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TRINITY TIMES

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



2020

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FROM ESTHER

Dear friends,

Looking back at 2020 I can best perhaps summarise my year as being one of *dreaming* and *streaming!* You will know the work of the HT Vision project invites us all to dream about how the church can serve a new generation in our town. I am so thrilled with how many responses we received from the Community Survey, and the positivity towards Holy Trinity becoming a hub at the heart of our community.

I have also spent a great deal of time *streaming* services throughout the lockdowns. While quite different to our gathering services, I am so thankful for the way in which we have been able to worship with the help of technology. I am also so thankful for the way our online services have been watched by many people who haven't worshipped with us before.

We can't be sure what lies ahead of us in the days to come, but I am sure we will continue to *dream* and *stream!* Can I invite you to pray with me that God gives us his imagination for the future life and mission of Holy Trinity. God's plans are always better than our own! While we may not have to do too much more streaming of services, my prayer is we continue to seek new ways of meeting with God and with one another in our worship.

Christmas is going to be very different for us all this year. However you find yourself celebrating this year, may May

the blessing of joy abide within you; May the blessing of peace rest upon you; May the blessing of love flow out through you; May all the blessings of the Lord be yours this Christmas.

Esther x

A MESSAGE FROM CHURCHWARDEN CHRIS DURING COVID-19

I have been looking back at what I wrote in March this year. At that time, I really did think we would be back to a more normal way of life by mid-November. Not so. My feelings about this pandemic have not really changed. I still miss seeing everyone in person, for lengthy chats, for Saturday morning coffee, Sunday services as they used to be, singing in the choir, Wednesday morning prayers at 9.30 and all the other things that used to happen.

The roof repair finished in late December, last year, just in time for our normal Christmas festivities, but the signing off with the finances from The Heritage Lottery Fund finally happened in early March 2020 just before the first lockdown occurred.

I think during lockdown being able to keep in touch with everyone either by phone, Facetime or Zoom has been amazing. The Sunday morning services were restored in

August at 9 am with Adrian and Roger playing the much missed organ, and then moved to 10.30 with an increase of music from members of the choir. A very satisfyingly large number of people attended these services.

PCC meetings have gone ahead by Zoom very successfully. The APCM was held by Zoom, very ably led by Rev Christopher Wilson, and we welcomed some new members to the PCC. We also said good bye to some members of the council, to Valerie who has shown expertise in matters concerning our health. To Patsy my dear friend, who has served as secretary to the PCC for 23 years, and to Martin, as Interim Treasurer, We welcomed new members Helen Cave, who along with Rachel will represent Holy Trinity at the Deanery Synod, Sarah Gibbons and Milli Buckingham.

I cannot let this moment pass without mentioning Terry, the retiring Church Warden. He has a wealth of knowledge about the church going back a very long time, and has a long and valuable link with our ever-increasing scout group . I am delighted to say that he will be able to share his knowledge with us as he will still be a valuable member of the PCC.

Lastly, I am looking forward with great pleasure to working with Brian, who by the time you read this will have officially become Churchwarden at a Zoom link in November.

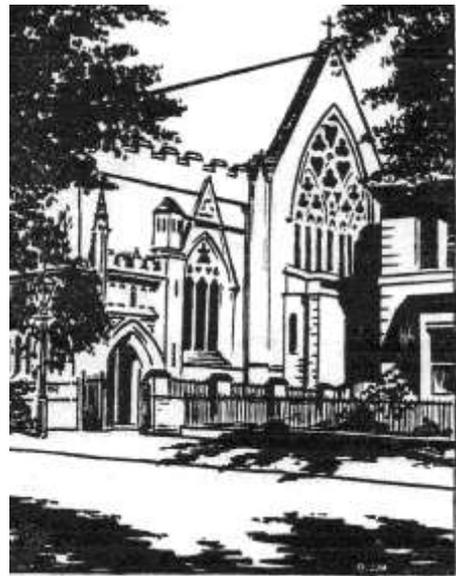
We look forward to more Sunday Vimeo services until the beginning of December, and hope the New Year will bring us more participation in church.

God bless,

CHRIS

MY FIRST FOUR WEEKS

My first four weeks as churchwarden elect have been very busy - firstly patrolling the church car park from 6pm every hour until 10pm a couple of days a week, in the hope of finding the culprit responsible for leaving their dog litter bags on the boiler room steps. After that, cleaning up the steps and basement area, putting up a couple of 'Take your dog litter home' signs, making a temporary barrier, and also making my presence seen checking the steps, with dayglow vest and torch, seems to have worked - no more litter. And the alcoholics and drug users seem also to have been reduced; local police news says that these people have moved to Welshes Meadow.



Using my engineering skills, I repaired the small gate by making a new latch and fitting a return spring so that the gate now self-closes. All little jobs, but having the desired result of keeping the church garden clear of litter.

Esther has always wanted the church windows illuminated, so fitting some temporary flood lights inside the church on a timer switch had the desired effect, with several comments about how nice it looks at night.

I've also worked with Chris - sorting out the alarm problem with the alarm company, deep cleaning of the hall complex, and completing a new electricity contract for the church, and pursuing a new contract for the hall.

