

June 2024

£1.50

# THE PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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



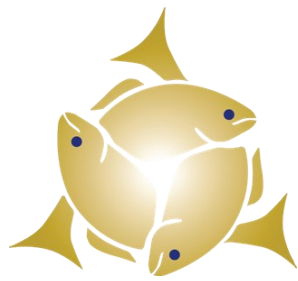
# TRINITY TIMES



Lives changed through God's love

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND





**Editor** - Revd Patrick Taylor

**Design Editor** - Claire Clack

**Features Editor** - Judith Dorricott

**Associate Editor** - Anthony Woollard

**Subscriptions & Distribution** - Paul Lageu

**Advertising** - Paul Lageu

**PCC Representative** - Jane Armitage

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 **July/August** edition  
**The copy date is 14 June**

If any item is left until the very last minute, or received after the copy date, there is no guarantee that it will be able to be included in the magazine. Please send any contributions of articles or pictures as attachments to:

**[timestrinity@gmail.com](mailto:timestrinity@gmail.com)**

For queries about editorial content please contact  
Judith Dorricott - 01789 415 131 or  
[judithdorricott@btinternet.com](mailto:judithdorricott@btinternet.com)

For any questions regarding subscriptions or distribution of Trinity Times please contact:

Paul Lageu 07434328484 or  
[paullageu@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paullageu@hotmail.co.uk)

**#HolyTrinityonsocialmedia**

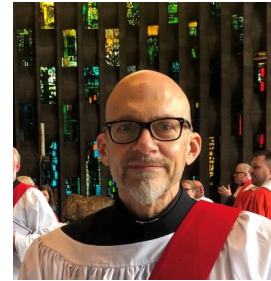


*Front cover :- Ascension Day People  
by Paul Edmondson*

## Holy Trinity Team



Revd. Patrick Taylor  
Vicar



Revd. Thomas Powell  
Curate



Revd. Emma Harrington  
Curate



Phil Harper  
Children and Families Minister

## When taking care needs more than kindness

“Love one another,” Jesus tells us, “just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Caring for each other, especially those who are vulnerable, is of course central to the Christian vision of the church community and human society. But often people have particular health issues and so need advice and support from someone with specialist knowledge and expertise. The population is becoming increasingly elderly, a fact reflected in our congregations, and many previously regular churchgoers are unable to get to church due to ‘sickness, need or any other adversity’ as the Prayer Book puts it in the prayers at Holy Communion.

Whilst considering how we can best respond to these needs as a parish, we came across the idea of a Parish Nurse. This is someone who is a Registered Nurse and offers targeted interventions and activities to help people in the congregations of the parish,



# Parish Nursing Ministries UK

and the wider local community. They offer holistic care that encompasses physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We have been working in partnership with Parish Nursing Ministries UK who are helping us put together a person specification and recruit someone to this role.

We are starting small with one person, part time, who can serve the needs of contacts already known to the churches in our parish in some capacity (but wider than just the congregations) and who would also seek to bridge the gap between the church and those who are isolated at home. The appointed Parish Nurse will be able to meet people in their homes, and can help signpost them to appropriate NHS or other locally available services that are relevant to their needs. What separates a Parish Nurse from other healthcare workers is that they will also be able to pray with them, offer spiritual support and facilitate them receiving Holy Communion at home if appropriate. They will also be able to make links with local NHS and other support services.

It's important to note that a Parish Nurse does not deliver medical treatments or offer hands-on practical nursing care. It is not trying to do the job of any existing NHS or other service, but rather to enhance what is already available. It won't be widely available to the whole community of Stratford (at this stage) as there is too much need in the entire community to be met by one person. However, should this go well, there may be the possibility of expanding the ministry in the future to reach out more widely and work with other Christian denominations in the town.

There is already much pastoral care that goes on behind the scenes through our churches, where members of our congregations just get on with helping those they see to be in need. This is much appreciated and immensely valuable as a practical expression of Jesus' instruction to love our neighbour. A Parish Nurse will serve to support and enhance this existing care, whilst opening up new opportunities to be a loving presence in our communities. Interviews for the post are due to take place in late June and we hope the successful candidate will start in the autumn, having completed the necessary training by then. I'm grateful to Beckey Barton and other members of the Steering Group who have worked hard to make this happen. Please pray for them, and that God will call the right person to this role, as we begin this exciting new ministry.

*Patrick*

## **SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE**

### **Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon**

#### **2 June - First Sunday of Trinity**

10am - Parish Eucharist - Joint service with Methodists at Holy Trinity and Breakout Group

5pm - Holy Communion - Traditional

#### **9 June - Second Sunday of Trinity**

10am - Parish Eucharist - Great Big Green Week

5pm - Choral Evensong

#### **16 June - Third Sunday of Trinity**

8am - Holy Communion (BCP)

10am - Parish Eucharist - Inclusive Church

5pm - Taizé

#### **23 June - Fourth Sunday of Trinity**

10am - Parish Eucharist with Holy Trinity School

5pm - Choral Evensong

#### **30 June - Fifth Sunday of Trinity**

10am - Parish Eucharist

5pm - Evensong - Historic Churches Trust



### **St Helen's Church, Clifford Chambers**

#### **2 June - First Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Morning Praise

#### **16 June - Third Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Holy Communion



### **All Saints' Church, Luddington**

#### **2 June - First Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Holy Communion

#### **9 June - Second Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Holy Communion followed by AGM

#### **16 June - Third Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Holy Communion

#### **23 June - Fourth Sunday of Trinity**

9.30am - Holy Communion

#### **30 June - Fifth Sunday of Trinity**

6.30pm - Evensong





## Worship Notes June 2024

### Sunday 2 June

We look forward to welcoming our friends from Stratford Methodist Church to the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity for a joint service. The preacher will be the Methodist minister, Deacon Jane Mills.

