



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH LEAMINGTON SPA



2019 Year Book

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Foreword

This informal report booklet complements our formal Annual Report, and both informs and reminds us of the richness of life at Holy Trinity, by the grace of God. It allows space for more detail and for the inclusion of the more personal aspects of church life which are significant to us, but not necessarily of wider interest. It also gives us a window into the faith and experiences of our brothers and sisters in Christ within the church, something which is increasingly important as we develop new times and forms of worship to complement the traditional approach, and therefore need to work harder to keep in touch with one another across different congregations.

2019 has been a very exciting year of considerable development, as evidenced in this booklet and in the formal Annual Report. The reports contained herein reflect the life of a church which is faithful and growing; I'm pleased to commend it to you.

Christopher

Both Christopher's letter, and Esther's, were written before Covid-19 had revealed the full extent of its grasp. This does not in any way negate their positive and hopeful messages, and we look forward to seeing their fulfilment in God's good time. Ed.

From the Curate

2019 has been an exciting year at Holy Trinity as we have seen the church grow in many areas. Here's my top 5!

Firstly, the church is now open for more *hours* every week. There are more events and activities happening in the church building every week. Some of these are regular events, such as the 4pm Sunday service, while some of these are one-offs, like the Lent Lunches, now hosted in the church itself. This is a really exciting development as it means the community sees more going on in the church. The lights are on more, the door is open for longer and the banner is flying outside to say we are open. All these things draw attention to the church being open for business! Now the doors are open more, people tend to come in a take a look inside and are surprised at how wonderful it is! It is such a joy to welcome people in and talk to them about what we do.

Secondly, there are more people coming to *worship* at Holy Trinity on Sundays. We have seen growth across nearly all our services through 2019. We keep records of the attendance figures for all our services and events, so we can see the numbers increasing. It has been such a joy to welcome new members into the life of the church, and also see some of our less frequent members coming along a little more regularly.

One of the best ways to see the church grow is for us to invite a friend or a neighbour along to join us one Sunday - you never know - they might just like it!

A third way the church has grown is in *depth*. The Wednesday morning prayer group is a brilliant example of the church growing deeper in its faith. The prayer meeting, which is led by a number of HT members, has specific focus to pray for our parish and town of Leamington, as well as the life of the church and its members. We have seen over the year a real call for the church to be more outward-looking in its activities, and more welcoming to new members, whoever they might be. Everyone is welcome to come along to this very special time of prayer. Another way the church has grown in depth is through the Alpha Course. This eight-week course, originating from Holy Trinity Church in London, has seen millions of people attend it over the years, and witnessed huge numbers of people come to a living Christian faith as a result. At Holy Trinity, about 12 of us did the course, and it really helped us to understand what questions people were asking about faith in 2019. We had some brilliant discussions and found ourselves repeatedly asking what the specific calling was in Holy Trinity to make the good news of Jesus known.

Fourthly, the church has growth in *breadth*. It's wonderful news that we now have some younger people coming along to Holy Trinity. When I was appointed, one of the main jobs I was tasked with was to lower the age profile at HT, so that the church feels more like a family, with people of different ages and stages in life. We have had two special services for the Scouts, and it was a joy for the Sea Cadets to join us on Sea Sunday. Let's not forget the young professionals who come along to the 4pm service, who are keen to use their skills to serve the church as it grows. I hope to see more of this in 2020.

Fifth and finally, the church has grown in its *creativity*. During 2019, we have sought to try new ways of engaging with both existing church members and people in the community. Some highlights for me are the makeover of the website, the new format for the Lent Lunches, and the 4pm informal service being introduced. To me, these are expressions of a creative God being reflected in our worship. We also sought to engage creatively in the community around us, and a real joy has been the link we are forming with the Friends of Christchurch Garden, and partnering with them in their work.

I am so thankful for all that has grown at HT in 2019 and am excited to see what will come in 2020.

Esther

The Churchwardens

As was said last year we knew that 2019 was going to be very different from any previous years due to the arrival of the Reverend Esther Peers, and the work on the roof and the internal decoration.

During February, as has been said in the HLF report, we heard we had won the second round of the delivery phase. Much more on this process is mentioned in the HLF report.

