

November 2021

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TRINITY TIMES



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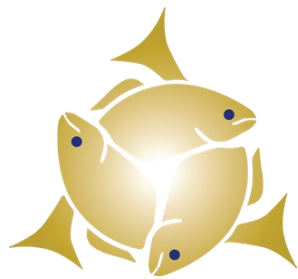


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A lot is happening in this issue of the magazine. There is Harvest with beautiful floral decorations from the three churches. COP 26 with an article from one of our more youthful members. Lori's *Gratitude Project*. News from the Stratford Street Pastors. An article on our new ordinand. And not forgetting the Clifford Chambers Walk.

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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 **December/January 2021** edition

The copy date is 15 November

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

Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

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#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia



Front cover :- 'We will remember them'

Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor
Vicar



Revd. Steve Jarvis
Associate Vicar



Revd. Kay Dyer
Associate Priest



Phil Harper
Children & Families Minister

The power of faith
in a conflicted world

difference.

Embracing Difference

I'm always impressed with the rich and varied content of Trinity Times and this month is no exception. In addition to our regular contributors, Amelia Parkin shares her genuine fears as a young Christian about the future of our planet in the face of climate change, and writes about the significance of the COP26 summit this month. From a different perspective, Lori Shanebeck looks back on some significant experiences in her Christian journey and reflects on the importance of gratitude. Both encourage us to appreciate the small and wonderful things that are part of God's creation and enrich our lives.

In his book *Turned by Divine Love*, Bishop John Stroyan asks us how alert we are at any given moment to what is going on around us or within us. There is an emphasis in the Christian faith on living in the present moment which means, in the words of the poet RS Thomas, 'not hurrying on to a receding future nor hankering after an imagined past.' The Psalms encourage us to *be still and know that I am God*. Yet, if my experience is anything to go by, this period of things opening up again after the restrictions of the pandemic has meant for many people a return to busyness and activity with an even greater sense of pressure than before.

Pausing for a moment is not only good for our physical and mental health, it enables us to readjust our perspective. To pray is to see the world for a moment a little closer to how God sees it, and sees us whom he loves completely. Without these times to ponder our lives become focused on our own needs and experience, and our horizons begin to shrink.

What also helps to keep our perspective is being part of a community of faith - the Church - where we are regularly stretched and challenged by the different views and ideas of others. When Emma Crick de Boom, who is Reconciliation Enabler of the Diocese of Coventry, preached at Holy Trinity last month she spoke of three important habits that enable us better to understand and engage with people who have different views or backgrounds from us. They are:

Be Curious: listen to others' stories and see how the world looks through their eyes

Be Present: encounter others with authenticity and confidence

Reimagine: find hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

These habits form the basis of the Difference Course, and we are hoping to run this in the parish soon. I hope this will give us some tools to navigate the conflict that is always present in some way in any human society or community because of the different views and experience people have. Rather than seeing such conflict as failure or something to be avoided, it can be embraced and become a source of change for good. This is, after all, the path of reconciliation that lies at the heart of our faith: the conflict of the cross is transformed into the new life of resurrection.

So I hope that, even if like me you are being swept up in the busyness of the present times, you can take a few moments to enjoy this edition of Trinity Times. May our horizons be broadened by the diverse and wide ranging experiences of the people who are part of this parish.

Patrick



SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Holy Trinity Church

7 November - Third before Advent

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Eco Church - COP 26*
5pm - Choral Evensong

14 November - Remembrance

10am - All Age Remembrance Sunday Service (without Communion.
Lasts about forty Minutes)
10.55am - Act of Remembrance in the Garden of Remembrance,
led by Vicar and Choir
5pm - Holy Communion

21 November - Christ the King

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Christ the King*
5pm - Holy Communion (BCP)

28 November - Advent Sunday

10am - Parish Eucharist - *Signs of Hope - Part 1*
5pm - Advent Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince
pies

St Helen's, Clifford Chambers

7 November - Third before Advent

9.30am - Holy Communion

14 November - Remembrance

10.45am - Remembrance Service starting at War Memorial

21 November - Christ the King

9.30am - Christ the King



All Saints', Luddington

14 November - Remembrance

9.30am - Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday

28 November - Advent Sunday

9.30am - Holy Communion



WORSHIP NOTES November



Remembrance Sunday, 14 November

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

At 5pm there is the usual service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity.

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

21 November is the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the church year.

Advent begins early this year, on 28 November. The Advent Carol Service at 5pm is followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Not to be missed!

Reviewing services at Holy Trinity

Following the unprecedented upheaval of the various lockdowns, we are now enjoying more regular services again. However, the shape of our worship at 10am and 5pm has seen significant changes since before Covid and so the PCC feel that this is a good time to take stock and review where we are.

10am Service

The vision behind this new service is for everyone to be able to worship together, whatever their age or preferred style of service. So rather than two separate services, as before, we have attempted to combine different aspects of the Parish Eucharist as it was with the TrinityCentre@10 service. A Review Team comprising Jane Armitage, Richard Fletcher, Gillian Price, Helen Warrillow and Anthony Woollard has been appointed to collate and feedback comments. This will be an ongoing process for the next few months. Comment forms are available at the back of church and online via the parish website. They can also be given in person to any member of the Review Team. Any comments given directly to a Team member will be treated in confidence and all comments will be anonymous if reproduced. The aim is to form an overall assessment of the appeal and content of this time of worship from all sections of our congregation and beyond.

5pm Service

A review form will be available soon asking for comments on the start time and pattern across the month of the different services currently taking place.

Thank you in advance for your help with these reviews.



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3pm with a cream tea
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PCC report: Tuesday 28 Sept 2021



Children and Families Ministry was the key agenda item at the latest PCC meeting. Children and Families Minister Phil Harper explained how his duties had changed as a result of COVID, to meet the new priorities and needs of Holy Trinity. "Before the pandemic we had two regular children and family services, two toddler groups, strong links with the town's primary schools and a termly Eucharist at our church school, amongst other things. But other work became important, such as recording and editing services so we could continue to reach the congregation who were at home, maintain office support and develop social media content, as well as keep the church building open once it was allowed.