So all in all it's been quite a busy four weeks.

I'm looking forward to the Archdeacon's Visitation on November 19th when my role becomes official, a role I am looking forward to as I take the responsibilities of warden very seriously. Having had experience of this role for five years at St. Mark's Church, I have already forewarned Esther that as a Yorkshireman I speak my mind, and I will voice your concerns, individually or as a church,

The responsibilities are many - looking after the ministers, church building and you, the church family; and I hope you will feel free to approach me and Chris with any of your concerns about the future of Holy Trinity, as we have real exciting challenges ahead of us with "Vision 2020". So with God's blessing, grace and guidance, let us work and pray together that Holy Trinity will be a shining light in Leamington Spa. With so many anti-social and social problems around us in our parish, what as a church can we do to help?.

So I'm looking forward as a Christian Brother to serve you as the Church Warden alongside Chris,

Thank you for your support and confidence in entrusting me with this role

Yours in Christ,

BRIAN WILLIAM IREDALE

NEWS FROM “THE OFFICE”

Unfortunately, because of Covid the church office remains closed. HOWEVER, that doesn't mean the work has stopped! I am continuing to work from home, completing office tasks, preparing rotas (only for them to be discarded as we once again go into lockdown), continuing to go to the bank on a weekly basis, and compiling the newsletter which I hope you find informative.

Since the article in the last Trinity Times, along with Chris I have been applying for a faculty so that the cellar steps can be secured to stop anti-social behaviour. It is also hoped that the church notice board will be updated soon, and the tower will have power very shortly.

Staff meetings, and Standing Committee meetings with Esther continue on a weekly basis via Zoom.

In September, papers were prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, making sure electoral roll applications were received for those wanting to vote, and nominations received for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and Parochial Church Council members. This was my first year of preparing for the APCM, but I would like to place on record my thanks to Patsy Spiller for guiding me through this process.

In October the APCM took place, for the first time via Zoom. This was quite a learning curve for many, but a very good meeting took place, with an increase in attendees being recorded.

The first meeting of the new PCC took place on November 9th, when it was proposed, seconded and carried that John Micklethwait would become our next

Treasurer. Other matters discussed were working groups and the draft budget for 2021.

PAM IREDALE

SURVEY SUPPORTS VISION

The recent Parish Survey shows overwhelming support for the bold plans to transform Holy Trinity Church into a busy Hub for the local community.

Over 2,300 Survey Invitations were delivered, to the 2,300 residential addresses in Holy Trinity Parish, and over 170 people (7% of the residents of the Parish) completed the on-line, or the paper, questionnaire.

Encouragingly, over 80% of those who responded to the questionnaire said that they are either extremely enthusiastic, or enthusiastic, about the Project.

As a further vote of confidence, 100 respondents have asked to be sent regular updates on the progress of the Project. Of these, 89 people have volunteered their time, 39 people have offered their professional skills, and 35 people have said that they are prepared to give a Raffle Prize.

Commenting on the results of the Survey, the Reverend Mrs. Esther Peers, the Pioneer Priest responsible for Holy Trinity, said *'this is such a wonderful confirmation of the vision we have for Holy Trinity to become, not just a place where services are held on Sundays, but a place offering a real service to the community, every day of the week'*.

Importantly, the Survey reflects the views of the whole Parish, as the majority of those who responded to the Survey (53%) are not currently Members of the Church.

The Survey also reflects the view of people of all ages. Although over half of those who completed the Survey were over 65 years old, nearly 40% of the responses came from people aged between 24 and 54.

The Survey provides the Church with a unique insight into what people currently see as our key local needs in a 'post Covid-19 world'. In order, the perceived needs are:



Clubs for Older People (76%), Groups for Parents and Young People (69%), Space for Music and the Arts (67%), Youth Work (67%), Fitness and Health (57%) and Adult Education (39%).

Finally, there are no surprises in people's priorities for the major refurbishment and modernisation of the Church building - the respondents to the Survey want good toilets and disabled access (75%), a warm well-heated environment (66%), friendly staff and volunteers (52%), a drop in Café (49%), evening and weekend availability (48%) and a function room for up to 50 guests (42%).

ANDREW PAINE

MUSIC

Music-making at Holy Trinity has, without a doubt, been limited this year because of Covid-19 and lockdown. However it didn't disappear altogether, and although the entire Friday lunchtime concert season had to be cancelled, music did feature in services both online and live, with a limited number of singers being able to sing hymns, songs and psalms, and Adrian and Roger providing voluntaries for the services in church.

During this second lockdown period what is possible musically has been restricted once again, but plans are being made now for the Christmas period, and we are hoping that we will be able to make live music once again in praise of God.

Everything is, of course, subject to change, but as things stand at the moment a Carol Service is scheduled for December 20th. Sadly, congregational singing won't be possible, but there will be traditional carols sung by the choir, and the intention is to produce an online recorded version too, for those who can't attend the church service. The Christingle service on Christmas Eve will include some carols, and this service will be available online as well, and at all the Christmas midnight and Christmas Day services seasonal music will play a part and, again, it is hoped that an online Christmas service will be available.