### Sunday 9 June

We mark the start of *The Great Big Green Week* and our visiting preacher at the 10am Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity will be Colin Angus who is the Net Zero Carbon Project Officer for Coventry Diocese.

The Annual Meeting for All Saints' church will take place after 9.30am Holy Communion.



### Sunday 23 June

Following the AGM of the Friends of the Music, there will be a special service of Choral Evensong at 5pm to mark the feast of the Birth of John The Baptist. The preacher will be the Reverend Canon Adrian Daffern, Senior Cathedral and Major Churches Officer for the Church of England. He was formerly the Precentor at Coventry Cathedral and then Vicar of Great St. Mary's in Cambridge, and also assisted at the Coronation.

### Sunday 30 June

A special day for us as a parish as our curate, the Rev. Emma Harrington, is to be ordained priest in Coventry Cathedral at 10.30am. Please see the weekly bulletin for details of how to book a place on the coach that is being organised. Emma will preside at Holy Communion for the first time (her 'First Mass') on Thursday 4 July at 7pm, followed by refreshments to celebrate this important moment in her ministry.

### Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

We will mark this feast on Wednesday 19 June, at the 10am Holy Communion service at the Guild Chapel.

---

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIENDS of the MUSIC

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Music will be held in the Parish Centre of Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 23 June, starting at 2.30pm. The formal meeting will be followed by the distribution of Chorister Awards, performances by members of the Choir and refreshments. The AGM will be followed by Choral Evensong at which the visiting preacher will be The Reverend Canon Adrian Daffern, Senior Cathedral and Major Churches Officer for the Church of England. Canon Daffern was formerly the Precentor at Coventry Cathedral and Vicar of Great St. Mary's in Cambridge. He also assisted at the Coronation. All are welcome.

Caroline Thomas.

# ASCENSION DAY 9 MAY 2024



Patrick giving the blessing



Everybody listening to the choir



The Choir



Breakfast



Breakfast organisers

Photographs by:  
Paul Edmondson  
Harry Lomax  
Phil Harper  
Felicity Howlett





## FIRST COMMUNION AND FOREST CHURCH

In June we'll be beginning the preparation for the next group of children to be admitted to receive **Communion before Confirmation**. The service they are admitted at will be on 14 July at the Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity. The journey for the children begins on 16 June, again at the Parish Eucharist, as we pray for them as they begin their preparation sessions.

The idea behind Communion before Confirmation is to separate receiving Holy Communion and confirming a Christian faith. It means children can begin sharing in the Eucharist from a younger age and delay confirming their faith and being Confirmed by a Bishop until they are older (about 16+) when they are in a better position to confirm a lifelong faith.

If your child is interested or you know someone who would be interested, please ask them to contact me [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org) or 07791005696.



During our recent **Forest Church Services**, we shared stories of Jesus' resurrection appearances. We particularly focused on Jesus' breakfast on the beach with his disciples. We attempted to bake bread on our firepit with mixed results(!) We'll learn from our experience and try again another time. The service has been running for eight months now, beginning in November. To be



outside in nature, to see the changes and God's presence amongst it, has been extremely rewarding. This service is open to anyone. The upcoming services are **5 and 19 June** and **3 and 17 July** starting at **4:15pm** meeting at Stratford Methodist Church before moving to Holy Trinity Churchyard for the service. We also have a new Facebook Page so you can keep up to date with what's been going on. It can be found by searching on Facebook for **Forest Church Stratford-upon-Avon**.

*Phil Harper*



# SHAKESPEARE SERMON

## by Professor Alison Shell

‘Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit.’ (1 Corinthians 12:4)

*May I speak in the name of the living God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

Before every sermon, before every speech, one breathes in. It’s a reminder of the root meaning of ‘inspire’ – to inhale. Inspiration can indeed be seen as a kind of oxygen, which gives life to creative endeavour. And what an inspiring list St Paul gives us in the reading from his First Letter to the Corinthians which we’ve just heard! Wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, various kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues – all the work of the Holy Spirit, he tells us. It’s a good passage for Christians to have in mind as they look towards the celebration of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, in a few weeks’ time. And I hope its notion of inspiration also strikes a chord with those of other religions – and with those who wouldn’t call themselves religious, but do believe that the word ‘spirituality’ describes something real.