Now the church on the outside and the inside is complete it is obvious to all that we are in a much pleasanter and safer environment. The lighting has improved the feel of the church and is much cheaper to run. The effect of the new lights is obvious from the street as well. The number of hours the church is open has increased and is still increasing. The Sunday Services have increased from two to three and a surge in people attending the informal Wednesday morning prayers where we pray for our church, the parish and the local community, is also increasing.

On June 30th we had another trip to Coventry Cathedral to witness Esther being priested. After the service we had a lovely get together at Esther and Mark's house and in the garden. The weather was kind to us too.

Esther has a very formidable task as a Pioneer Mission Curate, and we are here to support her in whatever difficulties she may have. Please pray for her during her training to move the church on over the next three years. Let us not forget that she is part - time and has less time available to us during school holidays.

During the internal work of the church, the scaffolding was everywhere, and the dust was terrible and later the paint fumes were quite strong too. This caused a serious problem for anyone allergic to dust. For three weeks all the Sunday services were held in the Bethany Room. This proved to be a good solution. It was thanks to so many people who made sure that all the silverware for the communion, hymn books etc, coffee and tea facilities (very important) were in place for each service. Afterwards we had then to return everything to church. No mean task.

The other joyous occasion which we can just about squeeze into this report is the birth of Michael Christopher born to Hannah and Christopher on December 28th. He has been into church on a number of occasions and it is lovely to see them all progressing so well.

Continue to pray for us and everyone else involved in the church activities both religious and secular during the next twelve months as we move forward in Christ to increase our foothold in the community. We are brimming with ideas for the future and look forward to it with great pleasure.

Chris Spooner, Terry Gardner

The Heritage Lottery Fund

At the start of 2019, as far as the Heritage Lottery Fund application was concerned, we were in a kind of limbo. We had appointed Mark Evans, Architect and Historic Building Consultant, the year before and he was a very good advisor and succeeded in tendering to three construction companies. Mark was always going to be a good person to have on our side as he has worked on a few of our quinquennial reports over the years, so knew exactly what needed to be done. We were very fortunate that he chose D A Cook Builders Ltd. He has worked with them on many occasions including work at All Saints. They proved to be very skilful and diligent in their various tasks and problems as we went through the difficult process.

There was a little worry when it was discovered that the Westmorland slates had a sixteen-week delay. There was a possibility that the grant for the second-round delivery phase would not be through before the slates went up by 10% on April 1st. To my delight and surprise our Grants Officer at the HLF Office rang me on February 12th, 2019, which was a whole month before we were meant to hear, to inform me that we had been given 45% lottery funding, which amounted to £191,600. There was rapid movement on the ordering of the lovely green Westmorland slates, and they arrived in good time for the start of the work.

The scaffolding started to be put in place on Monday, July 1st, and Swift Ecology were called in soon after that to do a final check on any bats. Fortunately, there was no sign of any living creature.

When the scaffolding was being put in place our neighbours must have thought there were a lot of funerals or other church activities in front of the church as cones were used to cordon off the front of the church every day for two weeks. Parking in the church car park was very crowded at various times throughout the building work as there was a lock up cabinet and a skip taking up a lot of room. Clients who used the hall did not seem to mind too much. It didn't seem to stop car parking in Trinity Street even when scaffolding and heavy delivery lorries were using the church car park!

The work on the outside continued apace. The Westmorland slates sparkled in the sun. Occasionally rain stopped work, but the contractors remained pretty much on target throughout, despite the weather. We had monthly meetings with the architect, the contractor and other interested parties and work remained on target.

During September the PCC decided we should use a very generous legacy left to us by a member of the congregation. The work inside started on October 1st. Before the work started we had to clear the church of all extraneous equipment and pictures and cover the important parts of the church. At the time I was so indebted to the many people who helped clear the church before the internal work began. The scaffolding was something to behold. It was everywhere and very high. We had to halt the proceedings for Adrian's concerts and for a funeral. The contractors were very understanding whenever they were asked to cease their work.

During the whole process there were twenty-six people involved in the restoration. They were scaffolders, stone masons, tilers, lead workers, stained glass and plain glass restorers, some stainless-steel workers, painters and electricians.

Mark Evans had to get tough with the painters towards the end of the work as they failed to turn up on a number of occasions. It held the work up on the two vestries and the office for a little while, but everything was finished by December 20th, as agreed.

Olivia Hall, of the HLF, who has been my guide and mentor throughout the whole of this project and has given me lots of help, is interested in coming to see the church. She is provisionally booked in during April 2020. More on that nearer the time.

In the meantime, please pray for the future of our wonderful church and give Esther the strength to carry on the work she has ably done so far

Chris Spooner

Worship

The Worship Committee has, during 2019, been led by Christopher. It meets about four times a year to look back at the services and festivals and to discuss how they can be improved. We also check that the main services are in place for the future smooth running of the church.

Before we start on the main events of the church's year, although it has been mentioned elsewhere, a large number of us went to Coventry Cathedral to enjoy watching Esther being priested. Her appointment is having a large impact on the way our worship has evolved over this last twelve months.

Throughout the year the pattern of services has been pretty much the same, with a few extras added. For the 9 am service, using the Book of Common Prayer, the numbers vary a little, but it is still popular with a small number of people. The 10.30 service with Choral Communion is growing in the number of people who attend. It takes place on the first, second, fourth and fifth Sundays. On the third Sunday this service is lay led with a dedicated team from the congregation meeting two weeks before to plan and organise the service. Anyone is welcome to join in or just observe the process.

Candlemas was celebrated as the first significant festival in the year 2019. On Ash Wednesday there was a Parish Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. The Lent Course this year ran in church, led by Esther - five sessions in all. She led discussions on parts of the Bible, and we ate home-made soup, cheese and bread, followed by coffee.

Mothering Sunday as always was a pleasant break during Lent with the usual distribution of little posies of flowers to members of the congregation. On Palm Sunday there was the blessing of the palm crosses and a procession round the church. Later in the service there was a dramatization of the Passion Gospel, with members of the congregation and the choir taking part. On Maundy Thursday there was a celebration of the Passover Supper, ably led by the Revd. Anne Morris. On Good Friday the Cross was raised outside church and then carried into Christ Church Gardens.

The traditional Three-Hour Services was held in church with the usual readings, prayers and hymns. Easter Day was a wonderful celebration, with mini Easter eggs for the congregation. At this time, by arrangement with Anne and Geoff, we walked round the church for the Stations of the Cross

Ascension Day was celebrated with a Parish Communion, later followed by our Patronal Festival on Trinity Sunday.

There have been some innovations since Esther came to join us. During Advent we had additional lighting and decorations, some of which were put up with the help of Esther's husband Mark, and extra decorations put in place by Arnold Lodge Sixth Form. On the first Sunday in Advent we set the Posada travelling around houses of members of the congregation. This is the second time we have sent Mary and Joseph and the donkey to stay overnight in different homes. The trio arrived back safely in church during the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve to remain in the crib throughout Christmas and Epiphany.

We had a very successful 'Carols in Christ Church Gardens' during December. The carols were well-known and accompanied by various brass instruments. There was a good turnout by members of Holy Trinity and people who just wanted to listen and join in. Carols by Candlelight, held in the afternoon on the Sunday before Christmas, was well attended and was followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Midnight Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve, followed by the 9 o'clock and 10.30 services on Christmas Day.

The church has grown in many ways during the last twelve months. With Esther's enthusiasm and drive, she has continued with Wednesday morning prayers which last approximately half an hour and has been running the alternative Worship@4 on a Sunday afternoon. This service is aimed at younger people and children and lasts about an hour with drinks and cake and biscuits before and after the service. It takes place using a keyboard and guitar to lead the singing

The detail about all the worship that goes on in this church cannot be concluded without a mention of all the people who help to make us such a unique and friendly place. To the clergy; Christopher, Esther, John, Anne, Geoff and Penny. To all the people who work quietly in the background. To those who take Holy Communion to church members who no longer can get to church, to the wardens in charge of individual services, the sacristans, the readers of lesson, sidesmen, intercessors, the flower team, the coffee team and any others I have failed to mention who help with the smooth running of the church.

Holy Trinity is very fortunate to have such a talented Director of Music, Adrian Moore, and Assistant Organist Roger Pascall. We are so lucky to have them leading the music, which along with the choir is an integral part of our services.

Chris Spooner

Music

Music continues to be an important part of the life of Holy Trinity. The choir is present at most of the morning services throughout the year except during August and the Sundays after Christmas and Easter, leading the congregational singing and providing a communion anthem and a setting of the Kyrie eleison, or else an anthem in the Morning Worship service. During the period of re-roofing and redecorating the church the choir had to relocate to various other parts of the building, not to mention to the Bethany Room for a couple of weeks but is now happily back in position in the chancel.