It will take some time before things return to normality but I hope very much that the choir will be able to get back together properly next year. And in anticipation of an improvement in the situation regarding Coronavirus, I am planning next year's concert series. I'll keep you posted!

ADRIAN

FLOWERS

Again, there is not much to report. Jean did her usual lovely Harvest display in the porch, but, so sadly, the church was unable to open on Remembrance Sunday, so we didn't have her very moving display, into which she has always put so much thought and work.

Instead, I used poppies in the porch, which would otherwise have been in the church. Most of them were donated a couple of years ago by Alan Lees. He and Peter (Andrews) has bought them at the National Memorial Arboretum, and after Peter died, Alan wanted a new home for them.

There are several anniversaries to remember at this time of year, but otherwise I have scoured the highways and byways for autumn foliage and berries – of which there have been plenty, although they've now come to an end. Holly berries, however, are prolific! Whether they will still be around for Christmas will depend on the weather and the birds, but a bit nearer the time I'll gather some and keep them in water outside until I'm ready to use them. I draw the line at holly before December!

At the time of writing, there are three weeks to go until the end of lockdown. (God, or Boris, willing), and the church is open for public worship again. By then it will be Advent Sunday, and no chancel flowers, or berries, until Christmas. Meanwhile, anniversaries will be remembered, and there will be flowers at the back of church and in the porch to welcome those who come in on a Wednesday for private prayer. And for funerals.

JENNI

REMEMBRANCE (i)

Reflection prepared by Graham Kew

“...we are...the unknown men whom all men know, dying, we will live on.”

II Corinthians, 6.9. New English Bible

This is one of the four Biblical passages surrounding the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior which, in the King James version used on the monument, reads, “Unknown & yet well known, dying & behold we live.”

Not only did the ancient Greeks give us literature, the epic & drama both in tragedy & comedy, architecture, sculpture, ceramics, philosophy & geometry, they also held annual commemorations for their war dead. A citizen worthy of the honour would deliver an oration. The most famous of these was delivered by Pericles. He reminded the grieving widows, children & parents that their dead had fought for a worthy cause, for Athens & her democracy, where all have equal justice under law & the opportunity to rise not by class or favouritism but by merit alone.

In the subsequent periods Democracy was derided as mere mob rule. So over two millennia were to pass before the common soldiers & sailors rather than just the famous generals & admirals were to be so commemorated again. In our church we have the memorial window to commemorate Lieutenant Sharp set up by his devastated parents. Stylistically it is very retro. There are prominent lilies, the flower of light, love & mourning, symbol of the Virgin Mary, & favourite flower of the pre-Raphaelite painters & poets. The young man is garbed in medieval

armour. He clasps his chest, plighting his troth with his left hand whilst with his right he holds the standard of St. George. On the other side he is being blessed by the Saviour.

Lieutenant Sharp was killed on that terrible morning for the Allied Armies, Saturday July 1st, 1916. At 7.30am the bombardment in the Somme area was lifted, and 110,000 men, on the orders of Sir Douglas Haig, advanced in orderly rows. The bombardment, which had lasted a week, had failed to cut the barbed wire or oust the enemy in their insulated dug-outs. About a hundred teams of German machine gunners made their way to their positions and sprayed the oncoming Allies with bullets. The casualties for that day were 57,240, of whom nearly 20,000 were killed or died of wounds. The dying in No Man's Land screamed for days. One can only hope for his sake that Lieutenant Sharp succumbed immediately. To put this in some perspective, about 58,000 Americans were killed during the whole Vietnam War.

Patsy Spiller has done an excellent job in reminding us about our own Reverend Bernard McNulty. Such was the attrition rate in the killing fields of Flanders, that he seems to have had suffered a nervous breakdown. On his eventual return he commissioned the Victory Window which like the Sharp Window is very retro. Maybe after such a terrible experience, we all would crave the old and the familiar. So the design is Victorian, with allegorical figures of War & Devastation contrasted with Peace & Plenty.

Yet this year marks the Centenary of Memorials that were entirely new. The Cenotaph or empty tomb representing Everyman, designed by Lutyens and made of Portland

Stone, was unveiled by George V who then followed the coffin of the Unknown Warrior to its interment in Westminster Abbey. In pride of place about one hundred widows who had lost both husband and all their sons in the War attended. As brothers and men in the Pals' Brigades joined up together and stayed together, one unlucky shell could extinguish the future of a family or even a small neighbourhood. What was new, was that these were the central places given in Church and State to its grieving citizens to honour and remember their dead. This commitment to the dead has held to this day. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has done and continues to do a wonderful job in caring for these graves in the aftermath of world-wide war from Brookwood to Baghdad to Burma. Across the world, each year people will stop for two minutes to remember the dead and their sacrifice once again.

In conjunction with the dead, there was also a commitment to the living. After World War I there was a drive to create "Homes Fit for Heroes", and after World War II there was the creation of the Welfare State and the National Health Service. Whilst the achievements of the State here have been somewhat patchier, nevertheless the commitment from all political parties is there and remains there.

