

July/August 2021

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THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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



TRINITY TIMES



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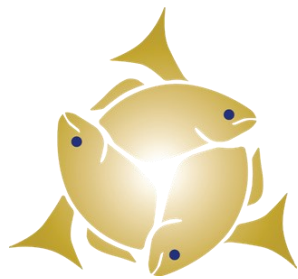


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This magazine includes information about *Murder in the Cathedral* by T.S.Eliot as well as notes about Eco chat.

There is also information about the service on 4 July for NHS carers and frontline workers and how the bell ringers are preparing to celebrate this. Look out, as well, for information on the Queen's Green Canopy. This is a way to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee and we as a parish hope to take part.

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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 2021** edition
The copy date is 13 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 :- Patrick and St Sigfrid Way Pilgrims
Photograph by Harry Lomax*

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

CELEBRATING THE ORDINARY

We're yet to see what long term effects the Covid pandemic will have on our society. But one thing is sure: we have been reminded of the vital role played by so many people who were often overlooked before: nurses, care workers, bus drivers, those who empty our bins or stack the shelves in the supermarket, to name just a few.

On 5 July we are being invited to celebrate and thank NHS, social care and key workers for being there for us when we need them most. The *NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day* falls on the anniversary of the birth of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948. On the day before, Sunday 4 July, we are having a special service at 10am at Holy Trinity to give thanks to God for those who care for others. Our Town Council, like many other institutions across the country, will be raising a flag at 10am on 5 July to signal the official start of the day's celebrations, and will leave it flying for seven days. We're delighted that the Mayor will be bringing the Stratford town flag to our service on 4 July so that we can bless it, ready to be flown above the Town Hall.



Churches, including those of this parish, have also been reminded of the important role played by all sorts of ordinary people, who have offered our pastoral care, reached out to those in need and made sure we can be open for worship. A couple of years before Covid the C of E published a report called *Setting God's People Free*. This emphasised the shared calling in baptism of both lay and ordained people, and the importance that we see each other as "equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission".

This is not just about getting lay people to do things because there are less clergy available. It's about finding ways to enable everyone to become confident disciples in the whole of life. The village churches of All Saints' and St. Helen's have always had really active and involved teams of lay people who keep the church going. At Holy Trinity we have tended in the past to be a more professionalised set up. That's all changed now, with no paid staff based in the church building any longer, we rely completely on volunteers to enable us to open the church, whether that's for private prayer, visitors or worship.

Just as I hope we as a society continue to value our key workers, even when this pandemic is past, so I'm also hoping - and praying - that the new culture of everyone pulling together to keep our churches alive and vibrant will also stick. An exciting example of this is some new teams that have been set up to plan and assist at our 10am services at Holy Trinity. This means that what was mostly the preserve of the clergy and paid staff in the past is now a joint effort which draws on the gifts and ideas of a wide range of people of different ages and backgrounds. This *intergenerational* approach feels to me much more like something of the Kingdom of God. If you're not already involved in some way in the life of our churches, perhaps now is the time to step forward? We'd love to hear from you!

Patrick

WORSHIP NOTES July and August



The extension of Covid restrictions means that we will continue the current pattern of services and booking arrangements until further notice.

4 July Holy Trinity at 10am we will be thanking God for the vital contribution to our communities made by those who work for the NHS, in Social Care and other “frontline” roles. The Mayor will be joining us at this service which will prepare us to mark NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers’ Day on 5 July.

Service to Remember the Departed 5pm, Sunday 4 July Holy Trinity

A special service at which we remember before God those who have died in recent months especially from Covid, and other loved ones who are no longer with us.

11 July Bishop John will be with us for a Confirmation service at Holy Trinity at 10am. Please pray for the candidates for Baptism and Confirmation:

Michelle Fix*
Penny Jones

and for the candidates for Confirmation:

Fiona Main
Bianca Cranmer
Tracey Morris
Pauline Kemp*
Phil Timms*

*from Alveston parish

Defend, O Lord, these your servants, with your Holy Spirit.

18 July The Venerable Barry Dugmore, Archdeacon Missioner will be preaching at Holy Trinity at 10am.

29 August As this is a 5th Sunday there won’t be any services in the Village churches. 5pm at Holy Trinity will be a service of Evensong with prayer for healing, including the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil for those who wish to receive this ministry.

Sarah Cushing’s Ordination on 4 July

As many of you will be aware, our Parish Administrator, Sarah, has been in part-time training for ordination. Having completed her course at theological college, she is going to be made a Deacon at the ordination service at Coventry Cathedral at 4pm, on Sunday 4 July (Petertide). Please pray for Sarah as she prepares for this significant step, and also for the people of the parish of All Saints’ Emscote, Warwick, where she will serve as part-time Curate. Thankfully this means she can stay on as our Parish Administrator (part-time)! We wish Sarah every blessing for her new ministry as a Deacon.



Sarah Cushing

Patrick

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY



Holy Trinity Church

4 July - Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers
5pm - Service for the Departed

11 July - Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist - Confirmation
5pm - Choral Evensong

18 July - Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Holy Communion (BCP)

25 July - St James the Apostle

10am - Parish Eucharist
5pm - Taize Service

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

4 July - Fifth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion

18 July - Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion



All Saints', Luddington

11 July - Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion

25 July - St James the Apostle

9.30am - Holy Communion

SERVICE CELEBRATING NHS & FRONTLINE WORKERS

As part of our new style 10am Sunday Services in Holy Trinity, each Sunday will be based around a specific theme. As 4 July is the day before the first annual NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day, our service that day will be celebrating those who worked on the front line during the pandemic.