One of the features of this passage that I myself find inspiring is its stress on the *different* outworkings of spirituality – and how those differences combine to make up the totality of the Christian church: ‘For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.’ Though it has to be said that this beautiful image is comically probed in the rest of the chapter. Rather like Shakespeare, St Paul often gives us sublimity and comedy in rapid succession – I wonder if that’s where Shakespeare got it from? Just after the passage that’s been read to us today, St Paul imagines the different parts of the body making a bid for freedom – and declares how foolish that would be. ‘If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body.’ And so on. Can’t you imagine that in an animated film? – or as part of a morality play written by Shakespeare’s dramatic ancestors? But Paul steps into the dialogue to quell the unrest: ‘If all were a single member, where would the body be? ... The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’

The idea of different members all combining to make up one body would have been very familiar to Shakespeare’s era. So would the idea of body parts being at odds with each other, which we’ve seen in the surreal image of feet and ears impotently struggling to get away from the body. Shakespeare’s era was one where a very strong notion of degree prevailed – where the reality of social interdependence went hand in hand with clear views on hierarchy. Any unrest from below could be figured as a rebellion of body parts: as in Shakespeare’s tragedy *Coriolanus*. The mob of Roman citizens demanding corn to keep them from starving are told by Menenius that the Roman senators are a ‘good belly, / And you the mutinous members’. He reasons that Rome’s governors have to be well-fed because, like the stomach, they convey nourishment to the rest of the body. Except that they plainly don’t. When Menenius contemptuously refers to the most vocal citizen as ‘the great toe of this assembly’, one feels he would have benefited from hearing St Paul’s admonition: ‘on the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable’. As it is, the scene is massively ironic – Menenius is talking about the interdependence of all Rome’s inhabitants, even while he and his kind are acting so selfishly. It’s as if, to continue St Paul’s image, the stomach is pulling away from the body.

*Cont...*



*SHAKESPEARE SERMON cont...*

There are many more positive images of interdependence in Shakespeare, though. Think of Henry V's speech before the Battle of Agincourt, for instance, where he claims brotherhood with the common soldiers who are listening to him. 'He this day that sheds his blood with me, / He is my brother -- be he ne'er so vile, / This day shall gentle his condition.' War does have a silver lining in the bonds it generates between people who'd never normally encounter each other. But the best kind of interdependence doesn't need enemies; it's more about collaboration than competition, with everyone doing what they're best at. It can be seen as a project where, like St Paul's body, the different members unite to produce a whole that's greater than anything they could achieve by themselves.

We're part of a liturgical collaboration here and now, to which members of the congregation are just as vital as those playing a more active part in the service. Today we've heard and will hear singers' and instrumentalists' collaborations; as it says in the hymn which features in this service, 'Craftsman's art and music's measure/ For Thy pleasure / All combine.' Music figured cosmic harmony in Shakespeare's time. As Lorenzo says to Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* as they look up at the stars: 'There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st / But in his motion like an angel sings, / Still choring to the young-eyed cherubins. / Such harmony is in immortal souls'. Lorenzo stresses how even the smallest star is part of that harmony. And drama: that generates especially powerful ways of thinking about collaboration. A theatrical production epitomises the way in which different individuals come together within collective endeavour, contributing different 'varieties of service', as St Paul puts it: from the actors, directors and set designers to those who sell tickets or clean the theatre.

Though Shakespeare is regularly cited as the quintessence of stand-alone genius, he knew a thing or two about collaborating – as anyone who works in the theatre surely must. He was part of a theatrical company, the King's Men; he collaborated on plays with John Fletcher and others. And he was, and is, and will surely remain the occasion of collaboration. I can't think of another writer who brings people together so powerfully on the civic level, or who's so effective in getting people talking, and thinking, and creating, and enabling: whether that's in the theatrical world, or in academia, or in schools, or among the general public. If I had to say what I admired most about Shakespeare's work, it would be that benign generative power.

It's relevant here to remember the stress that St Paul places on the varieties (or, in some translations, diversities) of gifts, services and activities inspired by the Holy Spirit. This year there's an opportunity to remember both someone who inspired Shakespeare, and the way in which Shakespeare has inspired others. The first of these opportunities is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, one of the best-known literary patrons of Shakespeare's time, who encouraged Shakespeare and many of his contemporaries. Shakespeare's long poem *The Rape of Lucrece* is dedicated to him with what appears to be deep respect and affection: 'what I have done is yours, what I have to do is yours; being part in all I have, devoted yours.' This goes well past the standard flattery of the era. It's one of the few places where we get Shakespeare writing in his own voice – and it reminds us that even Shakespeare must have needed encouragement and was grateful for it. Someone of the Earl of Southampton's standing would have constantly been exhorted that, in St Luke's words, 'to whom much is given, much will be required' (Luke 12.48). This anniversary is a chance to remember, and give thanks for, not just the Earl of Southampton but all cultural patrons, past and present, who've taken that message to heart: who've encouraged the God-given gifts of others.

*Cont...*

*SHAKESPEARE SERMON cont...*

This year also sees the 200th anniversary of the Shakespeare Club, which inaugurated Shakespeare celebrations in Stratford among the townspeople themselves. On the Shakespeare Club's website it's described as 'an independent organisation run by local people for local people'. This bicentenary is an opportunity to remember them and all literary societies -- and to be intensely grateful for the bonds such societies foster, the cultural activity they encourage and the joy they bring. A club wouldn't be a club without its members, which brings one back to St Paul's image: 'the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body.'

Yet the idea of membership isn't static. The bodies of which we're members constantly mutate as our activities change. We play different parts in our homes, our relationships, our workplaces and our leisure-time activities; through St Paul's metaphor of the body, one could see the same person as being a head, a hand or a foot in different contexts. Collaboration is a form of self-discovery; but serving others, and the varieties of ways in which that can be done, is a way of transcending one's own limitations. St Paul would point to the Holy Spirit as the inspiring, unifying force behind collaboration at its best, and so would I. Isn't such collaboration beautiful? Isn't it gracious? And mustn't we be grateful for the playwright who's done so much to bring people together for good?

*To Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the collaborating God to whom this church is dedicated, be glory and honour, now and in eternity. Amen.*



## SHAKESPEARE SUNDAY



Photographs by Harry Lomax



# SHAKESPEARE SERVICE



## SHAKESPEARE PROCESSION 20 APRIL 2024



Photographs by Harry Lomax



# SHAKESPEARE PROCESSION

20 APRIL 2024



Photographs by Harry Lomax



# APCM MEETING

## 12 MAY 2024

### New Churchwardens Elected

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on 12 May in the Parish Centre immediately after the Parish Eucharist. Three new Churchwardens were elected: Eve Archer, Andrew Boyes-Varley and Mike Warrillow. Tim Raistrick was elected to continue as Warden. Paul Lageu, Helen Warrillow and Sherron Guise were thanked for their service as Wardens over the past year. There were eight elections to the PCC and three to serve as PCC representatives on Fosse Deanery Synod. Reports were received for areas such as finance and safeguarding. The full set of written reports can be seen on the parish website or by using this link <https://www.stratford-upon-avon.org/apcm>



Patrick preaches his Vicar's address for the APCM



Attendees waiting for the start of the APCM



Patrick gives flowers to the retiring Church Wardens

Treasurer Mike Warrillow gives his speech about the finances of The church



Photographs by George Reah



## FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG

To celebrate forty years of  
The Friends of Music at Holy Trinity Church

The choir was joined by past Directors of Music, Organists  
and about fifty former choristers.  
At the conclusion of the service a new bench in the churchyard  
was dedicated to the memory of  
Dr Rohan Stewart-MacDonald  
with a reception in the church.



Directors of Music, Organists and past and present Choristers at the Festal Evensong

## Sarah Cushing's Departure

We were sad to announce that Sarah Cushing has left her role as Parish Administrator. Sarah worked for the parish for many years, and we were especially grateful for all she did during the changing working patterns caused by Covid. She had been balancing her work here whilst also training and serving her curacy in Shottery parish.

We thanked Sarah for all her hard work and wished her every blessing for her future ministry.

Patrick



# NEW BENCH OUTSIDE CHOIR VESTRY IN MEMORY OF Dr ROHAN STEWART-MACDONALD



Bench in memory of Rohan



Patrick blessing bench



Patrick with Rohan's mother, Linn



Two young choristers try out new bench

Photographs by Harry Lomax and George Reah



## BIRD BOXES AT ST HELEN'S

Last year the RSPB donated several bird boxes to St Helen's Church to be sited throughout the churchyard. The blue tit boxes were easy to place - but it took a little longer to find somewhere for the sparrow terrace! Many thanks to Sarah Hosking for allowing us to use the wall of Church Cottage.

Blue tit  
box



Sparrow  
terrace



Greece

# Greek Evening

Saturday 22nd June

Parish Centre

6pm (doors open 5:45pm)

Adults £10, under 12's £6.50

Use the link in the bulletin to book tickets

With dancing by  
Ithaca's dance team  
"Vicky Drakopanagiotaki"



A buffet of  
Greek food  
& dessert

An evening of  
food & Dancing

Bring your  
own drinks



SOCIAL  
EVENTS

For more information  
please contact Chris  
on 01789 204 273

THE PARISH OF  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON  
HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON • ST. HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS





## Two bee, or not two bee?

*The story behind the Holy Trinity Church bug hotel (installed in the churchyard by the north wall adjoining the RSC Gardens).*

As part of our Eco Church initiatives being developed and delivered by the Eco team, Dr Samuel Jupe (PCC member, Choir member and Eco Team member) recently completed an outreach project with children from the local community across Stratford-upon-Avon.

The outer frame of the bug hotel is based on the shape of Holy Trinity Church and has been made from recycled decking. In collaboration with children from Holy Trinity Primary School and 1<sup>st</sup> Shotton Beaver Scouts, the frame has been filled with various natural materials (twigs, bamboo canes and pinecones) and other recycled materials (such as bricks) to make a suitable habitation for insects.