When my father, aged 22, left the forces in 1947, having served from Sword Beach on D-Day to being shot at by the Stern Gang in Palestine, he was given a suit and a pair of shoes and told, "Good luck, get on with your life." In effect, that is what he did, but not before my mother sent him back to change that suit. It just did not fit him to her satisfaction. Looking back in hindsight, I can also see that

their war service influenced my schoolteachers and everyone else of that generation hugely. The ramifications to every population involved in wars are like a sea reacting to an earthquake which creates a tsunami spreading ever out and out.

There were some individuals who after any war were never happy back in “civvy street”. The Armed Forces provide such a complete lifestyle where your time and needs are catered for, your friendships and enmities are so intense that to come out of that protective bubble is a trauma. We now know so much more about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the problems that it can cause decades after the events.

We also know that too many servicemen end up on the street, unable to cope with their memories, with the grind of civilian life. How we deal with memory is important. The needs of these men (and they are usually men) are there every day, not just on Remembrance Day. The needs of our former enemies will be very similar to ours.

Archbishop Robert Runcie (a former tank commander in World War II) annoyed Mrs. Thatcher by remembering and praying for the Argentinian war dead at The Falklands Thanksgiving. So he should have done. We share a common humanity with those young men dragooned into fighting for ugly regimes who are subsequently killed.

Christianity itself is one of the most democratic religions because, as St. Paul reminds us, once we are Christians, “There is no such thing as Jew or Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Jesus Christ.” Galatians 3. 28-29.



The poet and Dean of St. Paul's, John Donne, said in one of his Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, "Every man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

By our Remembrance we hear the tolling bell.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

A shadow has fallen over the world and 2020 has delivered a shock from which there will be no rapid recovery. 2021 will bring uncertainty for all and continuing struggle for many. Advent 2020 is a season of lamentation. It is always a time for reflection on the state of the world and our own lives, calling us to penitence - and yet it is suffused with hope, in the fulfilling of God's age-old faithfulness in the coming of Jesus, 'the light of the world'.

This year we have been stopped in our tracks and tested. Many assumptions have been thrown into the air by the pandemic, fundamental questions are being asked. Who are key-workers - and how can we seek to rebuild our economy more equitably? The foundations of routine church life have been shaken, so what are the essential pillars of a Christian community? There are so many questions, even without mentioning Brexit and its unknown impact on livelihoods and well-being!

We celebrate the coming of Christ during the darkest days of the year. His light pierces the darkness that can descend on our lives at any time, destroying communities and banishing hope.

In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

In this bleak midwinter Jesus is in our midst! Laid in a rough manger and raised to glory from a borrowed tomb, he is with us always. He is with the lonely in a Care Home, just as surely as his presence is signified in the bread that we break in Holy Communion. He is present in the heartfelt Christmas greetings shared by family or friends. His Spirit energises the commitment of those maintaining the Food Banks and rescuing those in poverty. So many live in a cold, rough, uncomfortable place, here in the UK and all around the world. So many are deeply wounded or destroyed by coldness of heart – and God is to be found in their midst, as he was found among the outcasts and nailed to a cross, between the convicted.

‘God’s love was revealed among us in this way; God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.....Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us’ (1 John 3.9-12).

Hope is to be found in Jesus. Hope for you and me, hope for the Church, hope for the world. He is faithful and has promised, ‘I am with you always, to the end of the age’ (Matthew 28.20). Let these dark days be filled afresh with the light and love of God as we renew our trust in Jesus, God-with-us.

‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’ (John 1.5)

JOHN REESE

ELIZABETH FRANCE-HEYHURST

A few memories from Yvonne Weatheritt

Elizabeth France-Heyhurst was the first person to welcome Nick and me when we walked through the doors of Holy Trinity in 1970. We became good friends, and remained so through all the years. I saw her for the last time in Priory House just before the March Lockdown.

She was born in Kenilworth Road, and christened in Holy Trinity Church. Elizabeth and her mother moved to Hirsell Gardens in about 1980. She once told me that her life as a young woman was somewhat restricted. Her father died when she was 14, and her mother immediately removed her from school to stay at home, and look after her and the house.

Elizabeth was a wonderful friend to us – and to Holy Trinity, where she played a full part in the life of the church; everything from cleaning the brasses to hosting Lent Lunches. She had a delightful sense of humour – quite naughty at times!

I have lost a dear friend.

YVONNE

An obituary of Elizabeth France-Heyhurst will appear in the next Trinity Times.

REMEMBRANCE (ii)

Remembrance Sunday was very different this year, owing to Coronavirus. Thank you, Esther, for the two reflective services you did. I hope everyone was able to watch or listen.

I cannot believe it is two years since I was in a parade in Winslow, Buckinghamshire, carrying a wreath for a WW1 soldier. This was a memorable occasion for me. A lot has happened since then.

In 2014 I went on a trip to the WW1 war graves in Belgium and France, with the late Dorothea Baker. We also attended the daily service at the Menin Gate in Ypres. We attended two parades and services at Bedworth. They have



commemorated November 11th there for 99 years. Unfortunately, as it has been cloudy and wet, I have never been able to see the annual drop of poppies from a Spitfire.