For Trinity Sunday on June 16th we were joined by members of All Saints choir for our Feast of Title. It is always a pleasure to combine with them on such occasions.

The traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on December 22nd and we were very pleased to be joined by extra singers for this service. A fair number of people attended Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, when Hazel and John Reese's daughters joined the choir and Jules sang a solo,

The organ was wrapped up in layers of polythene to protect it from dust while the roofing and decorating work was going on and the console was surrounded by scaffolding, making playing the instrument a challenge. It has survived fairly unscathed, although it is in need of a thorough tuning now.

In May the Leamington Competitive Festival Pipe Organ Section took place in Holy Trinity, with Paul Leddington-Wright as adjudicator. There were about half a dozen entries this year which made for a pleasant evening's music-making.

From May to the beginning of November there was the 24th season of lunchtime concerts, taking place fortnightly except during August, which included music for organ, harpsichord, recorder, violin, piano, voice and piano trio. These concerts were well-attended, and many thanks must go to Chris Spooner and all who helped to provide the very popular pre-concert refreshments. The proceeds from these concerts go towards the upkeep of the organ. There was also a concert on September 21st organised by Valerie Webb given by the Cubbington Silver Band, which was very successful.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the musical life of Holy Trinity during the year, especially Roger Pascall, the Assistant Organist, and members of the choir for their work and dedication.

Adrian Moore

The Church Fabric

During the year 2019 the Church experienced the most monumental amount of work since the building was constructed in the eighteen forties.

The project to replace the leaking roofs and details of the work carried out by Chris, Charlie and others are dealt with in a separate report.

It should be mentioned that as part of the roof project there was a complete redecoration of the Church interior which included replacement of areas of loose plaster and re-painting – a massive job in its own right. The project was finally finished in December after the carpets and all the windows were cleaned.

Even with the work being carried out by contractors, it was always necessary to carry out general maintenance to the fabric, namely keeping the high level gullies clear of leaves and other debris so that the water could drain off as intended and not make its way through to the building.

Internally, the portable electric appliances were PAT tested, window strings replaced and the wooden floor re polished; for all this work we really do need to thank Brian.

All the lighting was also been replaced with LEDs which should result in energy cost savings. Below ground, the boiler room was monitored on a regular basis and visual checks carried out on the sump-pump and boilers. The three boilers on the site were serviced, and combustion tests carried out, by Gas Safe Engineers.

The Parish Hall continued to occupy us with the usual minor repairs, namely boiler breakdowns, leaking radiators, faulty cupboards, high level strip light failures and toilet problems. Most of these problems were rectified in house.

Thanks to the members of the Fabric Committee for their assistance. Sadly, we are still experiencing anti-social behaviour, including drug-taking in the churchyard, along with low-level vandalism. However, we are now included on the Leamington Neighbourhood Team visits.

Terry Gardner

The Church Hall

The Church Hall continues to be a great source of community outreach and a financial asset to the Church. It is also used by the congregation, and their friends and families for social functions arranged by our social team.

Both the main hall and Bethany Room are booked on a regular basis by local community groups and societies, including Bridge, Tai Chi, Badminton, Scottish Dancing, a local pre-school and the Red Lid Drop-in Centre, to mention a few, and not forgetting regular bookings for great fun and games at children's birthday parties.

We are also pleased that we have an additional user, namely a Chess group who meet on a regular basis.

Kate continues to be the very efficient bookings secretary and caretaker, dealing with all queries from new and existing clients, for which we thank her. Thanks, must also go to Vanessa Holmes, who acts as Hall Treasurer, sending out invoices, collecting money and paying bills.

Finally, may we acknowledge the Hall itself and the great contribution it is making now and also has made over countless years to the life of Holy Trinity Church. However, it is now showing its age and the requirement to update and improve the building still remains urgent. Hopefully the PCC can come to a decision regarding this during the coming year.

Terry Gardner

Finance and Stewardship

Whilst the financial foundation of Holy Trinity Leamington has remained broadly similar to previous years, the throughput for 2019 stands out as a year to remember on a number of fronts. In one respect, this has reflected the life of the body of the church – one of gentle growth, illuminating God's blessings and laying foundations for the next part of our journey together.

The full accounts will be available in the two weeks running up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and are seen in summarised view below.

The General Fund covers all of the day-to-day income and expenditure of the Parish Church and Parish Hall.

The primary income of the church comprises donations from its members and income tax recovered on donations; and is supplemented by income from the use of the church buildings for concerts and other events. The main areas of expenditure comprise the Diocesan Parish Share, building-related costs (heating, lighting, insurance and maintenance), administrative and ministry costs.

INCOME

	2018	2019
Regular Donations	52,750	65,552
Events & other Donations	27,545	10,372
Parish Hall letting	15,271	14,618
TOTAL GENERAL	95,566	90,542
Legacies	5,000	61,667
Interest & Dividends	3,223	4,335
TOTAL	103,789	156,543

- Underlying giving increased 24.3%
- A substantial legacy of c.£62k

EXPENDITURE

	2018	2019
Parish Share	34,000	33,000
Church Building Costs	18,817	21,667
Ministry & Admin	9,044	14,453
Parish Hall costs	10,109	9,225
TOTAL GENERAL	71,970	78,345
Donations to Charities	2,260	4,799
TOTAL	74,230	83,144

- Lower Parish Share to support roof replacement
- Net Parish Hall income maintained
- Donations increased with own giving
- Ministry costs increase as church grows

ROOF PROJECT	TOTAL
Grants & Income	397,643
Reserves Transfer	24,500
Roof Costs	(384,625)
Architect / Prof Fees	(40,309)
Other	12,485
FUND SURPLUS	9,694

- Balance at 31/12/19 £10k overdrawn
- Final payments, VAT and grant claims in 2020 will convert this to a surplus of c.+£10k (shown here)
- Internal work to proceed out of legacies

The Finance & Stewardship Committee have met regularly through 2019 and most recently in March 2020, reflecting on God's Blessings and the fact that we now have a great platform on which to focus our energies for His Kingdom in 2020 and beyond.

Martin Haywood FCMA, CGMA

The Parochial Church Council

Holy Trinity PCC met nine times in 2019, with an average attendance of 81%. There were twelve members, and their names can be found on the inside back cover of each issue of Trinity Times. The officers of the PCC were: *Christopher Wilson - Vicar and Chairman, Esther Peers – Curate, Rachel Middleton – Lat Vice Chairman and Deanery Synod Representative, Chris Spooner – Churchwarden and Deanery Synod Representative, Terry Gardner – Churchwarden, Kathleen Green – Treasurer and Patsy Spiller – Secretary.*

Our Heritage Lottery Funding Roof Project still took centre court for many of the meetings. In the JANUARY meeting Chris Spooner warned members that in the event of our being successful in our application for the second round of Heritage Lottery funding, we would have to work hard on expanding our church life into the community.

In FEBRUARY the draft Annual Report and Accounts were presented, and Christopher Wilson thanked retired Treasurer, James Ingham for his dedicated and thorough work on the church accounts.

The MARCH PCC agenda included information on an increasingly important aspect of church life – Safeguarding; and Rachel Middleton, one of our two Safeguarding Officers, explained to members the duties of the PCC and rest of the congregation as regards observing the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding. Roger Pascall, Electoral Roll Officer, explained that 2019 was a year in which a complete revision of the Electoral Roll had to take place. This meant that everyone who wanted to be on the Roll would have to sign a special form to that effect. (The difficulty of getting everyone to sign up again, even though they were already on the Roll, explains why our number on the Electoral Roll for 2019, at 50 members, is so low, and it is expected that this will improve in 2020.)

During the first PCC meeting after the APCM, in APRIL, Esther Peers, gave a report on her work as a curate at Holy Trinity over the past year. New ventures were flourishing, and she had more ideas which she was keen to follow up in the coming year.

At the MAY PCC meeting, Esther Peers, now nearing the end of her first year at Holy Trinity, expanded on her vision for the future. She would be following the Bishop's three-fold approach – Worshipping God, Making New Disciples, and Transforming Communities. Rachel Middleton, Safeguarding Officer, took members further along the safeguarding road, explaining our Parish Action Plan, covering Safe Foundations, Safer Activities and Safer Practices. And finally, Churchwarden Chris Spooner told us what we were all keen to know – when work would start on the Church roof – beginning with the erection of scaffolding on July 1st.

In JUNE Chris Spooner told members that no less than 4,167 people had visited Holy Trinity since the previous July, when Esther Peers had joined us. In JULY, members were brought up to date on the latest state of the roof repairs. There was also some discussion about the state of the church interior, and the possibility of its refurbishment.