In his professional life, Samuel is a chartered electrical engineer working with companies like National Grid to future-proof our electricity networks to deliver net-zero emissions by 2050. This involves the development of novel technologies to facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles, solar panels, and other forms of renewable energy sources, as well as making electricity networks more resilient to storms as we experience climate change. Samuel is a keen STEM ambassador and is currently a visiting professor in the School of Engineering at the University of Warwick (where he gives lectures to the MEng and MSc students on industrial technologies for renewable energy integration).

With Samuel's engineering background, the bug hotel was designed in a modular way to engage children from different groups in the building of the various parts. The framework is a bit like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle and the children had great fun working out how to slot it all together!

The bug hotel was built over the course of several months, with finishing touches applied in April this year. The bug hotel was installed with the help of the Churchyard Maintenance Team on Earth Day 2024 and has since been used as the backdrop for Phil Harper's Forest Church services.

Speaking on behalf of his fellow pupils involved in the initiative, Oliver Jupe commented, "I do hope the bugs are happy!". After all...

*If we were to wipe out insects alone on this planet, the rest of life and humanity with it would mostly disappear from the land. Within a few months.*

- E. O. Wilson (Eminent Ecologist)



Photographs by Samuel Jupe and Phil Harper



## TRINITY FELLOWSHIP

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that we raised £363 for the Children's Bible Fund. Thank you for those who donated, brought cakes and pretty table cloths. And a special thank you to all of you who helped in the kitchen. This sum will buy enough bibles for a whole year for our Year 6 Primary school children who are going onto secondary school.

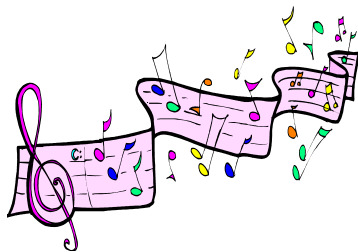
I do hope that members enjoyed our visit to New Place gardens and tea at the RST. If you have any ideas for next year's outing please let me know as I am running out of ideas for outings which do not include using a coach.

In June we will be having a talk by Graham Sutherland on "Wicked Women – sinned or sinned against". This will be on Wednesday 19 June.

We finish this year's programme by holding a Strawberry Tea with entertainment on 17 July. I hope you will all enjoy this occasion. Please bring your pretty table cloths again. There will not be a charge for this tea party but all donations will be very welcome. Our meetings are held in the Parish Centre and start at 2pm and are for the male members of Holy Trinity as well as the female.

Gina Lodge  
Chair

### Soundbites



We urgently need volunteers to help serve teas/coffees and sandwiches at Soundbites.

If you feel you could help one Wednesday in the month, please contact Carolyn Laverty on [carolynlaverty@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynlaverty@hotmail.com), mob.07748010370, or in church on Sundays or at Soundbites.

5 June - Mike Ashley - Lute ensemble

12 June - Year 10 musicians from King Edward the Sixth Grammar School

19 June - RBC - Sarah Potjewijd - solo pianist

26 June - RBC - Wind trio



## BAPTISMS

5 May Rose Crowe (aged 9)  
Max Burnham  
Rose Woodroffe



## WEDDINGS

9 May Thomas Goodwin and Lorraine Clark

## FUNERALS

1 May Robert Evans  
2 May Stephen Phillips



## PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 5 June. If you think it would help to meet with other people who are in a similar position at this difficult time in your life please come and join us. Just come to the Parish Centre at 2pm and we will finish at about 3.30pm.

There is no need to make an appointment; we will be delighted to see you. Come and join us in the lounge area of the Parish Centre.

**David Harrison**  
**Bereavement Co-ordinator**



# A.E.BENNETT & SONS

## INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Family owned and run since 1848*

*Private Chapel of Rest*

*Members of the N.A.F.D.*

*Pre-payment plan available*

**Tel: (01789) 267035 (24hrs)**

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



Great Big Green Week is almost upon us! From 8 to 16 June, this relatively new national event will come to Stratford in a bigger way than ever before, with a “fair” in the garden of New Place on the Saturday (at which the churches will be represented by a large stall, courtesy of Tony Guy), and a number of talks and other events, again involving the churches heavily alongside Stratford Climate Action and other local organisations. There will be fuller information elsewhere in this issue, and in the Herald and our own weekly bulletin.

What this is all about, of course, is alerting us all to the many crises in our environment, from climate change to biodiversity and water pollution. We hear about these things daily, and we experience some of them directly, though those in many other countries encounter them far more dramatically. The human race has exploited God’s creation for millennia, and the results are now coming home to roost.



The news we hear can all too easily make us lose hope. The rise in the Earth’s temperature now seems almost guaranteed, in the lifetimes of many of us, to go beyond the limits which scientists regard as safe. Already the ice caps are melting and some small island nations are sinking beneath the waves. Only a few countries have found it politically possible to take anything like the action necessary to reduce human consumption, particularly of coal, oil and gas, to a level which will halt this rise. And the rest of nature is suffering, with

huge numbers of species being wiped out, on a scale unseen since the age of the dinosaurs. Are we all doomed? What can we possibly do that is actually worth doing?

There is an old saying “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness”. Actions are being taken, and the news is not all doom and gloom. Even the “bug hotel” recently installed in our own churchyard is a tiny sign of willingness to preserve biodiversity. On a much higher level, there has recently been a big growth, in our own country and elsewhere, in the use of renewable energy to replace the burning of fossil fuels. Ironically, that may have become easier because climate change can mean more sun to power solar panels and more wind to power wind farms! Actions by individual nations, local communities, and families - such as making our own houses more energy-efficient - really can make a difference.

None of these things will save us from a very challenging future on the environmental front. If the human race is called upon to be stewards of God’s whole creation, we must face the fact that stewardship costs something, and we cannot go on as we have been doing, over-exploiting that creation for our own short-term indulgence. Yet there is so much to celebrate, and I hope that the Great Big Green Week will give us an opportunity for that celebration together, even as we face up to this huge challenge along with the many others that currently face our nation and our world.





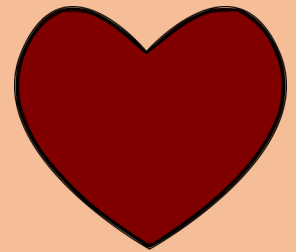
## LIFE WAYS CARERS CAFÉ – A LIFELINE FOR CARERS

Do you care for a loved one or friend at home?

Would you like to come to a friendly group of carers for support, events, activities and refreshments?

Meet with people in a similar situation every 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoon in the month 2-4 pm

Refresh and rejuvenate – “It’s a lifeline for me. I love it, it really helps break the loneliness”



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Nicola Harvey 0786 282663 or Biddy Peachey 07799841193

**nh**  
NIKKI HOMES  
SALES AND LETTINGS SPECIALISTS

ALL INCLUSIVE FEES

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

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

The advertisement features a purple header with the 'nh' logo and 'NIKKI HOMES SALES AND LETTINGS SPECIALISTS'. Below the header is a photo of a woman sitting on a sofa in a modern living room. A purple box with white text lists 'ALL INCLUSIVE FEES' and five bullet points. At the bottom, there is a photo of a row of houses and a purple footer with contact information.

JOIN THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP  
HELD FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
FEDERICA 07533 410 003  
OR  
BARBARA 07971 354 487

The advertisement features a background of colorful, multi-colored yarn. The text is in bold, black, uppercase letters, arranged in a vertical list.





**cotswolds**  
hideaways  
country holiday retreats

## Letting your holiday home has never been easier

At Cotswolds Hideaways our local team is well placed to help you let your holiday home  
*Benefits include: A Marketing or Marketing and Managed service | Professional photography  
Excellent occupancy levels | Peace-of-mind damage cover | Competitive commission rate  
No restrictions on the use of your property*

*Why not get in touch today and request your FREE Property Letting Guide?*



[cotswoldshideaways.co.uk](http://cotswoldshideaways.co.uk) | 01451 888 040 | Office in Stow-on-the-Wold

 **Local**   
**Plumber**

**ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN**

**FULL BATHROOM DESIGN  
AND INSTALLATION SERVICE**

No job too small  
Reliable Friendly Service

**CALL HUGH ON**  
**Call: 07768 360 420**

[localplumber46@gmail.com](mailto:localplumber46@gmail.com)  
References Available On Request - Fully Insured

Beautiful tiles,  
Direct from Italy

 **M2**  
Tile Marketing

M2 Tiles Ltd  
Unit 26 Waterloo Park  
Waterloo Road Ind Est  
Bidford on Avon  
Warwickshire B50 4JG  
Tel 01789 778700  
Mob 07836 601662  
[m2tiles@gmail.com](mailto:m2tiles@gmail.com)







## St Helen's, Clifford Chambers Bell refurbishment project

Did you know that St Helen's has six bells, five of which were cast in the 1770's and are hung on a framework which was constructed in 1904? Little wonder that it's a bit tired and worn! A recent inspection identified that, due to worn bearings and obsolete design of the fittings, the bells will continue to be difficult to ring and there will be the increased chance of some parts breaking and not being able to be replaced.

In 2021 a completely new band was formed and has been regularly ringing at the church. Following the inspection report the decision was made to refurbish the bells sooner rather than later.

We approached Taylors of Loughborough and they have quoted in the region of £35 - £40k to rehang 5 of the 6 bells onto a strengthened bell frame with modern fittings. Faculty approval has now been obtained and we are aiming for the work to start in January 2025.

There is now just the small matter of raising the funds to pay for it!

We have been fortunate in being granted £17,500 from the Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers and have also approached the Friends of St Helen's and Clifford Charities for assistance. At the end of April, the 'Ring in the Spring' event launched our fundraising project and raised in the region of £1,000. Although we have made a good start, there is some way to go and we have various plans for the next few months.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to help us by making a contribution towards the cost of the refurbishment this would be very much appreciated. If you wish, payments can be made on line to: St Helen's Church Clifford Chambers ( Reference: Bell Fund) sort code : 40-43-19, Account no. 30232599. Or contact Pat Woolvin on 07989318965 for further information.

It's going to be quite exciting! The last time the villagers saw a bell being moved into the tower was 1946 – and very few people are still alive to remember the event. Now we have the opportunity to watch this project unfold: starting with removing the five oldest bells out of a very cramped bell tower, taking them to Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough– then returning them, with much fanfare, a couple of months later to be refitted. Watch this space – we'll be taking lots of photos!!

Mark Sayers (tower captain) and Pat Woolvin (secretary St Helen's Church)



The fifth and Tenor Bells in  
their current unrestored  
state



## Ring in the Spring at Clifford Chambers

After a frantic couple of months planning and fretting over ticket sales, Saturday evening of 27 April saw the village hall at Clifford Chambers full of people, all eager to eat, drink and enjoy the Trinity Players' entertainment of poetry, prose and song on the theme of Spring.

There was something for everyone - We had everything from Shakespeare - to Gyles Brandreth's "Wordsworth's Waitrose" and Ed Sheeran's "Spring". At the end of the performance everyone, even those who were adamant that poetry and prose was not their thing, agreed that they had really enjoyed themselves.

Then, of course, there followed the two-course meal of shepherd's pie with vegetables and a choice of tiramisu, carrot cake or trifle for dessert. Needless to say there were very few left overs by the end of the night!

An excellent time was had by all and the organisers were grateful for everyone's help -preparing the room, serving food, washing endless plates and glasses and clearing up at the end of the evening. In total we made just shy of £1,000 - an excellent start for our bell refurbishment fundraising.





# Holy Trinity Church to the aid of the Stratford Literary Festival – Queen Macbeth

Holy Trinity Church came to the rescue of the Stratford Literary Festival in the first week of May this year. With a full schedule of events organised to take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, disaster struck on the eve of the commencement of the Spring Festival when a fire broke out on Monday 29 April rendering the venue unavailable. Among the many events for which tickets were already sold was the 'Friday night special' – Val McDermid speaking about her new book: Queen Macbeth.

With very few alternative venues in Stratford able to accommodate, at such late notice, the over 300 crowd, Holy Trinity Church was pleased to be able to help. Thanks go to the Holy Trinity Choir who moved the Choir School and the Friday night Choir practice to the Parish Centre so the Church could meet the community's need.

The event comprised an on-stage sit-down discussion chaired by Julia Wheeler and featuring Val McDermid. Val is a Scottish crime writer who has sold over 19 million books to date and has been translated into over 40 languages. She is perhaps best known for her Wire in the Blood series, which was adapted for television.



Photograph  
by Andrew  
Boyes-Varley

The ostensible topic of the event was her new entry, in the Darkland Tales series of fictional retellings of Scottish history, which is an interpretation of the story of Lady Macbeth. This topic seemed apposite for discussion in 'Shakespeare's Church'. The synopsis of Queen Macbeth as provided by Waterstones is:

*"Shakespeare fed us the myth of the Macbeths as power-hungry murderous conspirators. But now Val McDermid drags the truth out of the shadows, exposing the patriarchal prejudices of history.*

*As the net closes in on the queen, we discover a tale of passion, forced marriage, bloody massacre and the harsh realities of medieval Scotland. At the heart of it, one strong charismatic woman who survived loss and jeopardy to finally outwit the endless plotting of a string of ruthless and ambitious men. Her struggle won her a country. But now it could cost her life."*

I say ostensible topic as there was much more to it – an enlightening, engaging entertaining and engrossing sixty minutes was delivered by Julia and Val (with audience questions). Val also shared insights into her writing process, including character and story development, trials and challenges, her personal history - with amusing anecdotes on her musical exploits (as a bass player!) and more seriously on the phenomenon of Artificial Intelligence as to how 'it' is behaving in regard to creative writers.

The event was concluded with Val signing books in the Chancel near to the grave of The Bard himself.

Andrew Boyes-Varley



Photograph by Tim Raistrick

## Great Big Green Week (GBGW) - 8-16 June

Anthony reminds us in his "Window on the World" this month, that as Christians we are responsible, collectively but also individually, towards God's Creation. This starts with our appreciation, thanksgiving and joy in it, and leads on to discerning what part we can play in the care of our planet and the restitution of some of the damage done by past (and current) carelessness. GBGW offers all of that!

I've picked a few highlights for you. The full programme can be found in leaflets available in church, the parish office, and online at:

[greatbiggreenweek.com/green-week-events/stratford-upon-avon-great-big-green-week](http://greatbiggreenweek.com/green-week-events/stratford-upon-avon-great-big-green-week).

The Launch Event - Saturday 8 June 10am-4pm. New Place Garden. Free entry.

A "Sustainable Shakespeare" community day, including many stalls and guided plant and bird walks. Fun and informative.

Dawn Chorus Walk - Sunday 9 June 4.30-6.30am. RSC Garden (by the Dell) Free. Hear birdsong and observe wildlife by the river and be back in time for church!



Gardening Talk - Tuesday 11 June 7.15pm Methodist Church. Free - book via Eventbrite or walk-in. Lucy Hartley will speak on "Not just my garden - Nurturing a Shared Ecosystem".

Sustainable Shopping - Thursday 12 June, 5pm-6pm. Zero Store (Rother Street) and Lush (High Street). Free. Discuss with Shop staff how to live a plastic-free life and consider the sources of what we consume.