The whole event is being organised to raise money for *NHS Charities Together*, which supports 250 hospitals and their charitable trusts, and the *National Care Association*, representing 1.6 million workers caring for some of society's frailest members. Our service will give us the opportunity to remember all that they did during the pandemic, and give thanks for the work they continue to do.



Holy Trinity Bell Ringers prepare for NHS Day

Between 4 and 5 July, there are to be several events in Stratford to mark NHS Frontline Workers Day. On Sunday morning, a special service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, and on Monday there will be the unfurling of a special flag on the Town Hall and the planting of two commemorative rose bushes in the Garden of Remembrance. One rose is Captain Sir Tom Moore and the other one, Loving Memories.

Bell ringers across the country have been specifically requested to undertake the ringing of the bells at 8pm on Monday 5 July - 73 times, one blow for each year that the NHS has been in existence.

Seen here are some of our band rehearsing for this important occasion.



From left to right: Jo Langford, Charles Wilson and Rhod Mitchell

Photograph courtesy of Marion Mitchell

SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST



Holy Trinity Church

1 August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Evensong

8 August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Evensong

15 August - Blessed Virgin Mary

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Holy Communion (BCP)

22 August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Taize Service

29 August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Evensong with Healing

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

1 August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion

15 August - Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am - Holy Communion



All Saints', Luddington

8 August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion

22 August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Holy Communion

DEVELOPING WORSHIP AT HOLY TRINITY by Phil Harper

The style of our Sunday morning service at Trinity at 10am is changing. This was originally meant to happen in September last year, but the recent lockdown meant it had to be delayed.

The new style service brings together both the TrinityCentre@10 service and the Parish Eucharist in the church building. It will be intergenerational with worship teams planning and helping deliver the service. Each team will have members of different ages, backgrounds and worship preferences.

What is intergenerational worship? An often used definition is this:

“Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally brings the generations together in mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community.” (Christine Ross, “A Qualitive Study Exploring Churches Committed to Intergenerational Ministry” 2006)



Intergenerational worship and ministry is about building and deepening relationships across all ages. This is the vision behind our new 10am service:

- all ages worshipping and growing together, having conversations and building relationships.
- multi-age, multi-ability, multi-sensory, multi-intelligence.
- using the best of both informal and formal worship styles to explore the theme for each service.
- to make it clear this was not self-imposed by the church (although you could say it has been in the past, to a certain extent!).

As Rev'd Jason Brian Santos says in the book *Intergenerate: Transforming Churches through intergenerational ministry* “It’s not only about bringing children and youth back into “big church”; it’s about all of us being formed *together* as the church. It’s essential to our identity as followers of Christ”.

Various pieces of research have shown that young people who continue on a life of faith were the ones who have been involved in intergenerational worship. In the book *Sticky Faith*, the authors examine the factors that make for “sticky faith” in the post school years. One of those critical factors is the importance of congregations that maximise intergenerational relationships. First, they discovered that involvement in all-church (intergenerational) worship during high school is more consistently

linked with mature faith in both high school and beyond than any other form of church participation.

When adults take a real interest in the lives of the children and young people and vice versa, it helps create a faith that sticks.



Altogether, starting with our Sunday morning worship, it’s hoped that being intergenerational will grow to include all aspects of our church life, including bible study, music groups and drama groups – the possibilities are endless!



Growing our faith and spiritual nurture need the variety of experience each person brings to enrich God’s story in the lives of all. People learn best by copying and imitating and we can learn from each other. Children can learn by seeing what it looks like when adults pray, sing, interact and share their experiences of being a Christian. Adults can learn by the questions that children ask, the fresh insight they have and the playful spirituality they bring.



Ben Atkinson

We may not get it perfect from day one, and this is new for all of us. But as the teams grow in confidence and experience and we all learn from what does and doesn’t work we can create a community with something very special. We look forward to you sharing the journey with us.

“Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts... All of you are Christ’s body, and each one is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12.12 & 27)

FROM THE REGISTERS - JUNE

CHRISTENINGS

27 June Chester James Lord

WEDDINGS

4 June Robert Atkinson and Leanne Leighton

FUNERALS

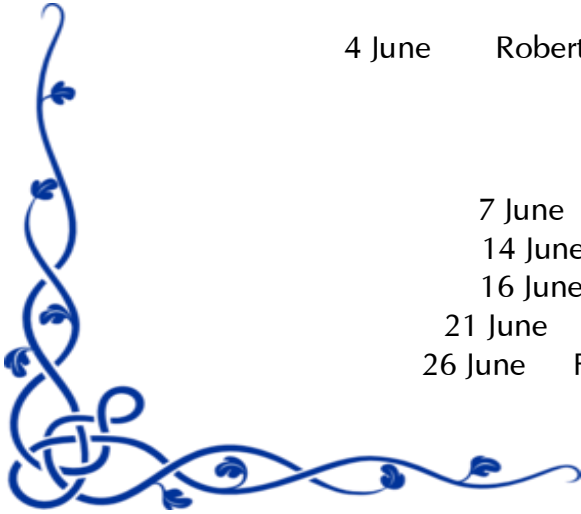
7 June Paul Witherington

14 June Brian Vernon Ash

16 June Catherine Hughes

21 June Andrew Skinner Young

26 June Frederick Sebastian Danes



PARISH



PARISH PICNIC CHANGE OF DATE

The Parish Picnic, organised by the Social Team, will now be happening on Sunday 25 July 12pm-2:30pm in the Vicarage Garden. We've moved the date back a week as social distancing would still have been in place on the original date and we'd have only been allowed thirty people. Please bring with you your picnic and something to sit on. If anything changes with the dates of restrictions being eased, we may have to cancel the event. Any changes will be in the weekly e-Pew Leaflet.