We also went to three of the 'Warwick Remembers' concerts at the Spa Centre.

About 27 years ago I attended the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. I am so pleased that it still went ahead this year. In addition, I have been a poppy seller for the Royal British Legion for fifteen years. My mother was a poppy



seller in Winslow for over twenty years, for which she received many certificates. She was also a founder of the Royal British Legion Women's Section in Winslow. In WW2 she served in the ATS Auxiliary Territorial Army (like the Queen). She had five lifelong friends from that time.

So obviously, Remembrance Day is special to me.

They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
We will remember them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

VALERIE

ELIZABETH FRANCE-HAYHURST

A few memories from Yvonne Weatheritt

Elizabeth France-Hayhurst was the first person to welcome Nick and me when we walked through the doors of Holy Trinity in 1970. We became good friends, and remained so through all the years. I saw her for the last time in Priory House just before the March lockdown.

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I have lost a dear friend.

YVONNE

An obituary of Elizabeth France-Hayhurst will appear in the next Trinity Times.



It was great to welcome our young members back to face-to-face Scouting in September, which saw our sections running multiple sessions on multiple nights. Even though our meetings were restricted due to Covid-19, our fantastic leadership teams still found new and exciting ways to carry out activities, albeit socially distant from each other.

The Cub Scouts (8 – 10.5 years) enjoyed going back to basics by learning different knots that they would use for pioneering. Many successfully completed the challenge of tying a reef knot behind their back! Further to this, the Cub Scouts revisited the Emergency Aid badge, where they learned the importance of calling for help, how to check if someone is breathing and responsive and how to give CPR. The Cub Scouts also enjoyed learning how to light and cook on an open fire.

The Scouts (10.5 – 14 years) also started the autumn term by refreshing their first aid skills, which included the recovery position and CPR. At the end of September, the Scouts went kayaking at Leam Boat Centre where they enjoyed taking part in socially distanced activities on the water. October included a hike around Newbold Comyn and helping Holy Trinity Church by delivering community survey leaflets to local residents.

The Explorer Scouts (14 – 18 years) took part in a wide range of games and challenges across September and October that included a walk around Leamington, creating burners using coke cans, and pumpkin carving.

In October, we held our first ever-online Annual General Meeting, which was a great success. It was brilliant to recap on what the Scout Group has achieved over the past 15 months and present our young people with a variety of awards and badges achieved this year.

Although face-to-face Scouting was paused at the start of November, sections are still meeting online, where our young people continue to take part in a variety of activities and challenges, including a Cub Scout and Scout Christmas quiz just before we break for the festive period.

On behalf of everyone at 12th Leamington (Holy Trinity) Scout Group, I hope you and your families enjoy a safe Christmas.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Meeting details</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Cub Scouts	8 - 10.5 years	Bethany Room Thursdays, 6:00pm-7:30pm	Jade Collins jade@leamingtontrinityscouts.co.uk
Scouts	10.5 - 14 years	Scout Cabin Thursdays, 7:00pm-8:30pm	Graham Robbins graham.robbins1@ntlworld.com
Explorer Scouts	14 – 18 years	Bethany Room Thursdays, 7:30pm-9:00pm	Lewis Morgan scouts@lewismorgan.co.uk

Harry Robbins (Group Scout Leader)
Email: harry@leamingtontrinityscouts.co.uk

HARVEST 2020

We held our Harvest Service in church on Sunday, October 18th, this year. The Church looked stunning with autumnal flowers, and a collection of non-perishable foods was displayed during the service. In spite of no congregational singing, due to the coronavirus restrictions, there was appropriate music played and sung.



A few days later, Diane did an amazing job sorting out the donated goods and helping to load them into the car. These were dropped off at the Food Bank depot, along with some cash donations.

As you might imagine, these are tough times for many. The Food Banks have continued to do a sterling job helping people to access much needed vital staple foods and everyday items. Holy Trinity's commitment to supporting the Warwick/Leamington branches is very much appreciated. The Red Box is in situ in the Church porch so that items can be donated when the Church is open. I shall continue to deliver every time the box is full.



YES PLEASE to SPONGE PUDDINGS, CRISPS/SNACKS, DEODORANT (MALE AND FEMALE), TINNED RICE PUDDING, WASHING UP LIQUID, SMALL BARS OF CHOCOLATE

NO THANKS to BAKED BEANS, PASTA, SOUP, RICE, FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, DOG FOOD, MILK

RACHEL MIDDLETON

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020

Many thanks to all who sponsored or pledged online, to support the Ride and Stride that Charlie and I completed back in September.

At the beginning of November I sent a cheque to the WCHC treasurer; a total of £325 was raised for Historic Churches in Warwickshire, and Holy Trinity can expect 50% of this back into the church funds.

Many thanks to all, for your support.

RACHEL & CHARLIE

RED LID DROP-IN CLUB

Not much 'dropping-in' at the moment, sadly. As with some other regular items, there is very little to write about our drop-in centre, or Watch, the Music and Movement initiative which had one delightful inaugural meeting a few days before the first lockdown.

