

May 2021

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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TRINITY TIMES



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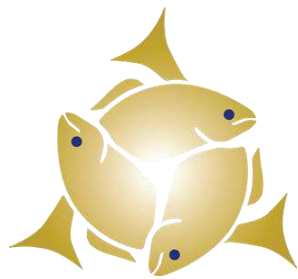


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In this magazine there are two reflections from Americans in Stratford and a look back at Lent and Easter in words and pictures.

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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 **June 2021** edition

The copy date is 14 May

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 :- Reflection of Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

Hoping for a kinder, greener future

When I was a child my mother taught me a short rhyme to remember what the weather might be like in the Spring, then I knew what to wear and whether to take an umbrella with me or not. The rhyme was “March winds and April showers, bring forth May flowers.” Back then we did have very sudden rain showers interspersed with bright sunshine and so it was good to be prepared. But now with global warming the weather seems to be all over the place.



May flowers

I seem to remember that from 23 March last year when we entered the first lockdown, we had lots of lovely bright sunny days, not really like March used to be at all. It was even warm enough to sit in the garden in a sheltered place, if you had a garden or backyard, and this might have helped us get used to being confined to our homes.

Being able to predict what is coming next in life is very helpful when you have to plan activities or holidays, but at the moment, as we are in a process of trying to come out of lockdown, we might not be able to predict what the new normal will be like. It will take patience and understanding, as we find what is safe to do and what is not. But what if you lived in a country where there was little chance of receiving the vaccine to protect you from the severe effects of Covid 19 and long Covid?

Knowing how many people in England have received at least their first dose of the Covid 19 vaccine, I was struck by the brilliant idea of giving a donation in gratitude for this, to a country that still needs to access vaccines for themselves. Several parishioners have suggested a Just Giving website to do just this, and here is one in aid of UNICEF UK. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rowanpatterson>

One of the things I have noticed over the years since my early life, which was limited to my local area, except for an annual trip to the seaside, is that thanks to global news, social media and being able to use zoom, we have become more aware of what life is like for others. We also know so much more about the effects of our actions on global warming, especially how we use our heating and what methods of transport we use.



Holiday abroad.

As we begin to get out and about more and perhaps travel further, you might like to know what your carbon footprint is for various activities. There is an excellent website that can help you with this, and which you could share with your friends to see how well you are doing in helping protect the environment.

<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

I hope that as we go forward, we will take the best of what we have learned over the last year and a bit and carry on doing all that was good, whilst not going back to anything that spoiled our life work balance or our ability to spend time care for others of our family, friends, or community.

Kay Dyer



WORSHIP NOTES

At the 10am Eucharist at Holy Trinity, we continue with our series in the Easter Season entitled "New Life". The themes are as follows:

2 May Living in Christ
9 May Living in Community
16 May Living in the Spirit

The final two Sundays in May are important dates in the calendar:

Sunday 23 May The Civic Service takes place as part of our usual 10am Parish Eucharist. We look forward to praying for God's blessing on our new Mayor, Councillor Kevin Taylor. The Council chaplain, the Rev Dr. Roy Lodge, will preach. This is an important occasion when we have the privilege of placing the Christian faith at the heart of our town and praying for our local civic leaders.

Sunday 30 May Trinity Sunday. The 10am Eucharist will be our Parish Patronal Festival. The Rev. Dr. Paul Edmondson will be preaching.

Thursday 13 May Ascension Day. There will be the traditional early morning Eucharist at Holy Trinity, this year starting at 7.30am. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we will not be able to serve breakfast afterwards.

All of the above services will be live streamed.



Anonymous

GLORY

*Oh, you gotta get a glory
In the work you do;
A Hallelujah chorus
In the heart of you.*

*Paint, or tell a story,
Sing, or shovel coal,
But you gotta get a glory,
Or the job lacks soul.*



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

Holy Trinity Church



2 May Easter 5

10am Parish Eucharist - New Life 3: Living in Christ (booking required)
5pm Holy Communion (no booking required)

9 May Easter 6

10am Parish Eucharist - New Life 4: Living in Community (booking required)
Followed by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM
5pm Choral Evensong (no booking required)

16 May Easter 7

10am Parish Eucharist New - Life 5: Living in the Spirit (booking required)
5pm Holy Communion (Traditional - no booking required)

23 May Pentecost Sunday

10am Parish Eucharist and Civic Service (booking required)
5pm Taize style service (no booking required)

30 May Trinity Sunday

10am Patronal Festival Parish Eucharist (booking required)
5pm Evensong (no booking required)

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

2 May Easter 5

9.30am Holy Communion (booking required)

16 May Easter 7

9.30am Holy Communion (booking required)



All Saints', Luddington



9 May Easter 6

9.30am Holy Communion (booking required)

23 May Pentecost Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion (booking required)

Booking for Services

All Saints'

Bookings can be made by making requests to Jane Beeley by email peterandjanebeeley@gmail.com or by phone to Teresa Kristunas on 01789 750326.

St Helen's

Angela Wylam takes the bookings for St Helen's. Her email address is awylam@btinternet.com and if needed a phone contact is 01789 268156.

Holy Trinity

Bookings can be made using the link in the weekly email newsletters, or by calling 01789 632812.



One of the eggs in the churchyard

FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST

by Phil Harper

Easter may have been different from usual this year, but it was wonderful to see so many families engaging with the **Easter Egg Trail** around the churchyard. Many of these people we wouldn't normally have had contact with and I'm sure it's something we'll repeat in the future.



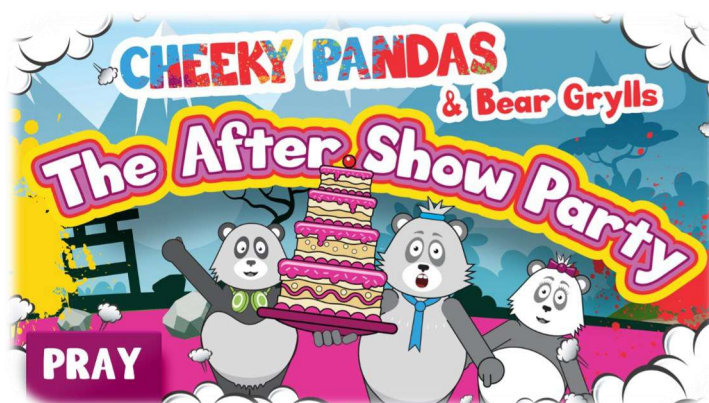
The final egg



Bible Adventure Box Service

The **Easter Bible Adventure Box Service** has proved very popular and like all the previous services is still available on the church Facebook and YouTube channel. It'll be soon joined with the May service which focuses on Pentecost, a good excuse for myself and Clare from St James' Alveston to fill up on cake as we celebrate the Church's birthday. If you know of anyone who would like a free box to use whilst watching the service, just email me at phil@stratford-upon-avon.org.

Before Pentecost, we have **Thy Kingdom Come** (13 May - 23 May 2021 between Ascension and Pentecost). This year there is a whole host of resources for children and families, in particular the Cheeky Pandas. For each of the days of **Thy Kingdom Come** there is a video with a story from the Cheeky Pandas and special guests. You can just watch the video or there are activities and other ways to engage. To discover more visit www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas or just search for "Thy Kingdom Come". You don't have to do all of them and they can be spread out beyond the time of Thy Kingdom Come.



FROM THE REGISTERS - MARCH/APRIL

Christenings

18 April Ophelia Whitfield

Weddings

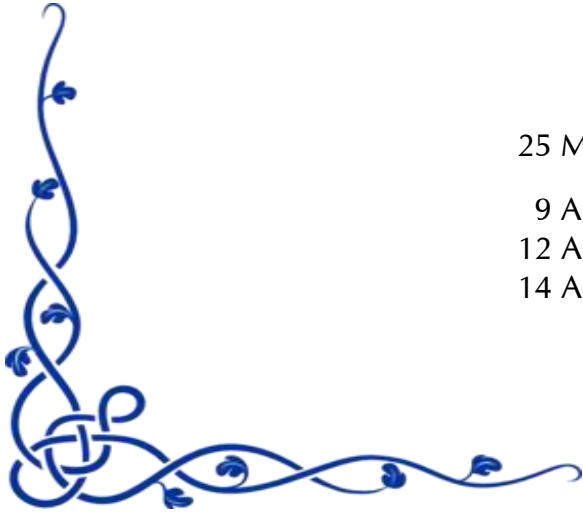
Funerals

25 March Violet Edith Clifford

9 April Gordon Frank Bromley

12 April Patricia Ann Phillips

14 April Wisdom Smith



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EASTER FLOWERS AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

Photographs by Sally Abell



Inside the church



By the church door



On a window ledge



Pink in the corner

Daffodils
on the
church
gate



With thanks
to all who
arranged
the
flowers so
beautifully.



Daffodils in the churchyard

EASTER FLOWERS AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LUDDINGTON

Photographs by Ruthie Copeman



Inside the church



Hobbs family decorating the font



Font



Three Crosses



Inside the church

With thanks to all who arranged the flowers so beautifully.



Easter Egg Hunt

The spirits of the congregation at All Saints' were lifted by the presence of several colourful flower arrangements courtesy of the 'Flower Team'. 'The Flower Team' comprises some regular members of the congregation, plus some keen flower arrangers from the village. Many thanks to those members of the Team who donated some of the flowers. They were much appreciated. Teresa Kristunas

EASTER FLOWERS AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STRATFORD-U-AVON

Photographs by Hilary Newman



Easter Garden



He is Risen



Crossing pedestal



Altar flowers



Donation pedestal

With thanks to all who arranged the flowers so beautifully and all who made donations.



Alleluia

Tricia's Lent Walk for Water

I wasn't sure what Lenten discipline to undertake this year. After a year of anxiety and deprivation due to the Coronavirus pandemic we were encouraged to remind ourselves of God's love and care for us by being gentle with ourselves in Lent. When praying for guidance I frequently find that God says "Do what is given to you to do". What was given, I wondered?

This! A post popped up on FaceBook reminding me of the plight of many in the world whose access to water is minimal and difficult, and asking me to support the provision of local, clean water by sponsored walking for forty days in Lent. This was a cause I was already keen on. We have all become aware now that regular hand-washing is a lifesaving practice and, of course, we all need water to drink: also that we are all inter-dependant and must learn to share the earth's resources, in accordance with Jesus's command to love our neighbour. The scantily dressed man in the Facebook post, struggling through heat on rough ground for hours a day to collect water in a bucket for his family is my neighbour. I could walk with him for forty days!



I love walking. Brought up in a rural area I roamed freely, often alone, as a child, sometimes with the boy Jesus as my imaginary companion. Reflecting while surrounded by nature I have a sense of belonging, being part of something much greater and more important than myself. Over the years John and I have walked together on long-distance footpaths, on hills and mountains, by rivers, lakes and sea, and it has brought us much joy. In recent years arthritis limited my mobility and John's has decreased too. When both my knee joints were partially replaced surgically a couple of years ago I could walk pain-freely again. What a gift!

During "daily exercise" in lockdown my phone told me I was walking eight thousand steps a day, three to four days a week. I decided to challenge myself to ten thousand steps for forty days as a Lenten discipline.

It was a challenge, too! The first day was fine - just a longer walk than usual, and I was a bit tired - but by the fourth day I really wasn't raring to go! However, apart from a "day off" on Sundays I managed to make the ten thousand - sometimes only just, and on other days considerably more. Occasionally I could be seen striding round our estate just before bedtime making up the last two thousand steps!

My most frequent walk was along the canal from our house in Bishopton towards Wilmcote. The canal path is mainly good, and wide enough to enable social distancing from dog walkers and cyclists. Variations included crossing the canal on a lock gate and walking in fields (often very muddy) on the other side, or taking a farm-track into Wilmcote village and around roads back to the canal. Appointments in town, such as to Specsavers, church or to be vaccinated, offered an opportunity to follow the canal in that direction. I explored the streets of Shottery and discovered numerous walking and cycling paths confusingly criss-crossing the edges of Stratford.



Cont...



Tricia's Lent Walk for Water cont...

Sometimes John and I took the car and walked together on the Racecourse, Welcombe Hills, Lench Meadows, the Greenway or in the Heart of England Forest. To make up the distance I would walk ahead, faster, until an agreed time when we would both turn, meeting up again for the last bit. For a special treat I occasionally roamed in Oversley Wood. I was very lucky with the weather and never got soaked! When alone, I would often pray, or reflect, or plan, or just enjoy the natural world around me, the lengthening days and signs of spring. I allowed one and a quarter to one and a half hours to do the four to five miles made up by the steps.



The charity which set the challenge is CAFOD - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. I don't have a particular connection with it, but know enough about it to trust that the money I raise will be used as it promises. Owing to the generosity of supporters I raised my financial target from £300 to £500, which is not quite yet reached. If anyone reading this would like to donate you can do so online through JustGiving, John Hall-Matthews' page entitled "Tricia's Walk for Water", or contact me on jotricia@btinternet.com or 01789 414182.

Photographs courtesy of Tricia Hall-Matthews



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As we come through the pandemic, many people have said that it has drawn folk together across boundaries. I am sure that that has often been true. But I don't think I have ever been quite so conscious of what it means for human beings to live in separate tribes. Starting from small groups of hunter-gatherers, building up through bigger communities to nation-states and whole civilisations – often in competition with each other if not violent conflict.

My thoughts on this were partly triggered by reading of an anti-immigration campaigner who quoted Acts 17:26, St Paul's speech in Athens where he refers to God overseeing the nations and the boundaries of their territories. Given everything else that the Bible says about welcoming strangers, this can hardly be taken as a license to make those boundaries harder. But it does remind us that, in the order of creation, boundaries and distinctions between human groups have a legitimate place; even a little competition may contribute to human diversity and richness.

But today we live in a world far more complex than that of St Paul. Today, the "tribes" are not necessarily nations; more often they are groupings that cut across national boundaries. The issue of race, for example, has come very much to the fore recently. "Race" and "racism" are very complex concepts, not simply about the colour of people's skin or where their ancestors came from (aren't all of us descended from the first humans who came out of Africa?) On such matters, maybe we are a bit more liberal now than we were sixty years ago. But there are tricky aspects of history and culture - and power - which are still perceived to divide us, and can contribute to the sort of grim disadvantages which have led to the pandemic hitting those of some "tribes" far more than others.

Most of us are actually members of several "tribes", defined not just by skin colour but by levels of education and styles of living and culture, even tastes in food and music. Sometimes, those who are simply of different generations can feel that they are in different "tribes", not speaking the same language! And that can be reflected even within the Church.

This business of "speaking different languages", not just in words but in ways of life, is one which our faith addresses in the feast of Pentecost which will soon be upon us. We are told that, in the very earliest days of the Church, it became possible for those speaking different languages to encounter God and each other in a new way. Those whom St Peter addressed at the first Pentecost were all Jews or Jewish converts, but they came from many "tribes" right across the known world, and needed the Holy Spirit to enable them to rise above linguistic differences. And, pretty soon, non-Jews also found themselves incorporated in this new and bigger Christian "tribe".



Being a member of one or more tribes seems to be a human characteristic. There is nothing wrong with this. Diversity should be acknowledged and in many ways valued, because it adds to the richness of humanity. But when diversity turns into division

and conflict, as it so often does, then we need to remember that we are called to a new and higher stage of being together under God. And, for St Paul, that is somewhere near the very heart of the "new creation" which we so recently celebrated in our strange (inevitable under pandemic restrictions) but yet so wonderful Easter observances.



Dear England: finding hope, taking heart and changing the world

book review by Colin McDowall

On his way to a Cardiff meeting, Stephen Cottrell (now Archbishop of York), stopped for a coffee at Paddington Station, and was surprised when a young woman, seeing his clerical collar, was bold enough to ask what made him want to become a priest.

'Two reasons', he told her. 'The first is because I believe in God and the second is that I want to change the world'.

With just a few minutes before his train left, Stephen only had time to elaborate that by 'God' he really meant Jesus as being the person through whom God, with a human face and heart, spoke to us all in the language of another human life so that we can more easily understand what God is like and what humanity *could* be like.

The young woman commented that in her experience people with faith either had it as a sort of hobby, going to church/synagogue/mosque/temple without it making their lives different, or else (and this really disturbed Stephen) they embraced their faith so tightly it frightened everyone else away. During his journey to Wales, Stephen had plenty of time to ponder and make notes on how he might have responded to her ideas about church-goers and explain what he meant by 'changing the world'.

The happy result of these notes is *Dear England: finding hope, taking heart and changing the world*, a small book-length letter 'to a nation in a time of confusion, division and pandemic' in which he offers his readers, a third faith-view of the world we should be inhabiting in full community with others; put much more simply, in Jesus' words, "loving our neighbours as ourselves."

Stephen thinks the route to Brexit has undermined some of our confidence in neighbourliness because some of us have yet to realise that working for the well-being of others is also for our own benefit. For example, if we don't provide clean drinking water to the needy we shouldn't be surprised at refugee migrants arriving here; no one is vaccinated until everyone is vaccinated, and cutting overseas aid to help our own debts just isn't a Christian solution. The church must have a voice in politics but, Stephen insists, not in party politics. His main concerns are for the global catastrophe of the climate emergency, the NHS, racism, and life after this

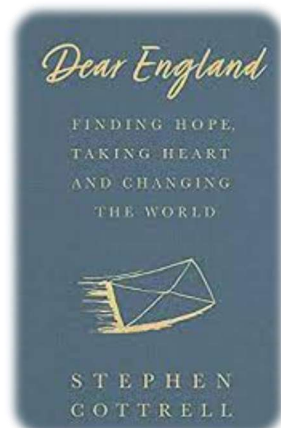
pandemic.

He describes the Church of England as 'this beautiful network of local church groups' (not unlike the NHS) looking and planning ten years ahead whilst facing the immediate challenges of the pandemic; suffering financially because of Covid along with many other organisations, but facing this challenge by reaching out to younger and more diverse people - not at the expense of our elderly members but, indeed, for their benefit.

On racism he asks why Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, is so often portrayed as if he were white, and says the Church of England should face up to our difficult history in these and similar matters.

One of the most admirable aspects of this little book is that, as a work of theology, it is so very readable and jargon-free. Ostensibly an open letter to his Paddington fellow passenger, but entitled 'Dear England' because the author is the recently appointed Primate of England, this book is as fresh, accessible and topical as today's newspaper. It reads almost as a post Brexit/Covid manual for living together in our complicated and confusing modern world.

There's many a blurb that outrageously claims "*this book will change your life*". I'm inclined to think that this time such a statement could well be true.



PREPARATIONS FOR EASTER



Three Easter Candles



Putting up the Stations of the Cross



Making the Easter Garden



Flower Arranger



Choir

PALM SUNDAY

Photograph by Harfy Lomax



MAUNDY THURSDAY



The reserved sacrament on the altar

But be not thou far from me, O Lord :
thou art my succour, haste thee to help me.

TENEBRAE SERVICE ON GOOD FRIDAY



GOOD FRIDAY WALK THROUGH SERVICE



Blood and Crown



Three Crosses



The Cockerel



Thirty pieces of silver



The Easter Garden and Shroud



The Cross



Walking through

EASTER EVE SERVICE

Blessing the Easter Fire



Lighting the village candles



EASTER DAY WALK THROUGH

Walking through



The choir



By the candlestand

Cont...

EASTER DAY WALK THROUGH *cont...*

HE IS RISEN
ALLELUIA



Easter Garden



Looking at the Easter Garden



Contemplating the empty cross

Easter Services

The Easter services have indeed been wonderful and moving. Each day was special in its own way. Thursday's service, the Watch and Compline, set the tone so well, and the music was as always so deeply felt by many.

Good Friday was thoughtful and the music added greatly to the general feeling. Having the Stations of the Cross in the church yard was inspired. So many people stopped to read them and talk about them. Many people left the services on Thursday and Friday in tears.

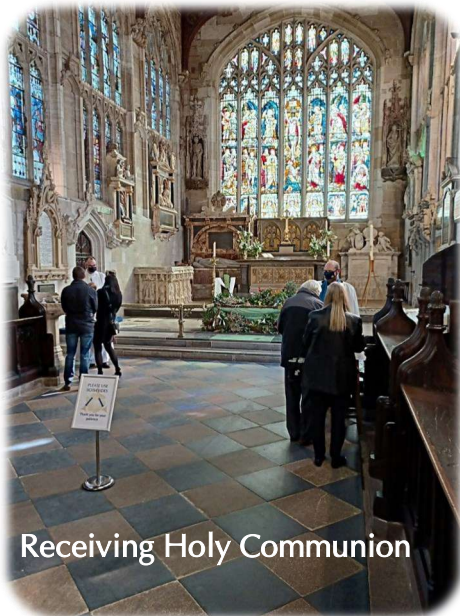
Easter Sunday was so full of joy; the flowers, the superb Easter Garden which rose from the Friday's Garden of Gethsemane, the draped cross and, again, the choir.

Standing outside the Priest's door and greeting the people as they left the church I heard so many people saying what a wonderful experience it had been; many of them who had not been to church before. One group of young men said it was "awesome!" The people who left in tears on Sunday said they were tears of joy at being back in church!

So, thank you to all the people who have made this Easter so moving and wonderful on the huge journey from deepest sadness to joy and wonder.



Anne Blair



Receiving Holy Communion



Some feedback on the walk through services at Holy Trinity Church

The walk through services seemed to attract people who would not normally attend church which, of course, is what we all try to achieve in spreading God's love.

People could appreciate the meaning of Good Friday, in a church, in their own independent way. EVERYONE emerged from the church so elated and smiling and many commented on how the glorious weather was so fitting for "He is Risen Indeed".

'I met quite a few small children who had not had to sit through a service but were enjoying "experiencing" Easter - complete in two cases with splendid Easter bonnets!'



News from Trinity Players

Despite disappointment that we could not stage *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *Murder in the Cathedral* in 2020, we had a surprisingly busy year thanks to Zoom and the ability to record on our Smart Phones.

Words of Comfort: Verse and Song for Dark Times is currently available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/am5CvgU3ugk> and we are working on **Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare**, our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday which will be launched on 23 April. Sadly, we must ask you to provide your own coffee and cake for a second year!

Help! I am concerned that many of our loyal audience do not use computers and therefore have no access to our YouTube recordings. We can make a DVD available, free of charge, to anyone who has the facility to play one, though I accept that, again, only a small number can do this. If you cannot access YouTube but could play a DVD (or if you know someone in this situation) please let me know on urussell@joyousgard.org.uk or 01789204923

Murder in the Cathedral

Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 July at 7pm and Saturday 17 July at 5.30pm

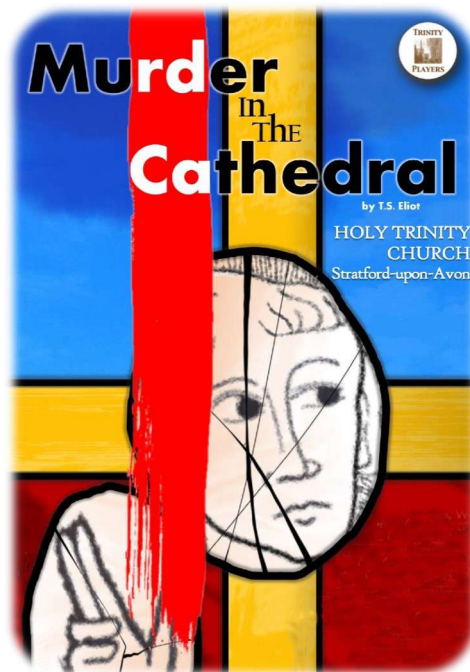
We are determined to stage, what we know to be, a very special Play so have fixed dates for a fourth time!

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer two afternoon performances on Saturday 17 July as we had hoped, owing to a flurry of Summer Weddings, but we trust that a slightly earlier start time during the week and light evenings will encourage you to join us.

Tickets will be available nearer the time when we are certain that we can rehearse and perform.

Meanwhile Trinity Players continue to meet on Zoom each month, occasionally reading a Play but more frequently bringing readings and songs on a given theme. We now have some fascinating, beautiful, moving and amusing anthologies which provide us with much needed fun and fellowship and some of which we look forward to sharing with you when we can invite a live audience again.

Ursula Russell



REMEMBERING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

"The Duke of Edinburgh put his own needs and career to one side for the sake of the people of this nation and the Commonwealth. He gave up his Greek and Danish royal titles and became a naturalized British subject in order to marry the then Princess Elizabeth. When she became queen in 1952 he left active military service, leaving his career as a high ranking officer in the Navy in order to support his wife in her new role. In all this he has been a fine example of a loyal and committed husband. Not only has he remained beside the Queen through all the joys and challenges of her reign, but he has also empowered many thousands of young people through the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, one of the things for which he will be especially remembered.



By the time Prince Philip retired from public duty in 2017 he had completed over 22,000 solo engagements. He was a patron, president, or member of more than 780 organisations and the longest-serving consort of a reigning British monarch. He worked tirelessly for the sake of others and will be remembered with great affection for serving our country by supporting our Queen. We commend him to God's love and are praying for the Queen and Royal family at this time of loss."

Revd Patrick Taylor

St. George's House Windsor – HRH The Duke of Edinburgh legacy.

It is with deep sadness that we heard of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh last month.

Although I never had the honour or privilege of meeting HRH The Duke of Edinburgh I did benefit from one of his lesser known legacies that he founded in 1966 with the support of the then Dean of Worcester, Robin Woods. I refer to St. George's House Windsor set in the grounds of Windsor Castle. Although the House offers shorter courses I was fortunate to be in residence for a three month Consultation course in the 1980's. It brings together people of responsibility and influence in business, government, church and medicine to discuss contemporary issues of moment. A British organisation committed to "affecting change for the better by nurturing wisdom through dialogue". It is a place where people from right across society, who are in a position to make a difference, might gather to grapple with issues pertinent to our contemporary world. The House thrives on debate, discussion and dialogue, where high-quality disagreement is prized as a way of nurturing wisdom which can be put to use in the wider world.

St. George's House hosts some sixty consultations annually with three distinct strands: Social and Ethical Consultations, Clergy and Medical Consultations, and Consultations programmed by external groups and organisations in keeping with the ethos and practice of the House. In a world of twenty four hour news and burgeoning social media where the headline and the soundbite dominate, opportunities to reflect deeply on difficult matters are few and far between. St. George's House offers just such an opportunity. Guests are asked to argue cogently, to listen carefully and to be always open to the possibility of changing one's mind.

The hope is that people leaving the Castle grounds will do so intellectually refreshed, more deeply alert to the nuances of the topic to hand and ready to put whatever wisdom they have acquired to full use in our society.

Cont...

St. George's House, Windsor cont...

Prince Philip had his flagship causes, but in those, and the other interests to which he lent his name, stature and reputation, he worked for the cause, and beyond that for the institution of monarchy, never for himself. St. George's House exists as a lasting legacy for those who want to see change for the better and to promote Prince Philip's philosophy of offering space to work towards a better world for people of all creeds and none.

He may not like it but Prince Philip is entitled to, and deserving of, the nation's gratitude.

Dr. Roy Lodge MBE



Eco Chat: An initiative by Stratford Churches Together

To bring about climate justice, we need change at all levels: as individuals, churches and societies.

This year, the UK will host the United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26. This is a significant opportunity for the UK and other countries to step up their ambitions for action on the climate crisis. Churches, alongside other faith and civil society groups, can play a key role. Together, we can raise our voice to encourage national leaders to be ambitious and courageous. Churches have a distinctive and powerful contribution to make.

Here in Stratford-upon-Avon, individual churches and their congregations are already taking action on the climate and ecological crisis. Five local churches are already seeking to become Eco Churches, working with their congregations to minimise their carbon emissions – in fact, Stratford Methodist Church was the first Methodist church in the country to gain the Eco Church gold award. And many individual church members are already active in a number of ways – at home and in their community – to address the challenges of global warming.

Now Stratford Churches Together, the body through which the town's churches meet and work together, is launching Eco Chat – an hour-long get-together once a month, sharing information and discussing action, for all those wishing to deepen our response to the call for Creation Care – God's love for all in the whole creation.

The first Eco Chat will be held online 10.30-11.30 on Saturday 8 May. It will be very much an introductory session, getting to know each other and planning for future sessions. Meetings will then be held at the same time on the first Saturday of each month – online at first and when we are able to do so in suitable church premises.

For more information, and for the link to join the first session on Saturday 8 May, contact the Holy Trinity co-ordinator, Tricia Hall-Matthews at triciahallmatthews1@gmail.com or on 01789 414182, or the Churches Together co-ordinator Roger Matthews at roger.matthews@phonecoop.coop or on 01789 298503.





From Oklahoma to Oxford

Our new Ordinand on placement, Thomas Powell, talks to Judith Dorricott. Perhaps it was the influence of being born near the famous Route 66 that crosses the United States from east to west, which gave our new Ordinand the desire to travel, or just an inborn wanderlust, but Thomas Powell has experienced life on the move!

Thomas came to the United Kingdom almost twenty years ago as Professor of Strategy at the University of Oxford. But he originates from a small town in Oklahoma where he had a happy childhood, attending local schools and the local Presbyterian church. After secondary school, he gained his first university degree in economics and business, and then moved west, working in Los Angeles in corporate strategy consultancy.

Though he enjoyed living and working in California, Thomas started soul-searching and took a part-time Masters in Theology at nearby Fuller Theological Seminary. He felt a strong spiritual calling, but he wasn't sure if it was a call to ministry or if he should pursue a career in academia, which was also beckoning.

A short time later, Thomas had chosen a career in academia and was off to New York City, where he spent four years gaining a PhD in business and economics. With PhD in hand, he then headed north to Canada, accepting his first academic post in the Faculty of Management at McGill University in Montreal.

A few years later, Australia was in his sights! Thomas was offered the post of Professor of Management at the Australian Graduate School of Management in Sydney. He and his family – he was now married with two small children – spent a happy seven years in Australia, where university life kept Thomas busy in teaching, academic research, and senior leadership roles.

Finally in 2004, Europe called and Thomas was named Professor of Strategy at Oxford University, where he is also Tutorial Fellow in Management Strategy at St. Hugh's College. His work at Oxford includes academic research and teaching, including teaching undergraduate students in Economics and Management, MBA students, doctoral students, and courses for executives in corporate strategy.

As his successful academic career forged ahead, Thomas recognized the need to “park” any ideas of full-time Christian vocation, at least for a time. Nonetheless, he began to revisit the possibility of ministry about six years ago. In 2016 he began the part-time masters programme in applied theology at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, which he finished in 2020. As Thomas reflected on the questions of applied theology – How do we put theology to work? How do we serve God in the world? – he thought once again about entering the church.

After consultations within the Diocese of Coventry, Thomas was entered into the Church of England's “discernment process,” in which potential candidates for priesthood explore whether they have a true calling to ordained ministry. Having completed this process, Thomas undertook final interviews with the Bishop's Advisory Panel in 2020 and was accepted for training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, an ordination training college near Oxford.

Thomas has been studying at Cuddesdon since September 2020 – part-time of course, as he continues his full-time commitments at Oxford University – mostly through online lectures during the period of the pandemic. Nonetheless, Thomas has enjoyed the mixture of spiritual and practical training in the programme.

Cont...

This course at Cuddesdon will finish in the summer of 2022, which coincides happily with the date of his intended retirement from Oxford University. Sadly, he is only with us at Holy Trinity Church for six weeks this spring as part of his course, leaving us in mid-May.

What does the future hold? Thomas says that his heart is open to all possibilities. The period of formal and practical training is typically followed by a curacy or other ministerial or pastoral role, but Thomas is keeping an open mind. His adult son Charlie and daughter Taylor are now both happily settled and working in Europe, and Thomas and his wife Alissa enjoy living abroad and are open to assignments in other parts of the world.

I am sure that everyone at Holy Trinity Church will wish Thomas well in his future ministry wherever his travels may take him.



Thomas and Alissa

Judith Dorricott

An Introduction by Lori Shanebeck

It was a beautiful and perfect Southern California day last September when my husband and I got out of our friend's car at Los Angeles International Airport, unloaded our five suitcases, and stood on the sidewalk of the Virgin Atlantic terminal waving goodbye. I was still crying from having said good-bye to our children and grandchildren, but smiled and waved as our friend drove away. I remember thinking, what in the world am I doing? Is this going to work at all or be a colossal failure? With emotions all over the map, but resolute in our desire to live out this adventure we felt God was calling us to experience, got on the plane, and by the next afternoon had arrived in Stratford.



Lori and Michael

I think that most people who know me would say that I am a strange mix of contradictions. I am an American through and through but love all things British. While I am a huge fan of American history, I probably know England's history even better (this morning I explained to my husband who the Dukes of Kent and Gloucester were and how they are related to the Queen). I am a huge fan of football and a loyal (some have said rabid) fan of the San Francisco Forty-Niners, yet one of my favorite activities is to sit down to afternoon tea. And while I love classical music, there is nothing like good old fashioned rock and roll – especially The Beatles.

So then, how did a California girl find herself living in Stratford and studying at the Shakespeare Institute at this stage of her life when most people her age are planning a peaceful retirement? The long answer tells a story of a lifelong love affair with all things theatre and British, but the more important short answer is God.

Cont...

Lori Shanebeck cont...

I was born in Detroit, Michigan, and like most Americans my heritage story is a hodgepodge that stretches from England to Germany to Mexico. I was ten when my parents moved to Northern California. I was very lonely, so I went to where I always went, the library, where I got to know the librarian, who began to recommend books to read. It was a fictional account of Mary Tudor (Henry VIII's youngest sister), devoured in two days that got me hooked. From that point on I became obsessed with British history, the royal family, and of course, Shakespeare.

There was one big hole in my life though, and that was a complete lack of any sort of relationship with God. I did not grow up in a family of faith, but through an amazing chain of events found myself on my knees at the age of fifteen in 1972 telling God how much I wanted a relationship with him, and my life as a follower of Jesus began. Church became a huge part of my life as I was taught the basics of faith, mentored by wonderful believers, and encouraged to serve.

And then there was theatre, which I have adored my entire life. However, I also had a father who had tried acting himself, knew what a tough life it was, and was determined when I started university that I would major in something "where you can get a decent job with a regular paycheck."

So I majored in something else, met my husband Michael, got married, lived in Southern California, had three children, and worked in business. But my heart was still in theatre. Through the years I wrote, directed, and was the Director of Drama at a large metropolitan church, eventually becoming the Artistic Director of a large youth theatre company, where I mentored and trained students (6-18) and directed musicals – lots of them. It was the best job in the world – until it wasn't. At the end of the twentieth season I found myself out of a job with no idea of what to do next.

Through that difficult transition I had held onto the promise that God had given me, that he had something beyond what I could ask or imagine. It took awhile, but the answer finally came in the form of an acceptance to The Shakespeare Institute, a move to my favorite place on earth, and a church that I never expected to be a part of. We had started going to an Anglican church in California because the liturgy, reverence during communion, and sense of inclusiveness spoke to our hearts. We decided to give Holy Trinity a try because of what we read online but we stayed because of what we experienced when we arrived; the presence of God, teaching that instructs and challenges, the warmth of the people, and the opportunity to serve.

My course finishes in September, but we hope to stay longer. I have no idea what I am going to do next, but God does. Until then, Michael will continue to work for World Vision and I will learn about Shakespeare. The path here has not been easy – it was actually one of the hardest things I have ever done. In the end though, God really did give us more than we could have ever asked or imagined. But then, he is really good at that, isn't he?

Lori, Michael and family.



Churchyard Working Party at St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers

by Angela Wylam

On 10 April around a dozen people, armed with garden forks and rakes, set to work on a patch in the churchyard to prepare it for sowing grass seed. We decided forget-me-nots, buttercups and daisies should stay, as we were going to include some wild-flower seed. We left stones as wildflowers grow better on poor soil. Roots of the previous leylandii trees took some moving and it wasn't long before the St Helen's green bin was full to overflowing and we were glad to have an overflow bin from Rainsford Close. Finally we scattered the seed and with some showers forecast, we hoped nature would do the rest. We await the green shoots with interest.



Photograph by Sally Abell

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. This is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure for ever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 NIV

~~Retired~~ *Inspired*

~~Lonely~~ *Community*

~~Restricted~~ *Freedom*

~~Downsize~~ *Rightsize*

~~Facetime~~ *Family time*

~~Ordinary~~ *Extraordinary*

~~One day~~ *Today*



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Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

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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

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The Revd Diane Patterson	01789 266 453
The Revd Jenny Rowland	01789 415 548
The Venerable Brian Russell	01789 266 316
The Revd Roger Taylor	01789 778 471
The Revd Graham Wilcox	01789 551 759

Staff

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Parish Administrator:	Sarah Cushing	01789 266 316	
Director of Music:	Douglas Keilitz		douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org

Church Wardens

Paul Lageu	01789 298 302	Rhod Mitchell	07983 985 474
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Gill Price	07963 453 386

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
Friends of St Helen's Church	Sarah Crang	01789 297 876
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	Josephine Walker	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 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
Churchyard Maintenance		
Volunteer Team	Lindsay MacDonald	01789 293 110



Correction:

The article on the bells at St Helen's Church in the April issue was written by Charles Wilson and Mark Sayers. Our apologies to both men.

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice
and peace,
to the praise of God the Father



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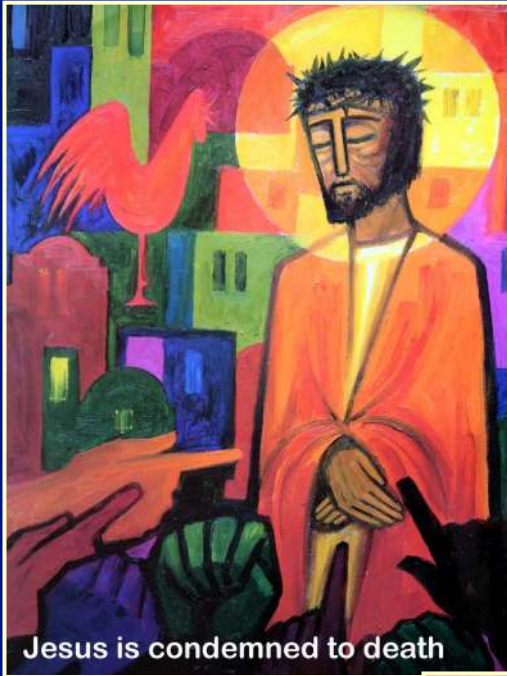
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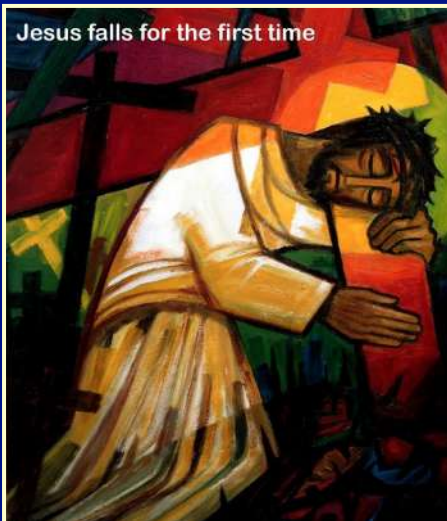
Some of the Stations of the Cross around Holy Trinity churchyard



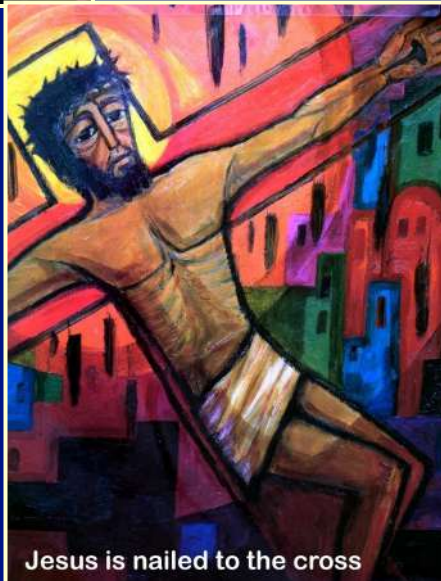
Jesus is condemned to death



Jesus meets his mother



Jesus falls for the first time



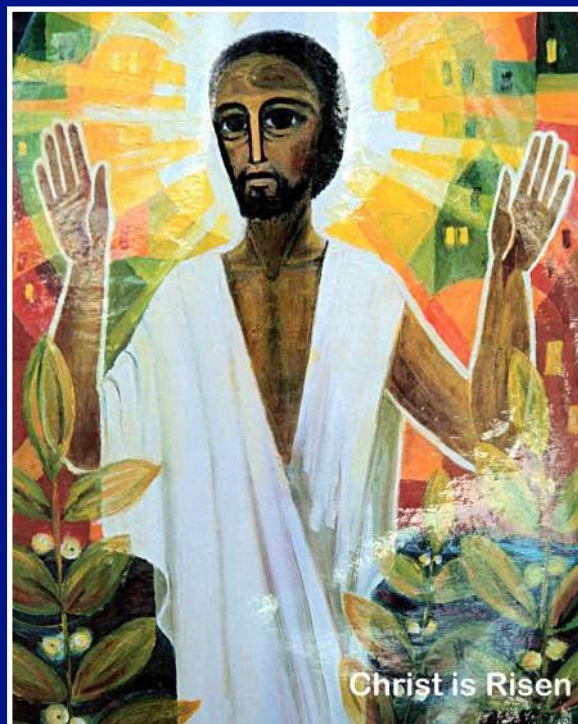
Jesus is nailed to the cross



Jesus is taken down from the cross



Jesus is laid in the tomb



Christ is Risen