But I do have a renewed vision for the future of this work, developing the intergenerational aspects beyond the Sunday services, deepening our relationships with each other and valuing one another. I'm in the process of rejuvenating the children's corner, and I plan to continue with the Bible Adventure Box service and re-start the toddler groups. I also plan to look at new activities, such as a Café style service, with Bible study that encourages generations to learn from each other. However we also need more volunteers to come forward if all this work is to become a reality."

Proposal for a new name for the 10.00am Service

There was discussion about what the new 10am service should be called to reflect the new approach taken. In the end it was decided to name it the 'Parish Eucharist' until a full review takes place in February 2022.

Reverend Patrick Taylor said, "The review will include key questions like what are we trying to achieve with this service and what are the objectives and measures. We will need to agree a process for gathering feedback from all members of the congregation – those who have returned and attended and those who haven't, as well as across all ages."

News In Brief

The Parish Strategy Advisory Group will assess how to take forward the ideas for the 5-year plan which were gathered at the PCC Away Day.

PCC ratified Standing Committee's decision to replace the halogen spire lighting with LED's. The work will pay back in less than a year, creating environmental and cost savings.

PCC approved work to fit guards on the North Transept windows while scaffolding is in place.

PCC approved a proposal to gather two supplier quotes for permanent cabling for the AV system in the main Church building.

PCC approved in principle, the idea to 'rewild' parts of the churchyard.

George Reah was elected as a PCC representative on Standing Committee.

The next PCC will be on 23 November.

Harvest Bring and Share Lunch Sunday 10 October

A joyous gathering took place after the lovely harvest festival service in Holy Trinity lead by Patrick. On entering the Parish Hall the sounds of a folk style band comprising David Southead singing and Pete on drums together with Nigel playing guitar, was a pleasant surprise. Tables and chairs beautifully decorated with Autumn fruits and flowers was a lovely touch. A great choice of food supplied by parishioners was on offer, carefully selected with diet in mind. During the lunch we had the pleasure of Heather Cottrell playing several pieces on piano including the hauntingly beautiful "Clair de Lune" by Debussy and "Romance Sans Paroles" by Faure. June Childs also sang a couple of pieces to the hushed gathering. A big thank you to Chris Cottrell and team for all their hard work in organising the event.

Jean Loquens



Trinity Times Subscriptions and Distribution in 2022

During the last eighteen months, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, the majority of our readers have been receiving their copy of Trinity Times electronically. Only a small number of copies have been printed in-house for those people who are unable to access the online version.

I am pleased to announce that from February 2022 (the first issue of the year) we will once again be offering readers the option of a printed copy. The

cost of a subscription for the year will be £10 for 10 issues. A small number of individual copies will be made available for purchase in the Church Shop at £1.50. each. Full details of how to subscribe will be included in the December issue of Trinity Times. Electronic copies will continue to be available, via the Newsletter and Church website, free of charge.

Pre-pandemic, individual copies were labelled with the subscriber's name and left for collection at the back of church, which was time consuming and usually resulted in a number of magazines being uncollected at the end of the month. In light of this, and our experiences over the last eighteen months, we are planning to trial a different approach to the way in which we distribute the magazine next year. As far as possible, magazines will be delivered to people's houses rather than being left for collection at the back of church. However, to do this effectively, we require a number of volunteers who would be happy to deliver a small number of magazines i.e. no more than ten, in their local area. A good way to get some exercise or something to do whilst walking the dog! If you would be interested in helping with this valuable service (absolutely no obligation at this stage) or would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact me (email: paullageu@hotmail.co.uk; Tel. 01789 298302).

Paul Lageu

TT Editorial Team



These Wondrous Things

By Amelia Parkin

'I want to stand up for wildlife, shout loudly about the wondrous things I've seen and learnt, all the magic that we can see if only we stop and look'. This is a quote from Dara McAnulty, whose book *Diary of a Young Naturalist* recently won the Wainwright Prize for nature writing. I read it earlier this year and it is what inspired me to appreciate and enjoy every bit of nature. With this comes a sense of responsibility – as soon as you start to notice and respect the world around you, you realise that something needs to be done to help it. I want, as Dara McAnulty says, to stand up for wildlife and tell everyone about the magic of the natural world.

Having won a Rotary Club prize earlier this year for my essay about the impact of the food industry on the environment, I was asked to write a section in Trinity Times about my hopes and fears for the environment, as a young Christian. It's hard to know where to start when it comes to an article like this – there is so much to fear, bad news everywhere, the world is changing so quickly and it seems like there is nothing we can do – but there is also hope.

These Wondrous Things cont...

November may be a perfect month to talk about this hope – even though leaves are falling all around us, there are also signs of new life – conkers falling to provide new trees, berries everywhere for the birds to eat and we know that in a few months' time everything will begin again. In spring, new shoots will appear, the birds will sing and the flowers bloom. We can learn from nature that there will always be times of despair and despondency but it's always possible to build back. No matter what we do, nature will grow back.

However, we can't use this to excuse the harm we're doing to the world. I do have hope and I know that we will pull through but I am also extremely worried about what's going to happen over the next few months, years and decades. It's scary to think that I will probably live into the 22nd century. Just think how different the world will be then – it's changed so much in the fifteen years I have already been alive and environmental change will continue to accelerate over the remainder of the century, especially if we don't address the harm we're causing today. In David's Attenborough's recent book and TV show, *A Life on Our Planet*, he predicts that by 2100, the world will be 4°C warmer, we may have lost all food security and the stability of the last ten thousand years will be lost completely. All in my lifetime.

And this is why I want to do something. My biggest fear, and even cause of anger, is the fact that there is so much evidence saying that this is going to happen, and so much research into what we can do to halt this change, but people are ignoring the warnings. This year's COP26 must be a turning point. I think I will be a lot more scared if not very much is decided at this conference. If we continue in the mind set of, 'if you can't put a money value on it then it's not worth anything', I'm scared that we won't treat this with the urgency it needs. I'm scared that we will continue as we were before the pandemic, commuting long distances to work and flying across the world, buying take-out coffees and packaged sandwiches, not appreciating the natural world, not stopping and reflecting on what the last year has taught us about what is possible. I'm scared that people will think that their contribution isn't enough, that there's no point in doing anything. I think the other worry I have is the fact that people are losing trust in the government and science (in some cases it is understandable).