We do keep in touch with our Red Lid friends, however, by 'phone and email, and sometimes, when out walking, some of us have met Richard or Adam taking the air with staff members.

We hear that our friends are all in good health, but sometimes rather frustrated at not seeing their relations, or being able to visit shops and taverns.

They are looking forward to their Christmas Party, however. (This is not the one that HT volunteers usually arrange each year in the Parish Hall, of course, but one organised by the Willes Road and Russell Terrace staff,) And here we have been delighted to help out, as the homes had not been able to find a suitable venue for their party this year, for obvious reasons. So Kelsy Brennan, Manager, asked if we could possibly lend them the Parish Hall (main room) for their festivity on December 19th. Esther to the rescue! She found out that they could have their party in the Parish Hall (subject to the usual conditions, of course) as Red Lid can be classed as a Support Group.

So we all wish each other, and HT people, a Happy Christmas and Better New Year, in the sincere hope that we will all meet together again at some time in 2021.

PATSY

At the time of going to press we have just heard that Warwickshire has been moved to Tier 3, but we hope that this will be reviewed on December 16th. Here's hoping! Here's praying!



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2020

Holy Trinity was open for visitors on Saturday, September 12th, and on the following Saturday this year (*see the previous TT*), and we were delighted to welcome 34 visitors over the two afternoons. This was more than we expected, given the current conditions.

Holy Trinity was one of a much reduced number of venues open this year, and we received many thanks from the organiser of the Warwick and District Section of this National Trust initiative. We also received a special certificate which I hope you have seen in the church porch. If not, have a look after December 2nd.

None of this would have been possible without the loyal volunteers who steward the Open Days year after year, and many hearty thanks to them. Holy Trinity is beautiful, but the traditional 'HT Welcome' is a major part of its charm!

PATSY

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Now we are in lockdown conditions once again, the pastoral needs of our community are less easy to access and support. However, the Standing Committee and extended members of Holy Trinity will continue to stay in touch with their 'families' and flag up any special concerns. Do get in touch with the Standing Committee if you hear of anyone that might like an extra phone call or practical support during this time.

Holy Trinity has historically had two Parish Safeguarding Officers who, under the authority of the incumbent and PCC, take the lead role for safeguarding within the parish. For a while now, Rachel Middleton and Margaret Tomlinson have shared this role. Over the years there has been an increased awareness within the Church of England that there needs to be a duty of care for the protection of vulnerable within a church community.

Margaret had expressed her wish at the recent APCM to stand down from this rôle; and on behalf of the PCC and the church community I thank her for all her support, guidance and wisdom and her sensible approach to safeguarding issues.

Hazel Reese was invited to apply for the Parish Safeguarding Officer rôle; she has completed her safer recruitment process and the PCC approved her appointment at the last PCC meeting (9.11.20). I very much look forward to working together with Hazel.

RACHEL MIDDLETON

THE READING GROUP

We have continued to flourish during the year – although no HT members have taken up our offer to join us online!
(Silent sigh.)

Our September novel (Library Lucky Dip) was *Blue Sky* by Kate Atkinson, a thriller featuring Jackson Brodie, a private detective beloved of the groupies in our midst. For the rest of us it was our first meeting, and for most a very pleasant and hilarious one. The plot was fiendishly

ingenious, the characters utterly believable, and the humour irresistible – a good recipe for a good read.

For our October meeting we usually have a play-reading. Chris and I racked our brains for an alternative activity. Then – why not simply tell each other all the reading (apart from our programme) we had done since March, with comments if desired? This seemed to work – you would not believe how much lit. members got through in a few months!

Our November read was *The Silver Pigs* by Lindsey Davis, another detective story with a hero (or anti-hero) strikingly similar in many ways to Jackson Brodie – although separated by 2,000 years! This was Marcus Didius Falco, a private investigator in Ancient Rome. For part of the story he spends time working undercover in Ancient Britain, as a slave in the silver mines of the Mendips, where shady trickery involving the ruling classes in Rome is going on. As in *Big Sky*, the plot, characters and humour are all spiffing. (Sorry, I've just been reading Wodehouse!)

In case you think the Reading Group reads nothing but detective stories, we must point out that, as a group, we hardly ever do. This was quite fortuitous. Our programme is set the previous year, so *The Silver Pigs* was chosen months ago. *Big Sky* was a Library Lucky Dip novel, where we have little choice over what we are given.

Finally, for our Christmas get-together, we are not getting together, but one of our members has come up with what we are calling our 'Christmas Challenge'. This is to write a poem or a piece of prose containing these three words: OYSTER, OUTSIDE and ALTOGETHER. (Chosen at

random, honest!) If any TT reader would like to have a go (and please do!) please email your piece to me, and I'll enter it with the others.

PATSY

POPPY FACE MASKS

Thank you to all those who bought Poppy face masks, made by Maggie and Helen Rowlatt. (They have recently made many new kneelers for Holy Trinity.)

The sale of these masks raised £175 for the Royal British Legion.

I hope to have some Christmas masks for sale during Advent, when we shall be back in church.