A date for your diary, after the Parish Picnic the next event is the Harvest Bring and Share Lunch, which is on Sunday 10 October after the morning service. More details coming soon.

Social Team

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All Saints' Annual Meeting – 13 June 2021

All Saints', Luddington, held their annual meeting on 13 June, a gloriously sunny Sunday morning. The meeting followed a service of Holy Communion, led by Revd Steve Jarvis. A thought-provoking sermon was delivered by Revd Patrick Taylor on the theme of sowing seeds and watching them grow.



The following report was delivered by Jane Beeley, All Saints' representative on the PCC:-

'Needless to say, there is very little to report that has happened during the last year. As a congregation you have all been very patient regarding the lack of services during lockdowns and very supportive when we have been able to have them, for which Teresa and I have been very grateful.

The church building is fairly sound but we have had to deal with a few leaks and damp patches over the very wet winter and spring. We are now waiting to see whether the work done has fixed the problems, if not we think we will have to take some advice from an architect. Again, we are grateful to those who have carried on with the cleaning and flower arranging when we have been able to.

The churchyard has probably been more of a problem as the Parish Council cancelled the regular work that was being done at very short notice. Linda Rowberry has very kindly said that the ride on mower could be for the use of the church if it could be repaired and Peter managed to get it going. There is also a small mower for areas the mower can't get to and all we need now is some help to operate them both. Linda has done most of the mowing so far but she is not able to commit to doing it all through the summer. We are hoping to get some financial support from the Parish Council again and that is ongoing.

We would like to thank Paul Lageu, our warden from Holy Trinity, for his support during the pandemic. He has kept in touch and kept us in touch with things going on in the parish and diocese generally. We are also grateful to the Ven Brian Russell, not only for coming to officiate at services here, but also for the interest he has shown in the running of the village churches and the advice he has given. I would like to make special mention of Teresa who has kept a weekly eye on the church, managed the finances in a very difficult time and all in all has been vigilant and conscientious in looking after All Saints' during the last year.

The social side of church life has obviously suffered significantly over the past year and we are hoping to organise some events later in the year. There are a lot of new houses in the village and new people who have moved in generally. The *All Saints' Pub* will be getting into action again soon and it will hopefully encourage people to get to know each other and stimulate friendship and co-operation in the village. I was pleased to be invited to the Annual Parish Council Meeting which was on Zoom when there were representatives from the various activities in the village such as Village Hall, Village Fund, District Councillor, Nature Reserve as well as the church. We were all able to explain what we did and to give an idea of events planned. There was a good feeling of community support for the various groups.

So, in summary, what All Saints' needs for the future is a lot of help. Thank you to those who already give it but please help us to encourage more to get involved. Whether people are church goers or not the church is very much a part of the village and it would be good to feel everyone was included in the friendship church life offers.'

Paul Lageu

TRINITY SUNDAY - 30 MAY

Sermon given by Revd Dr Paul Edmondson

Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17.



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Trinity Sunday – the patronal festival of this great parish church – is about the glory of God, and how we relate to that glory in our own lives.

Isaiah, in our first reading, *sees* the glory of God; he *hears* the glory of God in the singing of God's seraphim; he *smells* the glory of God in the smoke of incense; and he *touches* and *tastes* the glory of God in the live coal which one of the seraphs brings to his mouth. The God of Abraham and Sarah – and we, and their children forever – meet the God of our being in each and every one of our five senses. On Trinity Sunday we are reminded of the *miracle* of our existence, our having been created *for* God, and how we – as individuals and as a church, like Isaiah – are called to be sent out, and to build up communities of God's people, alive and alert to God's Kingdom.

Trinity Sunday presents to us the miracle of our existence within the all-encompassing power of God's 'divine majesty'; 'it is *God* who has made us, and not we ourselves, we are *God's* people'. And we know from of old, from our ancestors in the church, that our God is revealed to us through three persons, three personalities, distinct yet interconnected, and identifiable through the holy scriptures: God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit.

The revelation of the Trinity is an illustration to us that God cannot be understood by our rational natures, but only through our experience of God's love, a love that turns our working, living knowledge of God, into our daily belief in God. We believe because we love, and because we experience love, we can know something of the nature of God, and therefore we can believe.

Our gospel reading sets forth the earthly expression of God the Son – revealed to us in the person of Jesus – and his place in this dynamic, all moving, all creating, all loving Trinity.



Jesus reveals secretly to the Pharisee Nicodemus that 'no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above' – that is, born from God the Father.

Jesus reveals secretly to Nicodemus that 'no one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man' – that is, God the Son.

And Jesus reveals secretly to Nicodemus that 'no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit' – that is God the Holy Spirit.

The three personalities of God in the Trinity are revealed to us in Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus.

Jesus is fully human and fully divine. The Christ, the one anointed by God as the Son of God, draws our humanity, our human nature to God, and gives us life, love, and faith through the Holy Spirit. That is God's promise to us through Jesus: that by believing in the Son of God – God's living example of a human life for us to follow – we shall be drawn to God, and by the Spirit be turned into sons and daughters of God.

Trinity Sunday is a reminder of our calling to give God the glory every day and every moment of our lives.

Cont...

We constantly fail and fall; we pick ourselves up. We pray for the grace to turn ourselves outward and away from ourselves, to learn more about God – through reading scripture, through serving one another. We seek to realise the fruits of the Holy Spirit and bring them into our daily lives: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We encourage one another, always we give thanks, and we keep on trying to love God with all our mind, heart, soul, and strength, and our neighbours as ourselves.

And, gradually, with perseverance if not perfection, we gain a little ground, and become better disciples, better students of Jesus, better Christians.

Make no mistake, this dynamic God, this relationship, this Trinity, reveals itself to us the granular, everyday actions of our daily lives. We are not called to explain how this happens, we are not called somehow to ‘achieve’ it; all we are called to do is to live lives of love, and to know and to accept that we are loved.

A Dominican friend of mine, John O’Connor, wrote to me in the week, and said: ‘our everyday actions have theological depths and that ultimately [in the words of Mother Julian of Norwich], “all manner of things shall be well”. [...William] Blake too comes to mind [one of his ‘Songs of Innocence’]: “And we are put on this earth a little space / That we might learn to bear the beams of love.”’

And Trinity Sunday puts before us the inevitability of our immortality.

We shall be changed, by and for the glory of God to whom we have been trying our best to render glory. As my friend and fellow disciple, C. S. Lewis said in a sermon for Whit Sunday 1944, published as an essay called ‘Transpositions’:

‘We may be sure we shall be more, not less, than we are on earth. Our natural experiences (sensory, emotional, imaginative) are only like the drawing, like pencilled lines on flat paper. If they vanish in the risen life, they will vanish only as pencil lines vanish from the real landscape, not as a candle flame that is put out, but as a candle flame which becomes invisible because someone has pulled up the blind, thrown open the shutters, and let in the blaze of the sun.’

(from ‘Transpositions’, in *The Weight of Glory*).

Trinity Sunday points us to the heart of our faith, our full maturity in God. It presents to us the dynamic border of where heaven meets earth in our human lives. It is our annual reminder that we are alive because of – and for – the glory of God. Everything that makes us who we are as people is, on this day, gathered together into the glory of God. It is, as it were, the harvest festival of our Christian lives.

Our journeys through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passiontide, Easter, Ascensiontide, and Whit Sunday have brought us to *this* great day. As we look ahead, we know the end of our church year is crowned with the Feast of Christ the King on the Sunday before Advent. Until then, our glorious Trinity Sunday casts its long light over many successive weeks. Relish them. Make much of your so-called ‘ordinary time’ in the days, and weeks, and Sundays after Trinity ahead of you, because there, with the grace of God, you will find yourselves to be extraordinary, living in Holy Trinity time, and empowered to say with the prophet Isaiah: ‘Here I am; send me.’

AMEN.

Holy Trinity icon
by Andrei Rublev



WELCOME BACK TIM

by Judith Dorricott

Tim Raistrick may have broken a record as he enters his nineteenth year as Churchwarden. There have been a few gaps in between because no-one may serve as a warden for more than six years consecutively, but the clergy and all the congregation are delighted to welcome him back onto the team.



Tim leading the procession of young choristers

Tim was born in Stratford and, with his mother Dorothy a very active member of the church community, it was natural that he would follow his two brothers into the church choir at a young age. In his early days, there was a separate children's service as well as an active youth group that met every month. This group was run by the clergy and the young people enjoyed many discussions on the big issues of the day.

As a young man, Tim joined the National Farmers' Union Mutual for a temporary job, but stayed on as an underwriter and now, thirty-nine years later, manages the large corporate motor underwriting portfolio.

Tim's organisational skills, honed during nearly four decades at the NFU, are of great benefit to our church, as Tim enjoys the responsibilities of good planning, which he combines with a passion for the church. Tim has been on the Parochial Parish Council for many years as he has been the Electoral Roll Officer since 1984. He has also been a Trustee of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church and he co-founded the Friends of the Music in 1986, seeing an opportunity to offer the church as a venue for other musical events, especially evening concerts.

Many of our parishioners will have seen Tim performing with the Trinity Players, and we are all looking forward to seeing him in the (greatly postponed) Murder In The Cathedral in July. This is the third time Tim has performed in this play!

But, with over fifty years of choral singing behind him, it must be the church choir that is closest to Tim's heart. He has worked with about eight different Directors of Music over the years and enjoys the variety within church music. Tim enjoys the village services, which he manages to attend from time to time, but says his favourite service is probably the 8.00 am Communion Service at Holy Trinity Church.

Tim is always keen to encourage young people to join the choir which, he feels, offers them the fun and camaraderie of singing combined with some responsibility – it is also one of the few activities in which every member of the group, whether eight or eighty years old, is treated exactly the same. An extra advantage to us is that being a chorister often brings younger people, and their families, into the church family.

I asked Tim if much had changed over the decades, and he felt the church was a very friendly place nowadays, thanks partly to the Welcome Teams, who have made big efforts to greet and recognise new faces in the congregation. Having experienced a number of changes in worship patterns over the years, Tim feels that it is important that everyone entering the church feels comfortable within it. Our congregation is very diverse with a multitude of talents, so there is plenty of room for people to find opportunities to use their many skills.

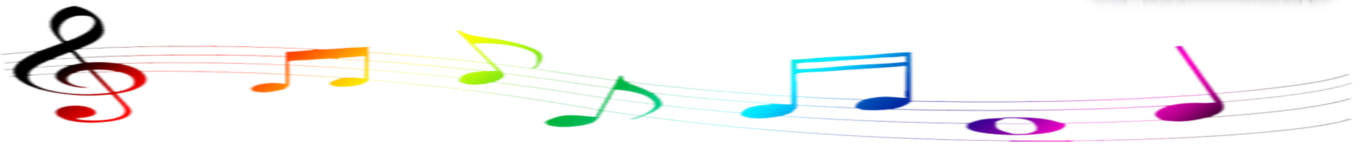
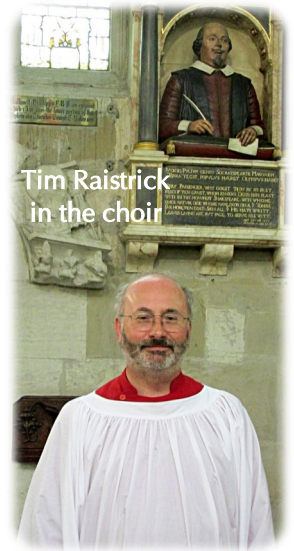
Cont...

WELCOME BACK TIM cont...

With his work at the NFUM, and his commitment to Holy Trinity Church, I wonder if Tim has time for any other hobbies. He tells me that he is involved in various choirs and drama companies in the area. In Stratford he chairs various charities, but still finds time for gardening and reading

My final question to Tim is "If we cast you away on a desert island, what are your three favourite hymns that you would take with you?" and his choice is:

- Angel voices ever singing
- Abide with me
- How shall I sing that Majesty?



On Thursday 10 June we welcomed pilgrims walking the St Sigfrid Way as they passed through Stratford. This is a new route named after the 11th century saint, which goes from York (his home city) to Växjö in southern Sweden (where he was bishop). The pilgrims attended Morning Prayer in Holy Trinity before being duly blessed and embarking on the next leg of their journey.



Tricia Hall-Matthews joined them for the day's walk. Further details of the pilgrimage can be found at www.stsigfridstrust.org



St Sigfrid - Bishop



THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Plant a tree for the Platinum Jubilee

Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by being part of the Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee Year in 2022.



The **Queen's Green Canopy** will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of the Queen's service and the legacy she has built.

This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

Whether you're joining neighbours or a community group or planting as a school or organisation, every tree makes a difference.

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the Jubilee Year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Go to:- www.woodlandtrust.org.uk and find the section on the Queen's Green Canopy.

We hope as a parish to join in with this and plant trees for each of the three churches. Would anybody like to make a donation?

Donations can be made via a BACS transfer to:-

CAF Bank

Sort Code 405240

Account Name Stratford upon Avon PCC

Account number 00015844

Reference GC(Name) -- eg GCWarrillow

That way I will know who the donor is and will claim Gift Aid (if appropriate). Mike Warrillow.

Alternatively cash or a cheque made payable to Stratford upon Avon PCC put into an envelope marked Green Canopy and put into the Parish Centre or collection plate.



TOGETHER AGAIN

by Phil Harper - Children and Families Minister



After months of being apart, we finally had the opportunity for our families to gather together again. Unfortunately, we did have to limit the number to thirty because of restrictions, but for those able to attend it was great to be able to see each other in person. Luckily we had wonderful sunny weather in the Vicarage garden, and children had the opportunity to play together and parents to catch up. We could also discuss the developments to the 10am Sunday morning service, and how the families will be involved.

The latest Bible Adventure Box Service produced by myself and Claire, from St James Alveston, will soon be available online. In June we explored the story of the Lost Sheep and Jesus' parables and this month we are continuing with parables. Our fun service has a story, songs, craft and we explore more about the story. We provide a box which has in it everything children need for the service, including everything for the craft. If you know of a child who'd like a box, just drop me an email phil@stratford-upon-avon.org. It's amazing the reach of these services. As well as families using them at home, they're also watched at Holy Trinity, our Church school. We're having a break in August, but will be back in September.



WHERE ARE WE GOING ON ECO CHURCH?

I have been asked to give an update on our response to the climate crisis and the challenge to care for Creation.

Apart from moving to renewable electricity supply (gas heating is a very different challenge) and some initiatives for environmental improvement of our churchyard, the PCC has not been able during the pandemic to do a great deal more. The big current initiative however is the Eco Chat forum with Stratford Churches Together. Tricia Hall-Matthews last month reported on the first meeting (on Zoom, of course, for the time being). This forum enables people from different churches with diverse interests to discuss their own responses to the crisis, and it is already proving most rewarding, involving some twenty-thirty people and always room for more.

Angela Wylam from St Helen's, Clifford Chambers reports below on the second meeting. I would only want to add a very few points. First, the opening video this time which she unfortunately missed was from our own young chorister Amelia Parkin, who many will know has recently won a Rotary Club prize for her work on food and the climate crisis. Those of you who missed that might like to catch up on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/O-dPPWj21Xo>. And, second, we were reminded just how complex this is; for example, Amelia told us about the greater carbon footprint of most meat as against plant-based foods, but another participant cited evidence that farm animals **fed naturally on grass**, rather than on grain or artificial foodstuffs, could actually help with the **capture** of carbon from the atmosphere. Everything depends on the context, and the more we can focus on locally grown and naturally reared foodstuffs, the more environmentally friendly we can be – so we should find out all we can about what we are buying!

Finally I would repeat Angela's notice about the next meeting on the evening of Monday 5 July. Sam Jupe, another of our (slightly older!) choristers and a member of our PCC, is very highly qualified professionally in the field of renewable energy and should be able to help us all, as individuals and as churches, to tackle this enormous issue. Those who would like to participate should contact Tricia Hall-Matthews (jotricia@btinternet.com) who will send them a Zoom link nearer the time.

And watch our e-bulletins too for more news of the proposed service at St Helen's which Angela mentions!

Anthony Woollard

STRATFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER ECO CHAT, 5 JUNE



Stratford Churches Together are represented at this series of Zoom discussions, of which this was the second. The session started with a video about what the churches are doing or can do in relation to climate change. Joining late, I didn't see either of the videos, but I have learnt that Stratford Methodist Church has shown, and has access to, such videos and I remember from last

month mention was made of a worldwide organisation called Green Christian and that a video called "All We Can" had been shown and appreciated. Today I was in the small discussion group that included Evelyn Ho from the Methodists who took note of the fact that we are linked with Kay and will make contact with her. If we could make one of the services in July an Eco Service, it could include one of these videos (we'd need to see some ourselves, to see which would be the most suitable). For readings and prayers I thought the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral had some environmentally orientated readings, psalm and prayers and I kept a copy from the paper.

Cont...

The topic for today was food. The small group I was in first of all talked about food waste; what causes this and what could be done about it. How much of it is the result of people not cooking from scratch or not knowing how to? To do so can require quite a high level of organisation and time, and many people haven't got these. There are some TV programmes that are quite helpful e.g. Jamie Oliver and Gregg Wallace. Our (all female) group mentioned with approval the fact that meal preparation is often now a shared activity with males taking as much of a hand as females. Do the supermarkets still contribute to food waste by offering Two for One? Not as much as they used to. People talked about their personal experience trying to eat more sustainably, as the video had mentioned trying to have a few days a week vegetarian or vegan. The shortage of allotments was mentioned with the alternative of people with too much garden making some available to people who wanted to grow their own, which had been tried but had tailed off (perhaps because of the pandemic). Someone in another group mentioned The Refill Shop in Red Lion Court where you can take your own container and buy cheaper, loose food such as grains, oils and pasta, thus saving on packages. Another suggestion was to get the Herald (which is already exercised on the topic of protecting wildlife with the correspondence on the "Fishermen's Car Park") to have a regular column on ways of helping the environment. It seems as though there is already an initiative in this, involving a monthly column from Stratford Climate Action, and Peter Horrocks, who was part of today's discussion, links with this.

I mentioned Wild About Clifford with an emphasis on encouraging pollinating insects as well as wildlife generally, which certainly has a bearing on food, if only indirectly. I also mentioned our efforts to enhance the wild flowers in St Helen's churchyard.

Next month's Eco Chat will be on Monday 5 July at 7.30pm when Sam Jupe who has knowledge and experience on the topic of renewable energy will be talking to us.

Angela Wylam



Email scam warning

Several members of Holy Trinity have received an email that at first sight appeared to come from me (Patrick). It asked them to spend a significant amount of money buying iTunes vouchers and to send back a picture of the code on the back. The emails actually came from a scammer pretending to be me, but they have been clever in targeting church people by saying I am at a church conference or in a prayer meeting. **I will never ask anyone to purchase vouchers for me** so if you receive something like this, ignore it immediately. **If you are ever asked to buy something for someone in an email then always ring the person you think is asking you to check if it's really them.**



MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL by T.S. Eliot

Trinity Players invite you to *Murder in the Cathedral*, a play which looks at the events which led up to the murder of the most famous of English Saints, Thomas Becket, whose veneration is entwined with the history of Holy Trinity church.

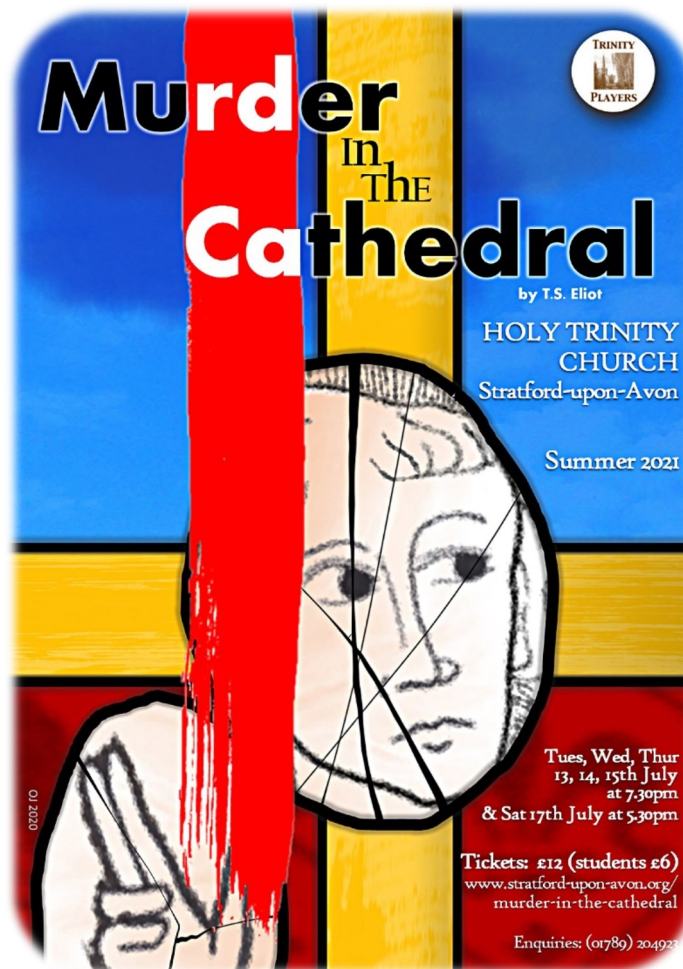
Performances were cancelled in November 2020, the 850th anniversary of Becket's death, but we have kept the Play very much alive and look forward to sharing it with you.

To keep our audience safely distanced, we will need to restrict numbers so all seats must be booked in advance.

Performances in Holy Trinity Church: 13, 14, 15 July at 7.30pm and Saturday 17 July at 5.30pm.

Tickets: £12, Students £6 available from www.stratford-upon-avon.org/murder-in-the-cathedral. Enquiries about tickets to 01789204923 or 07887642216.

Ursula Russell



MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL – A MATTER OF DEATH TO LIFE

David Ellis

The steadfast resilience of Trinity Players to present their production of *Murder in the Cathedral* despite much rescheduling prompts me to offer a humble contribution to the understanding and enjoyment of the play, drawn from my university degree dissertation of many years ago on 'The Poetic Drama of T.S. Eliot.'

Eliot's early poetry resonated with my student despondency in the 1950s on moving from the Yorkshire Dales to Manchester's 'yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window panes.' To walk the backstreets was for me to enter Eliot's 'waste land'. His imagery emphatically presents a picture of spiritual death. Most of the people he describes are 'dead' in their materialistic, meaningless habits. 'Hollow men', he calls them.

'Zombies', we might say. 'A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many, I had not thought death had undone so many.' Rather than seek spiritual rebirth these people are content in their comfortable half-life. April is the cruellest month because it brings the threat of resurrection. It disturbs.

Such then are the Women of Canterbury with whom *Murder in the Cathedral* opens. The prospect of the return of the Archbishop from France disturbs them. The threatened resumption of the spiritual life of the cathedral is worrying, but in the end they realise their myopia and fawn over him for forgiveness.



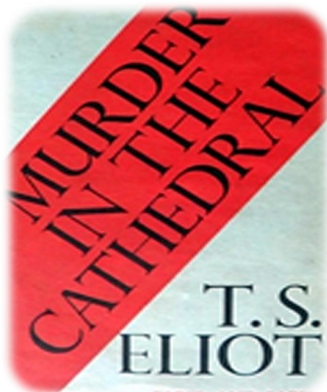
Although the satire of his early verse majors on spiritual death there is little to suggest a way out until Eliot turns to drama. He sees true reality (salvation) as lying outside the human condition. The way to realise it is by self-sacrifice. That is the theme of all his plays - most explicit in this one. Becket knows that by pitting himself against King Henry, the sacred against the secular, he faces martyrdom. His critical choice centres on motivation, which is the subject of the play's centrepiece - the Christmas Day sermon. 'The true martyr is he who has become the instrument of God, who has lost his will in the will of God, and who no longer desires anything for himself, not even the glory of being a martyr.' The four tempters in the play try to deflect him from this true motivation but Becket is set on avoiding 'doing the right thing for the wrong reason.' The four

assassins can only offer pharisaical self-justification in deliberate contrast to Becket's self-offering in martyrdom.

The experimental format may surprise. The extensive use of chorus as commentary on the action is modelled on Greek drama. But the Chorus of Women also represents the audience. They include us in their own spiritual death. There is no glass wall between the play and the audience. We are invited to share the blame. All but the sermon is in free verse with some occasional rhymes and alliteration,

sometimes imitative of liturgical responses. Of the Elizabethan dramatists Eliot most admired Ben Jonson. His characters, like Jonson's, are somewhat two-dimensional, akin to those who represent vices and virtues in the Morality Plays.

This is Eliot's first full-blown play. Three more, in modern settings, were to follow. It has a unity of time and place, set in the last days of Becket and designed to last an hour and a half. When first performed in Canterbury Cathedral in 1935 it met with little success, but before London secular audiences it ran for 800 consecutive performances. The author expressed the opinion that, even if it were not fully comprehended, drama should leave a spiritual satisfaction. I have every confidence that the performance by Trinity Players will be both meaningful and satisfying.





The second week of July will be momentous for Holy Trinity. On the Sunday, the Confirmation; during the week (subject to Covid restrictions) the performances at last of *Murder in the Cathedral*. There is a remarkable link between these two events. I hope it will not extend to Bishop John being slain by knights in front of the altar! But the link is real, and reminds us of the cost of commitment.

I and others have written or spoken a good deal about T S Eliot's play, during the time last year when an earlier production seemed feasible. I don't want to repeat all that. But readers may recall that Thomas Becket is a slightly ambiguous figure. How far was his mission in life - the mission that led to his death - simply about maintaining and restoring Church privileges which we might now see as unfair? We have learnt, and a recent book *The Humble Church* by Martyn Percy has reminded us, that seeking privilege for the Church does not commend the Gospel or reflect the One who never sought privilege for himself or his followers. But even if Becket's mission was rather nobler, was he, as some speakers in the play suggest, mainly out for his own glorification as a martyr? For some of us, at a far lower level, the role of the martyr can sometimes be attractive, and again it may not commend the Gospel. I am reminded of that saying of C S Lewis: "She is the sort of woman who lives for others; you can tell the others by their hunted look".

But if we lay such cynicism aside, the message of Becket's martyrdom is not comfortable for those committing themselves afresh to Christ in Confirmation. Another modern writer with much to say on this is the great German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who famously said: "When Christ calls someone, he bids them come and die". And he himself died for his faith at the hands of the Nazis; but his last words were "This is the end - but for me the beginning of life".

That is the faith which those being confirmed will take on for themselves, in their own words and in their own way. I have been looking recently at some old editions of this magazine, and was reminded how many who have made that commitment in recent years seem to have drifted away. Yet we cannot ultimately tell where that commitment to death and to new life will lead us. I recently heard a moving testimony from a priest who, on retirement, felt that he was being led right out of the Church and any explicit Christian faith. It is not for us to judge. But it most certainly **is** for us to ensure that the challenge and the renewal remains on offer to them within our church life.

We know that some of our newer and younger members are already rising to the challenge in a number of ways. For some, it will mean hard work as volunteers to maintain the Church's own life. For some, it means taking on challenges in wider society, notably the struggle against climate change. God forbid that it will mean literal martyrdom for any of them; but, as people struggle in Christ's name against all the sicknesses of our world, martyrdom is a possibility that nobody can rule out.

Whatever we think of Becket - the best or the worst, or (as it is in most of us) a mixture of both - we pray that our newly confirmed may follow his example.



Murder of Thomas Becket



GAGA UPDATE

KYGN in Tanzania needs to restock the tilapia ponds after all the fish swam away during the recent flooding. This provides a vital income to support the school. If people would like to contribute to the campaign then text GAGAFISH to 70450 to give £5. (Texts cost £5 plus the standard message rate).



The local business networking group were asked to consider signing up for £5 a month to sponsor a class at KYGN - just twenty-five people giving £5 a month for a year can ensure that a class has school-books, materials, a daily lunch and pays for a teacher's salary.

I am delighted to say that we are only seven contributors short of our target and additionally are in discussion with a new corporate sponsor ... to be announced shortly!

Please don't forget that 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](#) 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 won't make a difference!

The Remembering Tree Project

After a longer than usual period we removed the final tree panels in Stratford-upon-Avon in April!

Thanks to all the contributors who patiently awaited the delivery of their baubles and/or stars and also to the many people who have found out about the work of GAGA UK and signed up as new subscribers to our newsletter because of the project. We are delighted that the project once again reached the target figure as this is an important element of our annual fundraising activity, allowing us to continue to support the healthcare and education projects in South Africa.



We have also been delighted to receive more knitted and crochet squares, lots of beanie hats and some gorgeous handmade dolls and knitted toys from our prolific crafters! Thank you all for your talented and lovingly made donations.



Cont...



With regret, the Board accepted the resignation of Trustee Ann Smith. As one of the founding members of GAGA UK (camera shy) Ann has been a driving force behind the success of the charity and has a wealth of knowledge and experience which she has drawn on to guide the decision making of the Board. Luckily, Ann will remain involved and continue as an Ambassador for GAGA as she continues her busy life in the Warwickshire community. I personally owe Ann an enormous debt of gratitude for her support and guidance since I commenced my role with GAGA UK and many of you, our supporters, will also know how much GAGA UK owes to Ann and her energy and commitment.

We are keeping in close contact with the GAGA projects even though monitoring visits are still off the cards for some months to come.

Communication

Just a reminder that we've moved out of our offices, so if you like to get in touch by post, please use this address: PO BOX 6751, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 1UQ

Please don't forget you can change your communication preferences at any time, either by emailing us on info@gaga-uk.org, going on to the website <https://www.gaga-uk.org> or clicking the link at the foot of any email you receive from us. 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.

Stay safe and thank you for all your support!

Claire Whatley

IS THIS ENGLAND'S SMALLEST PARISH CHURCH?

In Wasdale in the Lake District recently, I came across this charming church, named St Olaf's Church, after the King and Patron Saint of Norway. Legend has it that King Olaf spent time in this area in the 11th century, helping to build defences against Saxon invasions. Records show that actually there has been a church on the site since around 950, when Norse farmers settled here from Ireland, bringing Christianity with them.



Regular services are still held here today and the parishioners of St. Olaf's Church in Wasdale, which sits on the edge of the beautiful lake Wastwater, are no doubt proud of their little church with its stone flooring and simple oak beams supporting the vaulted roof.

Do you have a favourite abbey, chapel or cathedral? Or maybe you have visited an unusual church recently? If so, do send us a photograph and a short description and we will try to include it in the magazine. Simply email your photo to timestrinity@gmail.com



Judith Dorricott

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Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

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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 John Hall-Matthews	01789 414 182
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

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

Church Wardens

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Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	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
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IN REHEARSAL FOR *MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL*

The knights and the priests