If you step back, you realise that the government is starting to take action. My dad is working on a Carbon Capture and Storage project, and works a lot with the government, trying to raise funding and awareness. He says that, even in the last five years, the government's willingness to put money into projects like his has increased massively. The government is trying to improve, and at COP26 this year we will see how many changes they are actually making.

As I have said before, I do have hope for humanity. I know that we can, and will, tackle climate change. I saw a statistic the other day that over 30% of people in Britain are now drinking plant-based milks, which means that people are starting to think about and research habits they can adjust. And the more people that do this, the more that other people will follow their lead. I'm now fully vegan and I can see that the people around me are following in my footsteps. One of my friends came up to me the other day and told me very proudly how she had had a vegan breakfast. I'm trying to buy my clothes either second hand or more ethically, and another friend asked me to tell her about some ethical clothes companies. This is my hope – that people are realising that the biggest changes come at an individual level. Over the last eighteen months, many people I know have come to better appreciate the natural world. As we have been trapped in the small area around us, people have gone out walking, or running, or cycling more. As soon as you step out into nature, you can't help but notice the magic of it, and as soon as you do, you have to start taking action. Hopefully, even as we go back to normal, people will remember this magic and start to make positive changes.

And so to return to full circle. If we do truly appreciate these wondrous things that God has created for us, then we need to preserve them. And this means actions not just at a governmental and societal level, but individually as well – it will all help, and it has never been easier to make the right individual choices.

Sermon from Choral Evensong, 3 October, by Becky Clark



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

In the two readings today we hear about the Church and people of God as if they were a building: a temple, a place where “the latter glory shall be greater than the former”. The reading from 1 Peter takes words from Old Testament scripture (Psalm 118) to relate Jesus’ redemption of the world to the promise of fulfilment given over 500 years before. Finally, after so long, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the people of God have been called out of darkness, into his wonderful light, by Christ’s sacrifice.

All masonry buildings need a cornerstone. The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of any masonry foundation. All other stones are set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. If the cornerstone is wrong, the building will likely fall – as Peter talks of people stumbling and falling if they disobey God’s message. This basic building technique is still used today, especially in the care and restoration of historic buildings.

The Church of England has 16,000 church buildings. 12,500 of these are listed – 45% of all England’s grade I listed buildings are C of E churches, including this one. Holy Trinity Stratford also forms part of a particularly special group of buildings: the ‘major churches’, just 300 particularly significant and complex churches who provide ministry and visitor experience more akin to the 42 Anglican cathedrals. This is not to do down typical parish ministry, but rather to recognise the additional ministry of these churches. Holy Trinity is internationally important, and not just because of who is buried here. The building is a place of many layers, all atop one another, cared for, developed and loved across many centuries. If it were a manor house, or a castle, it would still be important, but it would also most likely not be in use for its original purpose.

Today I want to talk about how church buildings offer us a unique insight into the past, as well as a key opportunity to serve the people who make up the church’s communities today. My role within the Church of England is to support parishes and cathedrals to care for their buildings so that they may serve the mission of that church. This includes understanding and protecting the heritage, but also examining the new ways buildings can serve. A recent report from the National Churches Trust concluded that the ‘added value’ of churches to their communities across the UK totalled a staggering £12.4bn when an economic value was assigned to things such as improving wellbeing, providing family support services, and giving people a sense of pride in their local areas. Although crude economic valuations are not the way we might choose to demonstrate the value and importance of churches, it is interesting to reflect that further recent research from the University of York shows the more personal ways people missed churches when the buildings had to close in the first lockdown. These quotes are both from people who are not regular church attenders:

‘I need the church as a physical space to focus on processing grief and feelings from COVID.’

‘Quiet reflection and comfort at a time of crisis was the most important reason for me to use church buildings - but they were locked.’

We all pray that there is no further need for the sort of extreme lockdown we lived through last year, and we take from this research and our own experiences the importance of offering open doors, a warm welcome. But speaking to you all today, I know that many of you are well aware of the huge challenges facing congregations and Friends groups in doing just that.

Sermon from Choral Evensong 3 October cont...

Sometimes ensuring that, as Haggai, says, the latter glory of this house will be greater than the former involves tough choices. Those of you here who serve on the PCC, or have been part of a buildings project, may well have heard of the Church Buildings Council, and certainly of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. These groups, it is fair to say, are not universally loved, but they too have a heart for mission. They seek to reconcile the civil heritage protection laws with the contemporary roles a church building might perform. They help us maintain something called the Ecclesiastical Exemption, which means the C of E does not need to apply for listed building consent for its churches when making changes. We need this exemption precisely because an historic church is not like a castle, or a manor house: it is a place that needs the ability to change and adapt, it cannot be pinned down to any one period or configuration. Our own system, the Faculty Jurisdiction, seeks to hold that balance. The spiritual house of God needs a physical house that can provide it with a place of nurture, of gathering in and sending out, a warm and welcoming home.

The work that is done here through the Friends, and by the volunteers who welcome visitors, helps to provide that home. The simplicity and ambition of the statement on the Church website says it all: "The Friends exist to ensure that the Church is preserved for future generations of worshippers and visitors and provide an opportunity for people worldwide to join us as custodians of our shared heritage." I give thanks for that particular part of the chosen people of God, even if you may not consider yourselves a royal priesthood. Your efforts are helping this earthly temple to continue to show God's light, and to do so to people from all over the world.

To return to our cornerstone, why might the builders have rejected it? It could be faulty – cracked, perhaps – but more likely is that it was simply not the right shape for the building they needed at that time and they looked for a stone that fitted their needs more exactly. Yet 1 Peter tells us that the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, the place from which all else is measured. We can learn from this in how we think about our churches. No two churches are identical, either in building or in community. Like masons through the millennia, those of us concerned with growing our church must cut each stone to fit the place it is needed. Each church community must build itself around where it is, using a cornerstone right for that place. We do ourselves and each other down when we assume that God's temple is a single dwelling that must look the same in each location – in fact 'in my father's house are many rooms' and the mission of God is glorious in its variety. Holy Trinity Stratford is a place with a particular calling and a platform from which to proclaim the Good News. I give thanks again for that. But despite many rooms, many buildings, many stones, we return to the single setting out point: that one unchanging, concrete foundation of our faith – the gift of salvation and eternal life given freely through Jesus' death and resurrection. We stand on solid ground.

Throughout the Bible the people of God are repeatedly commanded to come together: to worship, yes, but also to fast, to pray, sometimes to flee, very often simply to witness. Sometimes the gathered crowd do not realise what they are seeing. Think of Jesus' baptism, when an unsuspecting group experience what must surely have been one of the most incredible things ever seen on earth: the Spirit of God descending like a dove, a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." The Christian life cannot be lived alone. Our faith is a collective experience as well as a personal relationship with God.

If we are to talk of extraordinary shared experiences we must surely think of those first audiences of Shakespeare's plays, of his particular genius and what it has given to this place. That legacy of experience could easily be something seen as 'enough', requiring nothing more to be done to give people a reason to come and visit. Yet as Shakespeare says in Henry VIII "Talking isn't doing. It is a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are not deeds." The Bible may well have been Shakespeare's source for this: James 2 v.26 tells us "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Cont...

Sermon from Choral Evensong 3 October cont...

The Friends of Holy Trinity are concerned with deeds, with providing that opportunity for people worldwide. Through your openness, your willingness to take risks and try new things, your ability to absorb and accept different groups, different activities, Holy Trinity show us what this Christian fellowship can be. You do not stand aloof and separate from the world, but manifest your role as sacred space by providing that low threshold people from across the world can easily cross to find a way closer to God. History is brought to bear here in the most exciting of ways, and it all stands on the cornerstone of Christ's love for the whole world, and all of time.

As we pray today, giving thanks for the whole life of our Church, and for God's work in all of our lives, let us remember in particular that we are told to love one another as ourselves. This is a whole life commandment, and it needs to appear in deeds as well as thoughts. You are custodians of something extraordinary, and through your work to preserve and share it you give a glimpse of something more extraordinary still. I pray you will rejoice in what happens here, be encouraged in your ministry of openness, and to know that as you care for this church, you are standing on solid stone, a loved and valued part of the whole people of God.

To finish, let us return to the promise of today's reading from the book of the prophet Haggai. "The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place, I will give peace."

Therefore go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.



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SOUNDBITES

For November and December

03 Nov. Clive Letchford and Peter Robinson
(Voice and Piano)



10 Nov. Alice Martin (Soprano)

17 Nov. Eloise Yates and Alastair Moseley
(Trumpet and Piano)



24 Nov. KES Young Musicians

01 Dec. Fosseyway Café Orchestra

FROM THE REGISTERS - OCTOBER

CHRISTENINGS

10 October Alexander Kocsis
24 October Geoffrey Day
31 October Harry Evans

WEDDINGS

1 October Simon Kemp and Emily Finlyson
2 October Kevin Taylor and Pauline Grant
16 October David Woodroffe and Yasmin Jakobi-Berenfanger
16 October Jonathan Sayers and Sian Evans

FUNERALS

29 September Anne Elizabeth Layton
6 October Gloria Mole
13 October Kathleen Margaret Messent
20 October Valerie Margaret Brandon
26 October Derek Robert Lawrence



Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3. 5:6

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ALL CHANGE FOR MATTHEW

Our new ordinand, Matthew Arnold, who will be with us for the next six months, has had some important changes in his life recently. Firstly he and his wife Lynn have had their first baby, a little boy called Clement, only a few weeks ago, and secondly, Matthew has given up his career at Jaguar Land Rover to become a clergyman. I had the pleasure of meeting Matthew over coffee in Stratford and he told me about his new life.



Matthew was born in Hertfordshire, and even by the age of ten, he felt a calling towards God and has been exploring his faith since then. Once he had finished school, Matthew took up an apprenticeship at Land Rover, moving upwards within the company, eventually training service engineers and, more recently, working in the area of engineering for service within vehicle development. During his seventeen years at Jaguar Land Rover, he was lucky enough to travel to China, the Middle East and Central America on behalf of the company. At the same time, he and some friends set up a Christian prayer group at Jaguar Land Rover as he feels strongly that each of us is the same Christian person at home and at work, and Christianity should be a normal part of life. Matthew also managed to complete a part-time Certificate in Theological Studies while working at Jaguar Land Rover.

Matthew's wife Lynn is a graduate in music from Cambridge University and a concert pianist, and - with some difficulty - they have managed to squeeze her grand piano into their little cottage in Butlers Marston. Matthew and Lynn have become very involved with their local church, with Matthew, as a church warden, thoroughly enjoying parish life.

But the idea of exploring his faith further never left him and the words of Jeremiah (29.11) "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord" became ever more important, so Matthew put himself forward for the Discernment Process, a process in which a Bishop's Advisory Panel assesses nine different criteria relative to the candidate to ensure the call the priesthood is authentic. Happily Matthew was recommended to proceed and he has been in full-time training at Wycliffe College since October. This academic work is enhanced by several placements and Matthew will stay in our parish until next Easter, during which time he will have experience of worship, preaching, links with the school, pastoral care, music and governance. His two years as an ordinand will be followed by three years as a curate.

Finally, I asked Matthew which were his favourite passages from the bible, and he told me that he has always remembered the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10, 25-37) as well as the miracle of the cleansing of the ten lepers (Luke 17, 11-19). Their message of God's grace, to be part of extending His love universally in the world, and the encouragement to respond to our inner call of faith, giving thanks along the way, Matthew finds both important and exciting.

Matthew told me that he was very interested in parish life, and it is easy to imagine that with his warmth towards everyone and his genuine friendliness, he will flourish in this role in any community.

Judith Dorricott





What a month November is. All Saints, All Souls, and Remembrance (with Guy Fawkes in between). So much looking backwards, in thanksgiving for those who have gone before us, in sorrow for those we have lost. Yet also looking forward to Advent, the season of hope. And, this year, COP26, the international conference on climate change. Will that bring sorrow for a lost world, or hope for a world renewed?

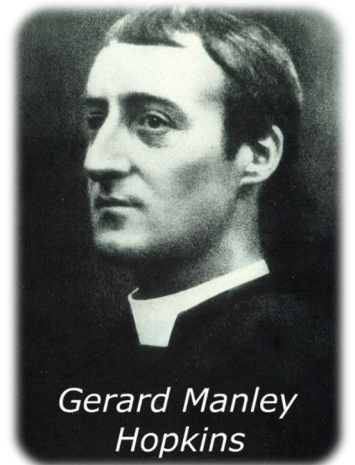
Our readings for Bible Sunday at the end of October remind us that Scripture is always about hope. But that is sometimes hard to see in our world today. It may be preachers and poets who can address our hopes and fears more directly in the midst of the hard reality of everyday.



I have recently been reading a book with the curious title *Reading the Bible with your Feet*. It is a series of sermons over the past few years, up to and including lockdown, by Lucy Winkett, the Rector of St James' Church, Piccadilly in London. That was my own church for many years, and I know that Lucy is fully involved in the cross-currents of despair and hope which flow through such a centrally placed church. Her title refers to the need to put Scripture into action – to let it affect the way we walk through life – as well as responding with our heads and our hearts. Some of what she says may be quite strong meat; but it

is all provocative, and intensely relevant to those realities of the world today which we in leafy Stratford may prefer not to think about – but also the realities of every single life, of which we are all too aware.

Perhaps a better known priest is the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. He lived just over 100 years ago, but was never seduced by that age's illusions of progress, partly because he was himself a depressive. All of his poetry is a cry of hope in the midst of despair – most powerfully in his epic *The Wreck of the Deutschland*, but equally in many lighter and often delightful verses. He can speak to us today, even though the world has changed so much since his time. And he was particularly aware of the damage that we humans have done to the natural environment, so maybe he is a poet to accompany our prayers in response to whatever comes out of the COP26 conference.



Hopkins stands in the tradition of much older Christian poets such as John Donne and George Herbert, who may not speak quite so immediately to modern preoccupations but address the underlying issues of despair and hope that affect us all. They (along with Shakespeare of course!) are part of our heritage – English, Anglican, and human. Their poetry is prayer, and some of us make it our own prayer.

What with pandemics and climate change, let alone the other ills which beset humanity – and how much bad news we have read recently from all over the world! - it is easy to lose hope. Good reading, of the sort I have mentioned, can help us, and that is one reason why the Novel Theology book group is a small but valuable part of our church's life. Even books that look like sheer escapism (which we need) can sometimes lead us to deeper places of healing and hence of hope.

T S Eliot thought that April is the cruellest month. I think I would vote for November, with its shortening days, its often foul weather, and its memories. But Advent is just around the corner.

My Gratitude Project

By Lori Shanebeck

Who does not thank for little will not thank for much - Estonian Proverb

Ever since I was a little girl, Autumn has been my favorite season. I love the colors of the changing leaves, the crispness in the air, the smell of wood smoke as fires are lit, Pumpkin Spice Lattes, and Thanksgiving, which is the best part of November. It is my favorite holiday because it does not require me to decorate or buy presents, only to cook a delicious meal for people I love and to give thanks. Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November every year in a marathon of eating, shopping and watching football (the American kind). We briefly talk about the first one in 1621, but I would wager that many don't even know that it was President Abraham Lincoln who declared that the nation should pause and give "thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens" in 1863, in the midst of a devastating civil war when there was very little to be thankful about. Nevertheless he felt that as a nation, it was important to pause and do just that. So did the pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation in 1621, who had lost half their number in the first year and were quite simply thankful to be alive.

I tell these two stories not to give you a history lesson on an American holiday you probably will never celebrate, but to illustrate how even in what seems the worst of times, it is important to be thankful. The month of November and the Thanksgiving holiday remind me to be thankful,... but the challenge for me is to practice the discipline of gratitude more than for a few days out of the year, something I find hard to do, especially after the last few years. Between the pandemic, politics, culture wars, climate change and rising prices, I often find it much easier to complain to God rather than be thankful.

Perhaps that is why I love this Estonian proverb. It reminds me that gratitude often starts with the little things. As I read it and contemplated what it means to be thankful, I started by asking myself a few questions. When was the last time I woke up in the morning and simply thanked God that I was breathing? I couldn't remember. Nor could I remember the last time I thanked him for clean water when I turned on the tap, or food when I opened the refrigerator or the ability to see that beautiful sunset.... Well you get the picture.



I'll tell you what I have done though. I have moaned about the weather, stood in front of the refrigerator and complained because nothing I saw interested me, grumbled about the aches and pains of getting old and inwardly groused about putting on a mask. And those beautiful sunsets? Well I am often too distracted by life to notice them most days. As I grow older I am supposed to grow wiser – that's what all the books say. But I have noticed an alarming trend in myself; I am often in the running to become a champion whiner who on some days can even surpass my children, and that's saying something.

A couple of weeks ago I was walking along the river Avon and thinking about what it means to be grateful. I had just finished submitting a dissertation that had been very challenging to write, and I needed to be outside. It was time to celebrate my accomplishment, and as I enjoyed the beautiful sun and the beauty all around me, I was thanking God for walking with me through a challenging program and project. I find it interesting that as I was taking the moment to make it all about me, God, as He often does, decided to use our time together to remind me of something that had happened several years ago, an important lesson my oldest son taught me.

Cont ...

My Gratitude Project cont...

In the summers of 2001 and 2002, my husband and I led teams from our church in Southern California on humanitarian mission trips to Bosnia, and these included our three children (then ages 16, 13, and 10). For two weeks we lived in an orphanage in the city of Zenica (about 70 km from Sarajevo). Half of each day was spent with the orphans, but the mornings consisted of teams of four fanning out across the city delivering food and hygiene products to the poorest of the poor. Every day the teams gathered for lunch to debrief our experiences and catch our breath before the afternoon activities with the orphans.

On the fourth day, the team with our oldest son in it was late getting back. Just as I was starting to worry, he walked in, sat down next to me and sighed. I asked the typical mother question, "What's wrong?" and got the mumbled reply, "Nothing." My oldest son is a true extrovert and *a/ways* has something to say, but on that day he was quiet. I surreptitiously watched as he tried to eat his lunch but ended up pushing it away. Since he was rarely one to turn down a meal unless he was sick, I began to grow concerned. I asked again, "What is wrong? And don't tell me nothing because I can see that you are not ok. Do you feel all right?"

My sixteen year old son, who had elevated complaining about what he did not have into an art form, looked up at me, sighed and said, "Mom I'm fine. I just realized something today as we were going from house to house. I have way too much, and I am not nearly grateful enough for it." From the mouths of babes – or a teenager - came a truly profound understanding. What he taught me that day was that it is all about perspective, something that I need to remember when all I want to do is complain about the glass being half empty, when I should be thanking God that it is half full. So easy to say but so hard for me to do. That's where that old Estonian proverb comes in handy though, because it can encourage me to start small and grow.

In the middle of the worst of the pandemic, I was standing in a socially distant line at my local grocery store, surrounded by frightened and often unhappy people. The gentleman in front of me stepped forward to the till. He looked to be in his late seventies or early eighties, moved slowly and used a cane. The checker asked how he was. "I'm upright and breathing and will be thankful for that. How are you?" As she rang up his order, he thanked her for being there and told a joke that made those standing in line laugh. As he walked slowly away, I remember thinking that I really wanted to be more like him. I still do, but I won't get there by wishing or just thinking about gratitude in the month of November. It is time for me to take some small steps, start some new habits and begin each day being grateful for the small things – that I woke up, that I am upright and breathing, that I actually get to live in my favorite place on earth (that would be England) and that God who commands the sun to rise and the earth to turn is waiting for me to sit down and tell Him just how grateful I am to be His child. Care to join me?

There's
always
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful
FOR

AUTUMN COLOUR *at All Saints' Church, Luddington*



Instead of the usual Harvest Lunch the congregation of All Saints' had drinks and nibbles in the churchyard.



Thank you to all those who decorated the church so beautifully.

AUTUMN COLOUR

at St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers



Thank you to all those who decorated the church so beautifully.

AUTUMN COLOUR

at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon



*Worship the Lord
in the beauty of
holiness.*

*Psalm 96:9
King James Bible*

Thank you to all those who decorated the church so beautifully.

nh
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Holy Trinity Harvest Lunch - 10 October



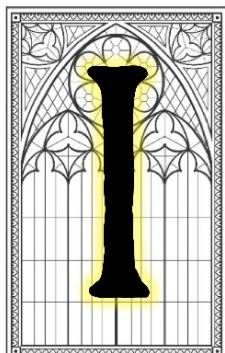

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Illuminations



This is the first in a series by Dr Lindsay MacDonald on the stained glass windows of Holy Trinity, in association with Friends of Shakespeare's Church.

The two smallest stained glass windows in the church are the first one encounters when entering by the north porch. The openings through the stone walls are rather like arrow slits, only about nine inches in width, with elaborate hood mouldings on the outside. To the east the window

commemorates Mrs Josephine Collis, given in 1870

by her husband Revd John Day Collis. It shows her doing good works: comforting the sick and feeding the poor. To the west the window commemorates Revd Collis himself, given in 1879 by his second wife Elizabeth, and shows him preaching from the pulpit (though not the pulpit at Holy Trinity), administering the sacrament and baptising a baby.

Both windows were made by Lavers, Barrand and Westlake at their studio in Covent Garden, London. They include glass of various body colours, with yellow silver stain and extensive painting in Gothic Revival style, of fine quality. These miniature masterpieces are among the best in the church for their artistry. The reclining patient with pale wavy hair, and white gown with exquisitely rendered folds, has a hint of the painting of *Ophelia* by Millais (1851).



John Day Collis was educated at Rugby, then a scholar of Worcester College, Oxford, achieving BA 1836, MA 1841, and DD 1860. He was headmaster of King Edward VI School Bromsgrove from 1842 to 1867, during which period it grew to be one of the best educational establishments in England. Then at the age of 51 he was appointed vicar of Stratford-on-Avon. During his incumbency Holy Trinity church tower was restored, the organ repaired, central heating installed, and the riverside terrace completed. In 1872 he was the founder and first warden of Trinity College, where his name can still be seen on the triangular tympanum of the building on the corner of Church Street and Chestnut Walk. He was the author of eighteen books on Latin and Greek grammar, including: 'The Chief Tenses of Latin Irregular Verbs' in 1854 which ran to 34 editions.

Following the death of his first wife Josephine at the age of 40 in 1868, in 1871 Revd Collis married Elizabeth, the widow of Rear-Admiral Curry of Shottery Hall, where they lived until his death in 1879. He was buried in the Bromsgrove cemetery along with Josephine, but his mother and three sisters are commemorated in 'Collis Corner', with gravestones built into the wall at the mill end of the riverside path by the church.



NEWS FROM TRINITY PLAYERS

We are sorry that corona virus restrictions made it impossible to accommodate everyone who wanted to see *Murder in the Cathedral* but it was very well received by thoughtful audiences and we were able to donate £1900 to Holy Trinity church.

Saturday, 13 November - Pastime with Good Company

You are invited to a light hearted programme of short Plays and Sketches with Refreshments included, guaranteed to cheer a dull November Saturday.

WHERE: Holy Trinity Parish Centre

WHEN: At 3pm with a cream tea or 7.30pm with a glass of wine and tapas

TICKETS: £10. [Buy online with this link](#)

or contact urussell@joyousgard.org.uk Tel: 01789204923 or Anne Blair, Tel: 01789414860.

For Covid safety and for catering purposes, it is essential that we know you are coming!

Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 December - The Holy Trinity Play of St George

We have accepted an invitation from the Town Council to perform our Mummers' Play outside at the Victorian Market. Based on traditional Mummer's Plays, ours was written for the 800th Anniversary of Holy Trinity in 2010 and subsequently performed at an RSC Open House. Times to be advised but we hope you will stop by to support us and see St George defeat the Black Knight and Sir Hector so that good will prevails.

Saturday 9 April 2022 - The Message of the Cross

A revised version of our Play which tells the Easter story in words and music. We do not charge for this performance but take a collection for a specified charity afterwards.

22 April 2022 – Coffee, Cake and Shakespeare

Our annual celebration of the Bard's Birthday. Donations invited for the coffee and cake.

In the Pipeline

Our production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, postponed from June 2020, is currently being discussed.

Once again, all dates are dependent on Government regulations at the time.

Ursula Russell

TRINITY LADIES



Our meeting on 17 November will be our AGM. As we were unable to meet for such a long time we will have a lot to discuss. We need to elect a new committee, decide where we will go for our outings in May and July and also choose the Carols and reading for our Carol service which will be held on Wednesday 15 December. Please come and help us make the right decisions for our club so that ladies will want to join us and will find us an interesting and friendly group to belong to.

The meeting will start at 2 p.m. in the Parish Centre as usual and finish about 3.30pm to 3.45pm.

New members are very welcome so please come and join us.

Gina Lodge
Chair

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CHORAL SOCIETY

.... Brahms's *Eine Deutsches Requiem*

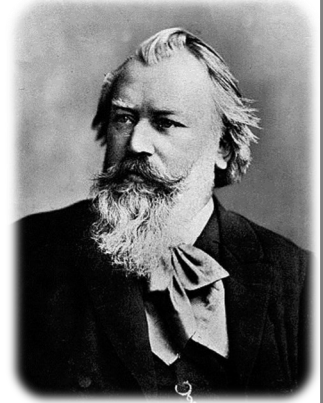
Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents Johannes Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in Concert on **Saturday 20 November 2021 at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford as part of Stratford Music Festival.

For many the Brahms *German Requiem* is a magnificent oratorio with both tenderness and power and was a major success for Brahms. Three movements received the first performance nearly 154 years ago in Vienna in 1867 and when finally completed in 1869 it contained a special movement for soprano in memory of his mother who had died in February 1865. It is not a traditional Latin mass for the dead; instead, Brahms has selected texts from the Bible and Apocrypha which console the living.

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society has been delighted not only to be back singing again after its last possible concert in March 2020, but also to welcome its new Music Director, Oliver Neal Parker, who will conduct the Choir, The Regency Sinfonia, professional soloists Hannah Davey soprano and Julian Debreuil baritone. The Choral Society was first formed in 1836 and has the accolade of being one of the only two oldest choral societies in the country.

Tickets for Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society's concert on 20 November 2021 £15 (adults) or £8 (students) available from Choir members, www.stratfordchoral.org.uk, Stratford Music Festival <https://www.stratfordplay.co.uk/stratford-music-festival-2020> or on the door on the night if seats available. Up to two children under 16 are admitted free if accompanied by a paying adult.

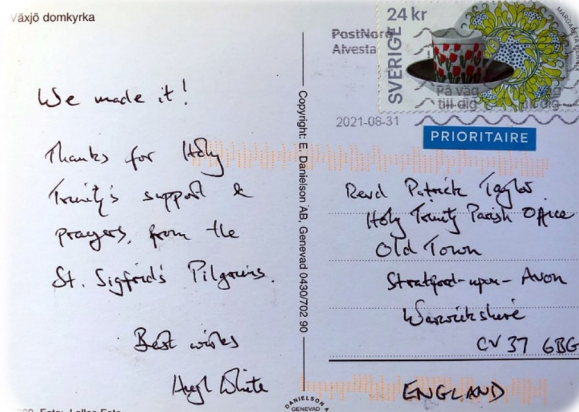
Further Press Information: Carol Jackson on 01386 841440



HOLY TRINITY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 24 November. We meet in the Parish Centre at 2.30pm until 4pm. If you have lost a loved one and feel that meeting other people who are in a similar position to yourself would help you at this difficult time please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2.30pm. There is no need to make an appointment; we will be very pleased to see you.

Gina Lodge
Bereavement Co-ordinator



This postcard was sent to Patrick by Hugh White, the leader of the St Sigfrid's Pilgrims.

A Churchwarden's Life Under COVID

The difficulty with comparing being a churchwarden in COVID times versus normal times is that I've only experienced the former. When I became a churchwarden, we didn't know it, but we were about to go into our second lockdown. For me, there were none of the regular Sunday services, monthly meetings and getting to know the ropes gently – I was thrown into poring over details on Government Tier Level restrictions (remember them?) and Church of England guidance along with multitudinous meetings.



Prior to my election, there had been much discussion about reintroducing services in person in the Parish churches, alongside the online worship which had been so essential to keeping us connected from the beginning of lockdown. I was lucky enough to have avoided all the initial planning, entering when booking systems and live-streamed services were already established. I was about to make up for this, however, as we approached Advent and Christmas. How were we going to cater for the hundreds of people who usually came to our churches at this time of year when, for any of them, COVID capacity was less than fifty?

And lo, the Walk-through Service was born!

These turned out to be a great success, but there was no shortage of heartache trying to agree with a range of people about what was or wasn't an acceptable risk. We had entered lockdown in Tier 1 but come out of it into Tier 3, and, although places of worship were still allowed to be open for private prayer, there continued to be many conditions about households, bubbles and 'rules of six' to be met. Much diplomacy was required and, I have to admit, there were times when a straightforward majority decision was the only option. But we kept our eyes on the goal, introducing a booking system for the Christmas Eve walk-through and having an army of volunteers to welcome our 'congregation' and keep them safely spaced, so that the number of people who joined us to celebrate Christmas didn't suffer too much.

Come the New Year, however, there was no time to rest on our laurels because more decisions were needed. Stratford-upon-Avon, along with all of Warwickshire, was moved to 'Tier 4 : Stay at Home' - and another lockdown began. Unlike previous lockdowns, places of worship could now remain open - unfortunately this placed the onus of deciding whether or not to open onto the Incumbent and Churchwardens. Help! Do we continue with services and assume that vulnerable people would make their own judgement about the safety of attending or do we recognise the increased risk of infection and remove the opportunity to mingle? We decided on the latter and closed the churches again but continued with the compromise of opening Holy Trinity an hour a day for private prayer. Church services went back to online only!

Not much changed through the early part of the year but we found an opportunity to capitalise on the success of the walk-through services at Christmas and opened for one on Ash Wednesday. Despite the sombre occasion, it was difficult to suppress the euphoria of meeting people again face to face, albeit behind a mask.

Then, as the success of the vaccine programme began to take effect, there were hints the restrictions might at last come to an end. The next challenge was recognising that, once these were lifted, we would need to be ready with a plan to open – not just for our congregations but for the visitors, too. So, measurements were taken to rearrange the pews; seating numbers were calculated to ensure social distancing; the booking system was expanded; the one-way system was introduced; the volunteers were found; and eventually in-person church services returned to the Parish, along with our visitors.

Since then, we have gradually found a form of normality, but there are many more challenges ahead – the intergenerational services, building on our experiences of last Christmas, not to mention the financial challenges COVID has left us with. Will things settle down to the more regular routine enjoyed by my predecessors? I have been promised that the level of work should start to reduce – but I wonder, will it be so interesting...?

Helen Warrillow

Latest news on Stratford-upon-Avon Street Pastors

We were delighted to welcome four new Street Pastors at a Commissioning service held on 19 September at the URC. The service was led by Peter Horrocks and Simon Burne, from Rugby, who is a lay preacher and long-time friend of Rother Street URC. He is also a very experienced Street Pastor.

Simon's address encapsulated the motivation behind the movement - to show the face of Christ to everyone we meet – not just to our friends (the easy part!) but also to the vulnerable and lonely strangers out in the night-time economy. He has a wealth of amusing anecdotes to tell of his encounters as a Street Pastor, but underlying it all is the love for others that Street Pastors are trying to show.

You may want to watch a YouTube video, called the *Street Pastors' Song*, which illustrates the work of Street Pastors very graphically. Go to YouTube and type in 'Street Pastor song' (from the Isle of Wight team). It is a brilliant video, widely appreciated by our own Street Pastors at the Commissioning service as a very accurate representation of their work on the streets.



Being a Street Pastor is never dull: every patrol is different, and you never know what you will have to deal with. In Stratford, it has been quite quiet because of coronavirus, but people are gradually beginning to resume their former activities and more folks are going out in the evenings.

Patrols go out on a Friday evening at about 8pm and walk around the town centre until 11 or 12pm, chatting to people, giving help or advice when asked, and handing out trademark lollipops! (These, incidentally, are our most valuable tool for breaking the ice, opening up conversations or defusing potentially difficult situations.)

A first step to learning about Street Pastors might be to go out with a patrol. We welcome observers to join us for all or part of a patrol, so that they can get a flavour of what it is like in the evening. Please email me on Stratforduponavon@streetpastors.org.uk to arrange a time if you are interested.

Any Christian of any age can become a Street Pastor, although it takes a bit of time: there is a comprehensive training programme to equip volunteers with the skills they need to give effective friendship and help to the vulnerable and to ensure that both Street Pastor and the people they meet are safe. However, it is all very interesting and informative and most of it can be done online. To find out more, please contact me at the email above.

Working alongside Street Pastors, and equally important, are Prayer Pastors. A Prayer Pastor is assigned to a patrol for the evening. They undertake to be contacted and asked by Team leaders to pray for the patrol or any person or situation they encounter throughout the evening. Our Prayer Pastors operate from home, so if you prefer not to go out on dark winter nights, you can still be a very valuable part of the whole team!

For any information about Street Pastors or Prayer Pastors please Email me, as above, or telephone me on 01789 750 971

Linda Horrocks
Street Pastor Coordinator

PARISH CONTACTS

The Parish Office, Old Town

Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG

Tel. 01789 266 316

Email: office@stratford-upon-avon.org

Clergy Team

Vicar	The Revd Patrick Taylor	01789 508 155	vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Vicar	The Revd Steve Jarvis	01789 296 590	steve@stratford-upon-avon.org
Associate Priest	The Revd Kay Dyer	07857 821 168	kay@stratford-upon-avon.org
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

Staff

Operations Manager:	Andy Winter	01789 266 316	andy@stratford-upon-avon.org
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	Tim Raistrick	01789 509 885
Helen Warrillow	01789 298 928	Sherron Guise	07855 248 610

Village Contacts

All Saints', Luddington	Jane Beeley	01789 269 618
St. Helen's, Clifford Chambers	Pat Woolvin	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	Angela Wylam	01789 268 156
Holy Trinity in the Community	Steve Jarvis	01789 266 316
Lay Chaplains	Keith Payne	01789 266 316
PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Roome	01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751
PCC Treasurer	Mike Warrillow	01789 298 928
Friends of the Music	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

Clifford Chambers Walk

On Saturday 25 September, twenty intrepid souls congregated in the Village Hall at Clifford Chambers. After some delicious biscuits and coffee we set out in two groups; one to explore the lovely village and church, the other to go a bit farther for a beautiful two hour walk through fields and up one of the local hills for a breathtaking view. The weather was perfect, the ground dry and the joy of just getting to be with people while walking through the countryside made us all grateful for the small pleasures we used to take for granted. Our thanks to Julie, Angela, Ann and Sally, the Clifford Team, who all helped to make this a successful event.



Two men and their dogs



The short walk group



Refreshments before setting off



The long walk group



Angela Wylam
the Clifford Guide



Making new friends