The proceeds from the British Legion Collecting tin amounted to £61 – not bad, considering it was Lockdown!

VALERIE

HATS FOR SEAFARERS

Earlier this year Reta Paige and Fay Weighell knitted a boxful of woolly hats for seafarers. Rachel then sent them to the Mission to Seafarers. They were much appreciated, as can be seen from the picture!

Because of the pandemic the Port Chaplains have been unable to carry out their ship-visiting, so not all of the hats have been handed out yet. Let's hope that in the new year the hard work of Reta and Fay will be able to be fully appreciated. *(Picture on the next page)*



100 YEARS AGO AT HOLY TRINITY

News from Holy Trinity parish magazines for September, October and November/December, 1920

Even on holiday, the Vicar, Bernard McNulty, writes his 'My Dear Friends' letter for the September magazine. He writes from Paignton, where he is staying with his family, and where 'the weather has been better than I understand it has been in Leamington'. Ever conscious of his duty to the Territorial Army (with whom he served as part of the British Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium in the recent War) he spent the first week of his holiday in camp outside Minehead. The many new young recruits were splendidly keen, he says, and benefited immensely from being instructed by men who had considerable war experience.

He writes that he will not be travelling home with his family, as he is going to make the journey 'by motor bicycle', but 'I have no idea when I shall arrive!'.

He finishes his letter with hearty congratulations to two church couples, whose only sons have returned safely from the War.

His October letter begins with plans for Harvest ('Please send flowers & fruit etc.), a special service for the Melanesian Mission, and a Hospital Service, when all the offertories will be given to the Warneford Hospital and 'The Home for Incurables'.

Plans are afoot for 'Winter Parochial Work' – Sewing parties for the CMS stall in summer, and the Girls' Friendly Society (mainly for young shop assistants and servants). A Girl Guide troop has been set up as well - an innovation for Holy Trinity - and one that is proving very popular. The PCC is looking to buy an army hut to provide extra room at the Schools for meetings. And Mr. Wiggins, Holy Trinity's acclaimed Organist and Choirmaster, has come up with 'an excellent idea' – to start 'an additional choir of ladies and gentlemen', to sit in the congregation and assist their singing.

In his November/December letter, commenting on a recent decision by the PCC to have an anthem at the morning service as well as the evening, Mr. McNulty is delighted to tell his readers that this decision was made by the PCC alone. 'The days are gone by', he says. 'when a vicar can act in an autocratic manner, and force his views on a congregation.' He was ahead of his time in many ways, as we have noticed before.

He turns then to Town matters, and congratulates his Vicar's Warden, Mr. Kelly Ansell, on his recent election to the Corporation. (*The Good Samaritan* window, on the south wall of the church, is in memory of Mr. Ansell.) The Revd. Bernard goes on to comment approvingly on the Corporation, which comprises all three shades of politics, but works harmoniously 'for the welfare of the Borough'.

The Revd. Bernard McNulty brings his year's letters to a close by wishing his dear friends 'a Very Happy Christmas'.
A.P.S.

YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH – IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

*The following have all appeared in church notices.
Apologies if you've seen them before – they're still funny!*

Sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water".

Sermon this evening: "Searching for Jesus".

Don't let worry kill you off! Let the Church help.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group - this Thursday at 7 pm in the Parish Room. Please use the back door.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to these pages. For some of us the news in our 'field' is thin, or non-existent, but it is so good to see what you come up with! A blessed Christmas to all, and a brighter New Year. Let's hope that by the next *Trinity Times* we are nearer to normal, even if it's only the 'new normal'! PATSY

<i>Deadline for the next TT – Sunday, February 14th, 2021</i>

ADVENT

Ten years ago, we ran a Holy Trinity writing workshop, and there were some imaginative responses. Here is one of them, an alliterative acrostic:

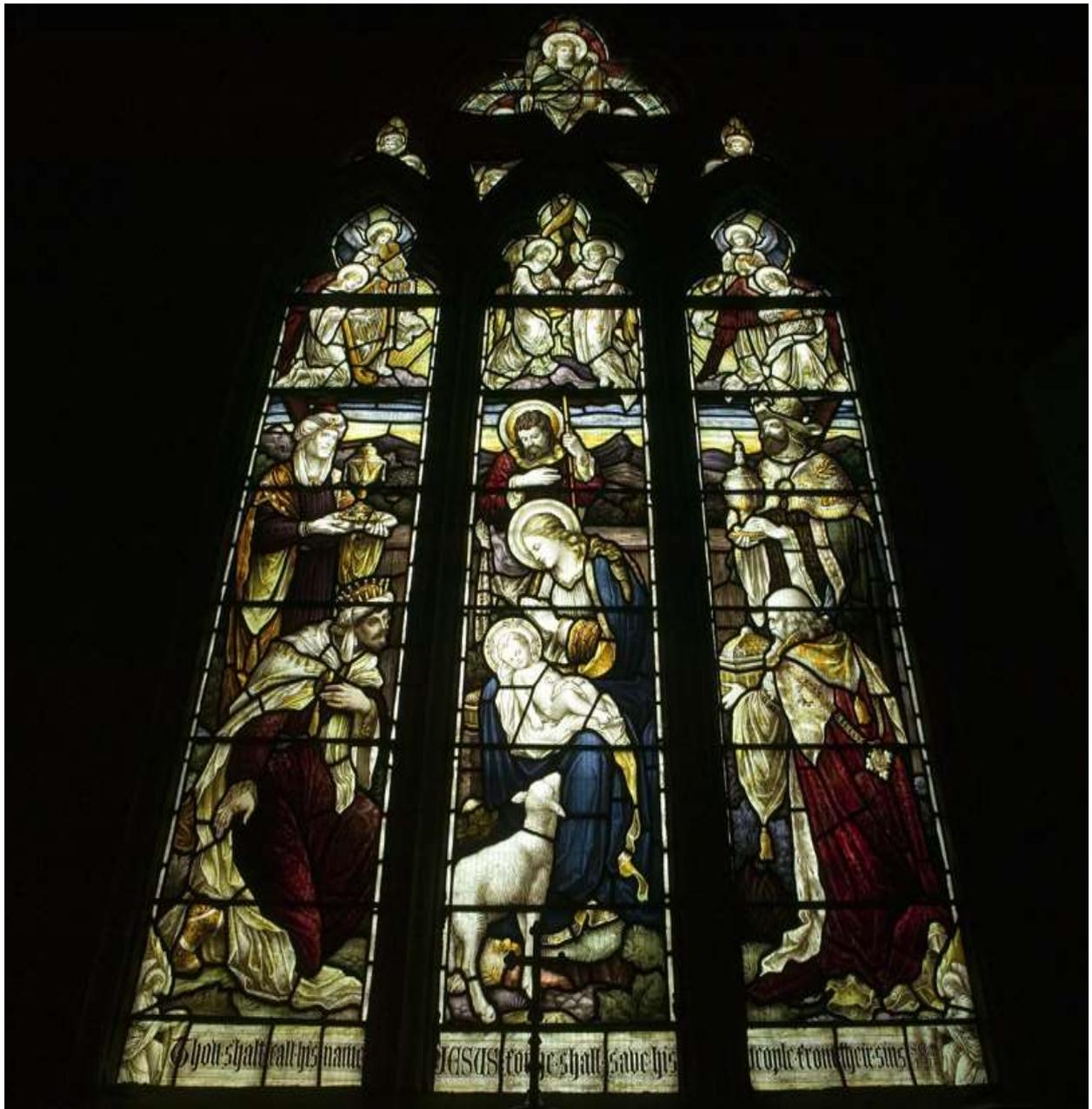
- A** Advent-tide approaches: arms uplift to welcome you;
- D** Doves dive into the sky: sprinkling darkness with light.
- V** Victorious Christ, best visitor: vanguard of the final days,
- E** Enter our expecting hearts: enable our frail souls.
- N** Now, noble one, King of creation: never more leave us heartless:
- T** Tall giant, tender lamb: ten thousand tongues herald you!



WHO'S WHO AT HOLY TRINITY 2020/2021

CLERGY	Revd Christopher Wilson, Vicar	07445 560607
		holy.trinity@btopenworld.com
	Revd Esther Peers, Curate-in-Charge	07834 550060
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Chris Spooner	424218
	Mr Brian Iredale	426116
ORGANIST / CHOIRMASTER	Mr Adrian Moore	883615
ASSISTANT ORGANIST	Mr Roger Pascall	02476 460450
LAY VICE CHAIRMAN	Mrs Rachel Middleton	831581
TREASURER	Mr John Micklethwait	
		john@micklethwait.org
ADMINISTRATOR	Mrs Pam Iredale	426116
SAFEGUARDING	Mrs Rachel Middleton	831581
	Mrs Hazel Reese	
		hazel@holytrinityleamington.org.uk
FLOWERS	Mrs Jenni Holliday	428132
HALL TREASURER	Mrs Vanessa Holmes	259311
HALL BOOKINGS	Mrs Kate Gardner	424023
CARETAKER	Mrs Kate Gardner	
SCOUTS/CUBS	Mr Harry Robbins	
		harry@leamingtontrinityscouts.co.uk
TRINITY TIMES EDITOR	Mrs Patsy Spiller	470452
WEBSITE		www.holytrinityleamington.org.uk
WEBMASTER	Mr Grant Colledge	

PCC MEMBERS 2020/21 Revd Christopher Wilson, Revd Esther Peers, Mrs Milli Buckingham, Miss Sarah Gibbons, Mrs Helen Cave, Mr Terry Gardner, Mrs Kathleen Green, Mr Graham Hunt, Mr Brian Iredale, Mrs Pam Iredale, Mrs Pat Masters, Mrs Rachel Middleton, Mrs Chris Spooner, Mrs Margaret Tomlinson



The Four Magi Window, in the Lady Chapel. It is impossible to take a straightforward picture of it, as, when the organ was moved to its present position, the new organ loft obscured the top part of the window. You can only see it properly if you stand very near it,

No-one knows why there are four Magi. We ran a competition once for solutions to this problem, but none was particularly convincing!



Published by Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa