9 August** Diocesan Service "Embracing Change" (non-eucharistic) - 10.30am

**16 August** TrinityCentre@10 style with Holy Communion. Talk given by Phil Harper

**23 August** Diocesan Service "Maintaining Spiritual Fervour" (non-eucharistic) - 10.30am

**30 August** Celtic Eucharist with music from Iona. Preacher: The Revd Steve Jarvis

Those who wish to participate in an online eucharist on the two Sundays when the 10am broadcast is non-eucharistic (9 August and 23 August) may like to tune into the service from Coventry Cathedral at 10am.

We continue with our mid-week service of Holy Communion at **10am every Wednesday.**

Don't forget that Morning and Evening prayer, led by members of our clergy team, are available each weekday on our YouTube channel. Why not use these to help give your prayer and bible reading some structure each day?



## PCC report: Tuesday 14 July 2020



Results of a survey designed to measure the health of our church life at Holy Trinity were shared and discussed in July's PCC meeting.

The overall picture shows a strong bias towards fellowship, a dis-inclination towards faith, with 'passionate spirituality' registering as the lowest of the eight essential qualities.

Tim Mitchell, Healthy Churches Development Mentor from Coventry Diocese, presented the findings from the questionnaire completed by thirty members of the congregation, representing all ages and services.

"There's a more balanced approach to growth at Holy Trinity than the last time you took the survey in 2017. Previous indications showed a strong preference for fellowship but we can see that things like inspiring worship has increased significantly. You are also strong in holistic small groups and therefore engendering a sense of belonging. This is usually very hard to achieve in a large Church."

Reverend Patrick Taylor said, "This survey is such an important aspect of our work as it enables us to understand where we need to focus our efforts in order for us to grow. Our next steps will be to think, pray and plan to respond to some of the key points."

A newly formed Parish Strategy Group, following a Governance review, would follow up the survey results.

### Covid-19

Public services such as weddings and funerals are now allowed to take place with up to thirty people. PCC approved a recommendation to charge the full fee for any wedding that takes place this year, with the option of a blessing in a year's time at no extra fee.

Holy Trinity's approach to worship will be reviewed on a weekly basis, with any long-term decisions to be made by the PCC.

### Finance

Treasurer Mike Warrillow told PCC that Holy Trinity's current position showed a £68K deficit and that visitor income was down £106K.

The village churches, St Helen's Clifford Chambers and All Saints' Luddington, are also both in a deficit position.

### News in brief

PCC approved a suggestion to "twin" the eight toilets in the main church building and the Parish Centre. The Toilet Twinning charity facilitates the provision of clean water supplies and basic sanitation to poor communities in forty-five countries. The PCC was not asked for funding, but to support the launch of fund-raising to enable this to happen.

Building work on the access to the Parish Centre kitchen to create a viable proposition for community use has been approved. The alterations are necessary on health and safety grounds.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 September 2020.

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*Great is the Lord, and marvellous worthy to be praised:*

*there is no end to his greatness.*

*Psalms 145: 1-3.*



## FROM THE REGISTERS June/July

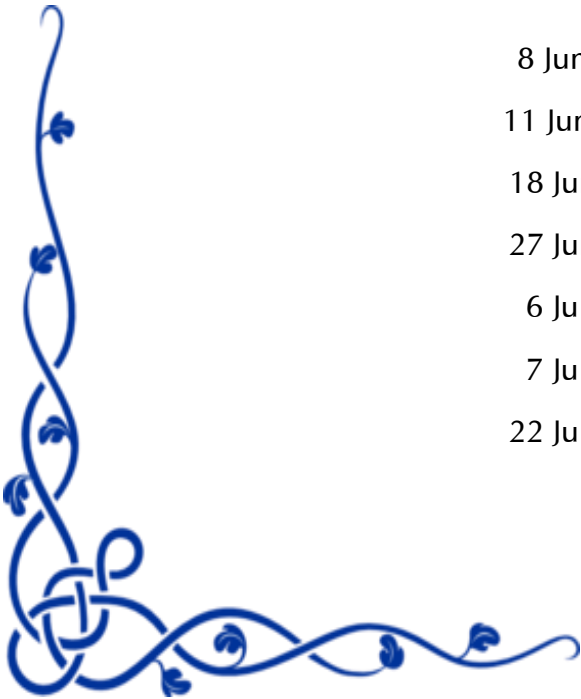
### Christenings

### Weddings

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 4 July  | John and Diana Haines - Ruby Wedding anniversary blessing |
| 7 July  | Christopher Martin and Mercedes Willson                   |
| 11 July | Edward Inns and Katherine Keogan                          |

### Funerals

- |         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 8 June  | Helen English         |
| 11 June | Steven Martin Shuttle |
| 18 June | Ann Thelma Williamson |
| 27 June | Brian Miller          |
| 6 July  | Joan Coombes          |
| 7 July  | Barbara Joyce Hemming |
| 22 July | Rosemary Fraser       |



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## WE'RE BACK

At 4pm on Sunday 19 July, Revd Steve Jarvis welcomed thirty-one people to the first service, with a congregation present, to be held in Holy Trinity church in over four months.

There was a slightly surreal feel to the event, with everyone social distancing and most wearing masks. However, there was also a wonderful feeling of the joy at being back in church and sharing in the Eucharist, even if it was only the bread at this stage (the common cup is not being shared at present due to the risk of passing on the Covid virus). There was a palpable sense of the Holy Spirit moving amongst us.

If you would like to join one of these 4pm services, you may apply for a place via the link sent out in Andy Winter's email each Monday morning. Booking is essential due to the relatively small number of people we are able to accommodate at present. If you do not have online access or receive Andy's emails, you can book via our dedicated phone number **01789 632812**.

Bookings close at 5pm on a Wednesday and applicants will be advised by lunchtime Saturday, at the latest, whether or not their application has been successful.



The Revd Steve Jarvis celebrating communion in Holy Trinity church. This was the first time that a congregation had gathered in four months.

If you have an email address, but don't currently receive Andy Winter's twice weekly updates, and you would like to receive the updates then please email Andy at:

[andy@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:andy@stratford-upon-avon.org)

### Government advice on who should attend.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend. Individuals who are self-isolating due to a possible/confirmed case of COVID-19 in their household or because they have been requested to do so by NHS Test & Trace should not attend.

Those who are shielding are advised not to attend.

Those aged seventy or over, regardless of medical condition, are at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 and are currently advised to take particular care to minimize contact with others outside of their household. They should consider carefully whether they should attend. However, it is up to the individual to make their own decision, at their own risk.

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*God is our refuge and  
strength,  
an ever present help in  
trouble.  
Therefore we will not  
fear.*

*Psalm 46:1-2*

### LOCKDOWN LIMERICKS

#### IMPROVISED TRIM

My wife did my haircut at home,  
but had neither scissors nor comb.  
She used the hedge trimmer  
to give me a skimmer  
and shape an Elastoplast dome.



*by David Ellis*

## IN THE CARIBBEAN - 4



Our little schooner, the *Amazing Grace*, headed north now towards the Dominican Republic. Among several small islands en route we visited Virgin Gorda, one of the British



Mr Speedy's  
Charabanc

Virgin Islands beloved of Richard Branson where we were taken for a tour in Mr Speedy's open charabanc. Throughout the bumpy ride Mr Speedy kept up a continuous commentary punctuated by his repeated, 'Everybody happy, Okay?' To this we all chorused, 'Okay, man, Okay!' The intention of such tours was to show the most attractive aspects of island life but, as we travelled along, the dire poverty of the islanders whose shacks cover the hillsides was very apparent. At the far end of a beach on Great Inagua we found some evidence of a former village where a ruined little church remained, the only worshipper being a besom brush

standing in a corner. Seeking faith, we were not finding much evidence now until we came to Hispaniola.

Hispaniola is the most populous island in the Caribbean, divided between Haiti at the western end and the Dominican Republic at the other. Haiti is known for its devastating earthquakes and the abject quality of human life. We docked at the thriving port of Puerto Plata on the northern edge of the Dominican Republic where the RC Cathedral dominates the city square and not far outside the city, where poverty once reigned, a remarkable faith venture has taken place.

In 1985 Elio Madonio, a prosperous Canadian businessman, was on holiday with his wife in Puerto Plata. 'One day,' he writes, 'I took a wrong turn that turned out to be very right. I was strolling along the streets of Sosua near Puerto Plata when I was struck by the extreme poverty - no running water, no electricity, and barely a roof over their heads. It was squalid. I felt the Lord asking me what I would do for these people. It was a lightning bolt! I answered that I would give them a house.'

Mr. Madonia visited the mayor of the town and with his help, acquired some land on which he began constructing a small villa which grew into a village providing homes for twenty-five families. It was the beginning of 'The Samaritan Foundation' which soon gained the enthusiastic support of several churches in the Anglican Diocese of Niagara in Canada where the Madonias lived. Eventually that support was taken up by the Canadian government and more villages were built, all of them with a church and every support provided for education, job creation and the welfare of the people. Over the past thirty years the Foundation has built ten villages embracing 1,200 homes, 11 churches, 6 schools, 5 medical centres and several sports facilities. An act of compassion has transformed the landscape and deeply impacted the lives of many individuals.



Samaritan Foundation  
Village.

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cont.....

*Finding Faith in the Caribbean cont.....*

Our visit to the Caribbean aboard the *Amazing Grace* ended in Freeport, Grand Bahama, before a short flight to Miami and then back home.

In the grand bazaar we heard someone singing the Christian chorus, 'Trust and obey'. The sound came from a Roman Catholic stall-holder and nearby another stall-holder was also singing hymns. She was a Pentecostal Minister who was wearing a T-shirt bearing the words, 'The Fruit of the Spirit in Demonstration Galatians 5.22', about which she preached us an impromptu sermon! We chatted happily with both and then came across a van emblazoned with the words, 'Jesus Christ is Coming Soon'. Everywhere we found West Indian Christians of all shades, who were not shy to share their faith.

Next month a new series: Beyond the River Jordan.



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## Valued Volunteers

### Helen Warrillow

#### About Your Volunteering

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

I see my main role as the leader of the Welcome Team at Holy Trinity Church – but, when I stop and think about it, I suppose my volunteer work extends to many other areas of the church. I am a Communion Assistant, a lesson reader and an occasional Server; I help out with the Coffee Rota, Coffee Stop - both at the Parish Centre and the Ken Kennett Centre - and the events organised by the Social Team, whether making a dessert or simply washing up; I have recently been helping to open the church for visitors following lockdown and I am a reserve Sidesperson.



#### **How long have you been a volunteer?**

At Holy Trinity? - since about one year after joining the Church. Mike, my husband, and I were asked to be Sidespeople, and it started from there. But, in general, I have found myself volunteering for things throughout my life.

#### **What originally motivated you to become a volunteer?**

Probably one of the first specific roles for which I volunteered was being a Sunday School teacher in my mid-teens at my then family church. I suppose the motivation came from someone having faith in me to do the job. It gives you confidence to be asked to take on a role – we are all so bad at believing we can do things. Nowadays, I am mostly motivated either by seeing a need or simply having the opportunity to work with people.

*cont.....*

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

Volunteering is essential if we, as a congregation, hope to fulfil our parish mission. It cannot just be left to the clergy and staff to demonstrate God's love to people. It has to be part of our Church DNA. By volunteering, in whatever capacity, we are able to share the load of keeping the Church active both with the practical day-to-day housekeeping activities and also providing the social bonds of community. The many events we hold to try and bring our different parish congregations together need volunteers to organise them. There is often a significant time commitment, but I believe that those who attend usually go home feeling better for the experience – be it a Welcome Lunch, Coffee Stop or a Barn Dance. That is why we do it – and, of course, the more we do, the more our clergy are able to dedicate their time to supporting the pastoral needs of the parish.

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

For me, my voluntary work is most satisfying when I see people feeling at home in the church – everybody with someone to talk to, everyone feeling they have a sense of belonging. Through volunteering it is much easier to get to know people and feel part of the Church family. This was brought home to me a few years ago in a very personal way when I suddenly discovered I had breast cancer. Thankfully, this episode has passed, but the love, prayers and huge support I received from my Holy Trinity family sustained me through a very difficult time. My joy would be for everyone to feel they have that same support when they need it.

**How long have you been a member of the congregation at Holy Trinity? What attracts you to our church?**

I started coming to Holy Trinity, with my family, when we moved to Stratford nearly twenty years ago. At that time our children were still teenagers. We arrived just a few weeks before Revd Martin Gorick's inauguration, so we have seen many clergy members come and go. We were excited to find that our parish church was the burial place of Shakespeare, but this soon became less relevant. Most important was the warm welcome we received, which I remember to this day, and is probably why I am so keen to keep that legacy going for future newcomers.

**Do you have a favourite hymn?**

My favourite well-known hymn is, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' – not only do I love the music but the words are so meaningful. However, I also like the joyful simplicity of, 'Glad that I live am I', although sung less often. Another favourite hymn from long ago I loved in junior school was, 'Courage brother, do not stumble'. For some unknown reason it has disappeared from hymnbooks, although I found it a while back on the internet, just to confirm I hadn't imagined it. Again, the words are simple but uplifting.

**Is there a particular bible passage that uplifts you spiritually?**

I have a favourite verse – Matthew 6 v 34 – "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Sometimes I have to say this very sternly to myself!