Eco-Chat - Sustainable Farming - Thursday 12 June, 7-9pm. Methodist Church.

Free (no booking). Ian Jelley of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will introduce the topic "Working with farmers to bring about Nature's Recovery".

Stratford Community Kitchen - Friday 14 June, 5-7pm. Ken Kennet Centre Justin's Avenue. Free - donations invited.

A three-course meal is served using food that would otherwise be wasted. Bring a bag to take any surplus food you can use. Best arrive by 6pm for this popular weekly event!

Family Fun, Picnic and Block Printing. Saturday 15 June 11am-2pm. Bancroft Gardens. Free.

RSC play "Kyoto", Monday 17 June - 13 July. Swan Theatre. Various prices - book at RSC box office or website. Play about the historic 1997 Kyoto Climate Summit

As well as all this you can "Get Thrifty" at the Shakespeare Hospice Shop - which has reductions on 8 and 9 June 10am-4pm. "Grow, cook and Create" at Lifeways garden (Albany Street) on 10 June 1-3pm. "Get Creative with a Nature Theme" with Escape Arts (off Sheep Street) on 12 June 11am-1pm, and much more!

There's a regular Repair Café on the first Saturday of each month at the Methodist Church, 10am-2pm to save broken possessions going to land-fill, and the newly opened Climate Hub at 30 Meer Street which is full of information and resources. We can all be involved in caring for God's earth.



Tricia Hall-Matthews.





## PARISH CONTACTS

*The Parish Office, Old Town  
Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6BG  
Tel. 01789 266 316  
Email: [office@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:office@stratford-upon-avon.org)*

### PARISH CONTACTS

Clergy Team Vicar The Revd Patrick Taylor 01789 508 155 [vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:vicar@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Curate The Revd Thomas Powell 01789 266 316 [thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:thomas.powell@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Curate The Revd Emma Harrington 01789 266 316 [emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:emma.harrington@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Children & Families Minister Phil Harper 07791 005 696 [phil@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:phil@stratford-upon-avon.org)

#### Assistant Ministers (Hon)

The Revd Kay Dyer 07857 821 168  
The Revd John Hall-Matthews 01789 414 182  
The Revd Penny Harrison 01789 266 316  
The Revd Diane Patterson 01789 266 453  
The Revd Jenny Rowland 01789 415 548  
The Venerable Brian Russell 01789 266 316  
The Revd Graham Wilcox 01789 551 759  
Readers Paul Gifford David Harrison

### Holy Trinity Office Staff

Lola Spetsioti, Visitor and Marketing Manager 01789 632811 [lola@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:lola@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Safety and Compliance Officer: Liz Marshall 01789 266 316 [liz@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:liz@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Parish Administrator: tba  
Director of Music: Douglas Keilitz [douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org](mailto:douglas.keilitz@stratford-upon-avon.org)  
Church Wardens Tim Raistrick 01789 509 885: Mike Warrillow 01789 298 928: Eve Archer 07826 574 854  
Andrew Boyes-Varley 07860 813 920

### Village Contacts

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

### Other Contacts

Head Server Chris Cornford 01789 295 066  
Bell Ringers Charles Wilson 01789 295 467  
Bereavement Support Team David Harrison 01789612 634 -[davidianharrison@hotmail.com](mailto:davidianharrison@hotmail.com)  
Safeguarding Officer Helen Warrillow 01789 266 316  
Trinity Fellowship Gina Lodge 01789 204 850  
Electoral Roll Officer Tim Raistrick 01789 509 885  
Friends of Shakespeare's Church tba  
Friends of St Helen's Church Angela Wylam 01789 268 156  
Lay Chaplains Keith Payne 01789 266 316  
PCC Secretary Elizabeth Roome 01789 565 743 Mobile: 0790 531 4751  
PCC Treasurer tba  
Friends of the Music Caroline Thomas 01789 266 316  
Stewardship Officer Chris Kennedy 01789 299 785  
Home Communion Thomas Powell 01789 266 316  
Social Events Chris Cottrell 01789 204 273  
Trinity Players Ursula Russell 01789 204 923  
Trinity Tots Phil Harper 07791 005 696  
Welcome Team Eve Archer 07826 574 854 or [ega1912@yahoo.uk](mailto:ega1912@yahoo.uk)  
Sunday Coffee organisers Tina Hillyard 01789 551 739 Diane Edwards 01789 296 396  
Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Team Lindsay MacDonald 01789 293 110

## EASTER FLOWERS FROM ST HELEN'S

With apologies these pictures did not make it into the last magazine. I hope this makes up for the erratum.



## EASTER FUN DAY AT ALL SAINTS' LUDDINGTON

All Saints Luddington team were grateful for a fine day for our Village Easter Fun Day held in association with the Village Hall Warm Hub Fund. Approximately a dozen young people joined us in the church grounds for an Easter trail and egg hunt. Making their way to the village hall the children decorated Easter biscuits, made chick egg cosies and pom-pom animals. After hotdogs we watched the film Wonka on the big screen. Thanks to the volunteers who made this a great community Easter celebration.

Debbie Thorpe