**About You**

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

I was born in Plymouth, Devon, where I lived to the age of nine. My family then moved to Portsmouth, Hampshire for five years after which we returned to Plymouth where I finished my schooling. I had always attended Sunday School wherever we lived, but it was returning to my church in Plymouth as a teenager that my Christian faith was really nurtured. Everything I did, socially and spiritually, was centred on Emmanuel Church and it gave me a strong foundation – which although frequently challenged is still, fortunately, well anchored. Located in the West Country, Plymouth has the advantage of being both adjacent to the beautiful countryside of Dartmoor as well as bordering the stunning coastline of Cornwall. We were spoilt when I was growing up having so many places to visit, walk, swim and, of course, find cream teas.

### **Can you tell us about your working life?**

After leaving University with a degree in Maths, I went to work at Ford Motor Company in Essex. This was an exciting life for a hayseed from Plymouth and I loved the buzz of corporate industry. I moved between several departments, Truck and Car, culminating in the Car Product Planning Department, where I worked on what was to be the next generation Ford Escort. I left to start a family and was unable to return due to the many moves with Mike's work, which included spells living in Germany and the USA. During this time most of my work was now voluntary (you see, I'm well-conditioned) and I undertook roles at the childrens' various schools from being a lunchtime recorder teacher in Germany (well – I owned a recorder) to organising a Naturalisation Ceremony for new American citizens from around Detroit (Oh! – the irony). However, I also had a short time employed teaching Maths at the British High School, Bonn, which re-kindled my love of the subject. Consequently, when we returned to Britain and settled in Stratford, I trained as a lecturer at Stratford College where I became Head of Maths for a few years before leaving in 2011.

### **Tell us a little about your family?**

Mike and I both come from Plymouth and were married, following University, at Emmanuel Church in 1977. Mike had also started work at Ford in Essex but, after several years, just at the time our firstborn arrived, was transferred to Daventry, so we moved to Warwick. Then came the twelve-year period when his career involved those many moves of house and country, returning to the UK in 2000. Although it was challenging, as a family we count ourselves lucky to have had such opportunities due to these moves - from watching the barges on the Rhine to ice-skating on the frozen lakes in Michigan. Our two children, Stephanie and Edward, are now fully grown pursuing careers of their own. Stephanie, having shown limited skill at caring for hamsters and fire-lizards in her youth, decided to become a Vet. She works at a Veterinary Practice in Bicester where she has been based since graduating. Edward was clearly affected by his nomadic upbringing and, after flirting with thoughts of China, moved to the Netherlands to work for Shell, having graduated in Economics. We are very proud of them both. I have a sister who lives with her family in Saõ Paulo, Brazil and my mother, after leaving Plymouth and moving to Warwick, now also lives in Stratford and is a member of Holy Trinity Church.

### **Do you have any hobbies or pets?**

I have tried most of the traditional hobbies in my time, but none of them have stuck to the exclusion of others. I love singing and belong to a choir – but age is taking its toll there - and I really enjoy getting involved in Trinity Players productions. Probably my favourite past-time, however, is meeting friends over coffee and having a good chat! As for pets, I don't have any unless tropical fish count - but I do have a 'grand-dog' (who is faring much better than the fire-lizard!)

### **What are your cultural tastes - in music, theatre and so on?**

It's probably easier to say what I don't like. Music has to be inspirational but can be anything from Rachmaninov to the Eurythmics; I don't read many novels but, when I do, I love books that make me laugh (such as the Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion) – though they are hard to find. Musicals are usually a safe choice in both films and theatre - I've recently seen two fabulous productions of West Side Story and Phantom of the Opera – and, like books, I enjoy plays that make me think and, especially, laugh.



## CHOUGH-ED TO BITS (SORRY!)

One unexpected spin-off from the quietness of our surroundings in the last few months has been the way the wildlife has become bolder and more visible. Here in Clifford our wildlife group send reports on sightings of butterflies and moths, birds and insects and we can borrow a video camera to monitor the hedgehogs in our gardens. Blackbirds have taken over my garden, even out-pacing those grey squirrels and singing their hearts out very early in the morning. However, that close relative of the blackbird, the chough, still



has only one representative in Clifford and that's in St Helen's church. You may have seen it on the magnificent Rainsford monument, standing proudly above the effigies of Sir Henry and Lady Anne Rainsford, where it features in the family's coat-of-arms and where it's been since the seventeenth century. The monument used to be in pale stone, having presumably been cleaned of its glowing colours during the Reformation, but in the 1970s the Bramwell family had its colours beautifully restored and the chough's striking red beak and legs are there for all to see.



The Rainsford family acquired Clifford Manor after the priory which had been established there for some three hundred years, was driven out by order of Henry VIII. Earlier family members are commemorated by brasses, now on the walls, which repay closer inspection, although it's the Tudor Gothic monument, where the figures of Sir Henry and his wife and their various children are accompanied by the chough and a pigeon, that draws the eye. I'd always wondered why the Rainsford family had chosen the chough. The Lucy family at Charlecote Park have a fish, the pike, in their coat-of-arms and the French for pike is "luce". But the chough for the Rainsfords; were they ever nesting on Martin's Hill? I'd always been told the chough existed only in Cornwall and for a while even its presence there was in doubt. However a TV programme I saw a few months ago showed a nesting pair of choughs on South Devon cliffs being closely guarded by a National Trust volunteer. Anyone who's been watching Springwatch this time will have heard that the chough is also alive and well and rearing chicks in mid-Wales. My "Natural History of Europe" absolutely echoes this and says: "found along the west coast of Great Britain and inland in Wales, where the spectacular mating display flights may sometimes be seen in spring". That I would like to see. In the meantime you can go and have a look at Clifford's chough as soon as St Helen's is open again.

Angela Wylam.

Photographs by Lucy Abell.



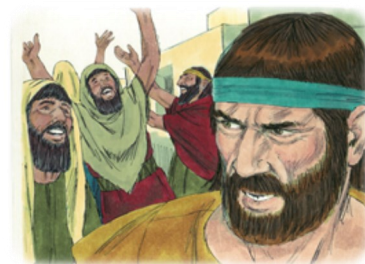
Last month, I discussed some of the scars which the pandemic may have brought to the surface in each of us – and perhaps especially our young people. Whatever the state of play by the time you read this, there will still be plenty of scars around. So I want to ask a wider question - whether these past few months have made us more angry, as a general attitude to life, and how we can control and channel that anger so that it does not blight all our futures.

I know I found myself getting angry more often than before. At the virus itself; at the confused response to it by those in authority; at people who act irresponsibly and increase the risk of infection; and at all the little niggles which living in an unfamiliar way (and getting older) brings. We have much to be thankful for, of course, whether it is the heroism of health and care workers and others, or increases in neighbourliness. But I must admit that anger has all too often been my dominant response to the situation, and I suspect I am not alone.

Anger is said to be one of the seven deadly sins. Certainly there is such a thing as righteous anger, which can sometimes change things in a good way. In the light of the recent controversy over racism, we should perhaps do more to honour those Christians who two-hundred years ago were angry enough about British involvement in the slave trade to get it abolished. But can anger ever be **purely** righteous? As a previous Vicar reminded us in a memorable sermon in Holy Trinity, none of us is “wholly innocent” - ever.

But anger happens, and it is often, at least, understandable. One of my favourite stories in the Old Testament (which contains many examples of honest anger) is the book of Jonah. Never mind the “big fish” which was probably not a whale. The heart of the story is God’s sending of Jonah to preach to a foreign city so that its inhabitants might repent of their sins. Jonah believed that his mission was doomed to fail.

After a while, this became a source of delight: God would punish them and Jonah would be vindicated! Unfortunately, they did repent, and God did forgive them. And then the tree, under which Jonah was sheltering from the heat, withered. And we are told that he was “angry enough to die”, until God reminded him that even these ignorant foreigners (and their animals) were proper objects of God’s mercy.



Part of me sympathises with Jonah – and with the many others who in Scripture and subsequently have wrestled honestly with God in anger and resentment. I love the story of Teresa of Avila, whose mystical approach to faith was bitterly opposed by the Spanish church leaders of her time and who found everything stacked against her calling. The last straw was her involvement in a road accident, at which she cried out “God, if this is how you treat your friends, it’s not surprising you have so few of them!” And she is a Saint of the Church.

We will all have stories in our own lives of that kind of anger. It may need to be controlled in public, but it should not be suppressed, or it could leave scar tissue. If we can’t be honest with ourselves and God, who can we be honest with? And when we are honest, we may find, as Jonah found, that something healing can happen.





## Taps and Toilets!

One of the earliest and longest lasting instructions we have all had during the Covid-19 pandemic is “WASH YOUR HANDS” - for the length of two “Happy Birthdays or one Lord’s Prayer”! We know now that this can be a life-saving precaution. We take for granted that we have many taps in our homes where we can do this with warm water.

There can’t be many of us reading Trinity Times now who have personal experience of living in a home without an indoor lavatory, either (though I do have some rather horrific memories of otherwise idyllic Girl Guide camps in the 1950s with disgustingly insanitary, stinky, fly-ridden latrine pits, situated as far from the tents as possible! I think I didn’t “go” for a week!).

However there are two billion people in the world who do not have access to clean water or somewhere private and safe to go to the toilet. Almost nine hundred children around the world die every day from diseases linked to dirty water and lack of toilet facilities. Adults, too, without proper toilets and clean water, often become sick, affecting their ability to work or farm their land and reducing their ability to feed their families. Children often miss school through illness, or because they have to fetch water. Many girls drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to attack - or snake bites - especially at night, if squatting in bushes.



Uganda

Toilet Twinning is a charitable organisation that exists to address this situation. With the money that people donate by twinning their private or public loos, and now also their taps, they run programmes of “**community-led total sanitation**” in some of the world’s poorest places in forty-five countries. Starting by gaining the trust of villagers, the organisation’s partners run **workshops and action groups** focusing on issues that concern the community. Usually this starts with men, but gradually women may be allowed to join in discussions around domestic matters. Gradually they are encouraged to look at the link between toilet practice and ill health. Often it is a revelation to discover why their children fall ill with diarrhoea and sickness in the rainy season. Then they become keen to have a latrine. This leads to a programme of **hygiene education**, such as the need for hand washing, in order to establish long-term behaviour change. Then the **building of their own latrine** can start, to their own design and choice of materials. Building it themselves means that they can be proud of what they are doing and are much more likely both to use and to maintain the toilet, making it a **sustainable project**. Working in this way offers the local people **dignity and respect**, and **involves the whole community**.



Zambia

When a toilet in this country is twinned, there is a choice given as to where (which country) the twinned toilet is, and the donor is sent a certificate with a photo of a toilet that has been built through the scheme. They are invited to display the certificate in the home toilet cubicle, especially if it is in a public place, to raise awareness of the issue and the toilet twinning organisation.

At Holy Trinity we are very fortunate to have the use of ten loos, each with access to a handbasin, in the Church and Parish Centre. We have a certificate to show that one of these has already been twinned at some time in the past. I would like to propose that we twin all the rest, and the PCC have agreed this. John and I are starting a fund for this purpose, opening it with our returned deposit from the cancelled Parish Away Weekend. Each toilet costs £60 to twin (twinning taps cost the same), so we need just under £600 to twin the loos, which includes the cost of framing and hanging the certificates. If we get more than that we can twin taps too! £60 is the average cost per household for a water and sanitation programme.



Afghanistan

*cont.....*

*Taps and Toilets cont.....*

If you would like to contribute to this cause, please send your contribution either –

- 1) by bank transfer to Stratford upon Avon PCC, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00015844. Reference - WC - and your name or
- 2) a cheque made out to Stratford upon Avon PCC delivered to the Parish Centre for the treasurer, with a note to say it's for toilet twinning. This is an opportunity to express our faith in a way that really helps the very poor.

For more information visit [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

Thank you.

Tricia Hall-Matthews



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Go to - <https://vimeo.com/376910838> to see a lovely little video on the yarnbombed trees at Holy Trinity Church.



Dear Reverend Taylor,

Thank you for the support you provided to GAGA UK in 2019/2020 through the Remembering Tree Project. 2020 has been more than challenging and we hope that you and your loved ones are well and that you are beginning to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

A large proportion of our funding was directed to beneficiary projects in Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa, with £36k supporting health and welfare projects and £37k supporting educational projects. In addition we supported an educational project in Tanzania with £3k and a maternity unit in Sierra Leone with £2k. As you can see we remain broadly equal across our two main causes and, as the funding is distributed in areas disproportionately impacted by poverty and inequality, we remain committed to our vision.

Towards the end of the last financial year, many of our projects had to change their working practices and approach to comply with lockdown rules and to address an immediate food crisis. The healthcare projects 1000 HCH & Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust responded quickly supporting the communities in the Valley of 1000 Hills by carrying out Covid-19 screening and distributing food parcels in the rural communities. The work there never stops. This whole community faced severe food shortages as lockdown meant many were not allowed to travel to their jobs or lost their jobs because of concerns over transmission of the virus. Many of these families were living hand to mouth in good times and therefore really suffer in bad times.



Russell at the Gogo Lunch club has continued to support the elderly and vulnerable in his community as much as possible across this time, switching from weekly lunches (due to restrictions on gatherings) to providing food parcels in a safe, socially distanced way. We've kept in touch with the healthcare projects

your donations support throughout the lockdown and as I write there is a shipment on route to Inchange containing children's cardigans, sweaters, hats, scarves and gloves as well as some blankets and quilts to help to keep the vulnerable children warm as winter sets in. All of these items have been lovingly crafted and donated by GAGA supporters and as I am not travelling to South Africa for our regular monitoring and evaluation trip this summer, we used the budget to send the relief shipment – it worked out at less than 50p per item, so we feel we got good value for money and the lovely knitted clothes are on their way to the people they were made for!

Unfortunately, Tanzania was hit by torrential rain in April and the area around KYGN suffered severe flooding and damage to infrastructure like roads and bridges as well as the school buildings. The Rotary Club of Stratford upon Avon generously supported KYGN with some emergency funding to help to

*cont.....*



restore the classrooms damaged by flood water and we were delighted to receive photographs of the first day back at school for these pupils. School life will look very different for a number of months but it is encouraging to see the children in their masks and the sanitisation stations placed at the entrance to each of the classrooms.

I will be launching the Remembering Tree Project in August, hoping to make it bigger and better than ever as we use it to not only Remember loved ones but also to Celebrate the amazing achievements and community spirit seen both here in the UK and in South Africa during the Coronavirus Crisis. We want to make sure that our colourful yarnbombed trees are looking splendid in time to welcome the winter staycationers to Stratford upon Avon. I know many of you have been busy with your knitting needles and crochet hooks throughout the lockdown and I will soon be inviting you to get involved with the 2020 Yarnbombing project!

### Communication

We are always keen to keep in touch with you all as much as possible, across the website and social media as well as through the quarterly newsletter on email or in the post. Please don't forget you can change your communication preferences at any time, either by emailing us on [info@gaga-uk.org](mailto:info@gaga-uk.org) or going on to the website <https://www.gaga-uk.org>. If you don't already, please follow us on one or all of your preferred social media platforms, we're on FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn!

### Fancy getting involved?

There are lots of ways you can support the work of GAGA UK. Although we are slowly returning to physical retail please don't forget that if you are still using the internet for some of your purchases you can raise extra funds for GAGA UK **AT NO COST TO YOURSELF!** Simply sign up to a charity linked online shopping portal, we are registered with Give as You Live, Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile – just search for “Goodwill and Growth for Africa” or pop onto our website <https://www.gaga-uk.org/raise-s-as-you-shop-online> where you'll find links to all of the online shopping portals. All the pennies really do add up, so please don't think your contribution would be too small to make a difference! £5 a month can provide COVID-19 safety kits for a family of four (face masks, gloves, disinfectant and hand sanitiser).

**“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito”  
Dalai Lama**

The South African and Tanzanian governments implemented lockdown swiftly and strictly but now that these restrictions are being eased, and as autumn gives way to winter in the southern hemisphere, the infection rate is increasing sharply. Much as we fear a second-wave in the UK, it seems inevitable that globally humankind will be wrangling with this virus and the social and economic impacts for a long time to come. We hope that you and your family have been, and continue to be, safe and healthy.

If you have any questions about the projects we support or anything GAGA related then please drop me an email at [info@gaga-uk.org](mailto:info@gaga-uk.org)

**Claire**

Claire Whatley, Director.

If anyone would like to knit/crochet squares for the church trees please let Felicity Howlett have them by 31 October. When the squares are taken down they are washed and made into blankets and sent to Africa. Squares (8 inches - approx. 20cm) need to be knitted/crocheted in acrylic double knitting as they need to be hard-wearing and able to be thrown into a washing machine. Alternatively knitted jumpers and hats, especially for babies, are always acceptable.

# HOWLERS

Life is a great big canvas: throw all the paint on it you can. *Danny Kaye*

## ONE LINERS

I went to Waterstones and asked the assistant for a book about turtles. She asked: "Hardback?" and I was like: "Yeah, and little heads."

When I was young my dad, me and my brother all wore one big woolly jumper. We were a close knit family  
*Tim Vine*

People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good, long look at themselves

### OUT OF THE MOUTHS,...

A small boy returned from Sunday school in tears. When questioned by his mother on the reason for his distress, he replied tearfully: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam and I want to be an engine driver."  
*Christian Crackers*

AFTER a certain gloomy Dean retired a number of years ago, he began writing for the Press. Even he had to smile when a rival newspaper declared that he was no longer a pillar of the Church of England, but now only two columns in the Evening Standard. *Parish Pump*

Sign spotted at a school in Surrey: **Staff Car Park. For the safety of children, no parking at any time.**

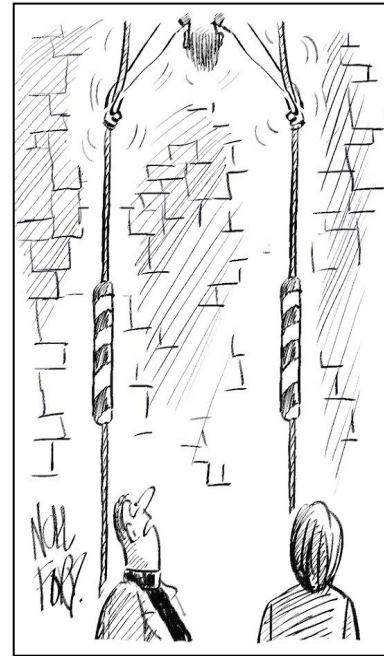
An unlikely prize in the US press: Enter the Enterprise Newspapers' I need a haircut competition, and you could win a chainsaw. *Radio 4 News Quiz*

The nature reserve sent out members of staff to guard the bird colony during the day. But when they left overnight, an intruder landed and poached all the eggs!

*USA Birdwatcher magazine*

Headline from the *Midsomer Norton Journal*: **Break in at opticians. Did you see anything?**

Sign spotted in supermarket: We realize that your mobile phone is important to you, so we will not interrupt by serving you when you are using it.



Compiled by Pat Pilton

Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously



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Flowers can be seen once again in Holy Trinity Church as this arrangement celebrated the wedding last month of Christopher Martin and Mercedes Willson.

The first wedding in church since March.



If you would like to volunteer as a flower arranger see page 22 for more information.

# PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town*

*Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG*

*Tel. 01789 266 316*

*Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org*

## Leadership 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
Children & Families Minister	Phil Harper	07791 005 696	phil@stratford-upon-avon.org

## Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548	The Revd Canon Andrew Dow	01789 417 852
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316	The Revd John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759	The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471		

## Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316	andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
Church Team Leaders:	David White, Sherron Guise and Sarah Cushing		

Parish Administrators:	Rebecca Rumsey	01789 266 316	rebecca.rumsey@stratford-upon-avon.org
	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	

Bookkeeper:	Wendy Steinheimer	01789 266 316	wendys@stratford-upon-avon.org
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Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz	douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org	
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Gift Shop:	Heather White	01789 264 598	heather.white@stratford-upon-avon.org
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## Church Wardens

Hilda Craig	01789 551 234	Paul Lageu	01789 298 302
Hilary Newman	01789 296 771	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474

## Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	01789 264 256

## Other Contacts

Head Server	Chris Cornford	01789 295 066
Bell Ringers	Charles Wilson	01789 295 467
Bereavement Support Team	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Armitage	01789 297 652
Trinity Ladies	Gina Lodge	01789 204 850
Electoral Roll Officer	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Alan Haigh	01789 290 128
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Miriam Dow	01789 417 852
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	Josephine Walker	01789 266 316
Home Communions	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 Contact Co-ordinator	Gillian Nunn	01789 415 830
Welcome Team	Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928
Sunday Coffee organisers	Tina Hillyard	01789 551 739
	Diane Edwards	01789 296 396



Do you enjoy looking at our lovely flowers in church?

Can you help us by joining our group?

We have recently lost several long-standing members of our flower-arranging group, and we would love to recruit a few more helpers. We work in small teams so the commitment is only a couple of hours a month.

No special skills are needed. Just enthusiasm and a love of flowers!

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Dear Patrick, Steve, Kay and Phil,  
Greetings from St. Margaret's Church Prestwich and St. George's Church, Simister in Bury, near Manchester. I am Revd Deborah, the incumbent at the above churches. I am currently in the shielded category during lockdown.



In a moment of madness, I decided that I would run from Land's End to John O'Groats by running around my garden. At planned points I would stop and explore the area electronically and visit a local place of worship (virtually of course) and pray for the parish and their mission and ministry. I have 'arrived' in Stratford-upon-Avon and have enjoyed visiting your church electronically. You seem to have found the balance of an historic church, welcoming thousands of visitors, and an active, thriving church of prayer and praise.

I pray that God will bless the work that you are doing and encourage you as you seek to serve Jesus in Stratford-upon-Avon.

You are in my prayers.

Every blessing, Deborah

John and Diana Haines  
Ruby Wedding anniversary blessing  
Holy Trinity Church  
Saturday 4 July 2020



The service of blessing and renewal of vows for John and Diana Haines took place on Saturday 4 July in St. Peter's chapel, where the couple were joined by a small number of family and friends to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. The vicar, Patrick, who led the service said afterwards, "it was wonderful to welcome Diana and John to what was the first proper service to have taken place in the church for over three months. So it felt like a double celebration: for their many years of married life, and for the opportunity to hold services in the church once again.

We have been welcoming visitors back to the church, as well as those coming for private prayer, so it feels like we are getting back to something that is a bit like normality again!"