At the SEPTEMBER meeting Esther Peers identified three important areas for her work ahead – the Church Building, the Church Family, and Engaging with the Community. At this meeting, members considered the Church Building, and how to make the best use of the space at their disposal. Next, Lay Vice-chairman Rachel Middleton presented a Data Protection Proposal for Holy Trinity, drawn up by Mark Peers. It was unanimously agreed that Mark Peers should be Holy Trinity Data Controller, and Pam Iredale the Data Protection Officer.

Much of the NOVEMBER PCC meeting was devoted to an inspirational talk by Matt Jermyn, the Diocesan Learning and Effective Structures Mentor. His remit was to encourage the PCC to look closely at their organisational structures, and how these might fit in with our church's ministry and the role of the PCC. Members of the congregation were invited to attend the talk and discussion and there were 29 presents. Much profitable discussion ensued, and everyone was encouraged to send Esther Peers a thought or reflection on what had been discussed.

Finally, after discussion of Esther Peers' next three years at Holy Trinity, and her idea that she might apply for an Extended Leadership Project, the Vicar proposed that she apply to be Curate-in Charge of Holy Trinity. This proposal was accepted unanimously.

In DECEMBER, the final PCC meeting of 2019 Esther Peers said that the response to Matt Jermyn's talk had been most encouraging, especially from the congregation. A series of meetings would now take place in the New Year, inviting everyone in the church to discuss our aims. A working party would follow, to work out a way forward for Holy Trinity. A Parish Office and Administrator would be a valuable asset, to keep everyone informed and in touch.

Christopher Wilson reported that he and Esther Peers had met the Archdeacon to discuss the proposal for the Curate's next few years at Holy Trinity and were met with a positive response. Her training would continue during this time, and Mr Wilson would still be in overall charge of Holy Trinity.

The Bishop will be visiting our church in May 2020, and he will commission Esther into her new role at Holy Trinity on that day.

Patsy Spiller

Flowers

Looking back over 2019 now that our church has had its welcome face-lift there are so many beautiful things about it which are now more apparent. I did my best to maintain the usual floral decorations while work was underway but at times, they got a bit lost under the scaffolding and needed relocation.

Another year without any weddings but a number of funerals and special displays of Remembrance flowers for which there were some very generous donations. Generous donations, too, to the Flower Fund throughout the year, for which many thanks.

Cheng Mee and Jean Holley have helped on special occasions, and Jean's artistic and imaginative displays in the porch at all the festivals have been much admired. We look forward to her 2020 Easter offering!

The innovation last Easter of the "Lily Tree" and lily display was judged a success and I hope we can repeat it.

As usual during Lent and Advent there were no chancel flowers, but those at the back of the church and in the porch were maintained, and any special requests during those times were fulfilled. Mothering Sunday came during Lent, and the posies were handed out then.

My thanks, again, to those who have tended the flowers when I've been away; it's surprising how much they drink. The flowers, I mean!

If there's anyone else out there who would like to help, that would be so much appreciated. Please come forward.

Jenni Holliday

Saturday Mornings

The Church has been open every Saturday morning from 10am to 12noon for people to come in for a cup of coffee and a friendly chat, to have a look around the building, or to spend some time in prayer.

Our Community Police Officer also drops in from time to time. It's a growing venture and appreciated by all who come through the doors.

Hazel Reese

Ride and Stride

The 2019 event once again turned into a project of two halves and became a Ride and Stride across the weekend.

Saturday, as usual, coincided with the Open Heritage Weekend, and churches were encouraged to be open, to welcome any Riders/Striders, but also to raise funds and awareness for the Warwickshire & Coventry Historic Churches Trust. Rachel was involved in the Come & Sing day, hosted by the RLSBC at Holy Trinity, so Charlie elected to cycle alone around Warwick, stopping at a variety of churches.

Later we did a short walking route around Leamington in the evening, with the dog, and visited the Seventh Day Adventist church, the Methodist Church on Radford Road, St Mary's Radford, and St. Paul's Church.

The next day we celebrated Sea Sunday, and then headed off, with a couple of South African friends who are enthusiastic walkers, and of course Rupee, for a circular walk around North Leamington and the environs. It was a beautiful afternoon, and two pubs were conveniently situated to sustain us. We passed the following churches – some visited, some closed but acknowledged – St Mary Magdalene Lillington, St Mary's Cubbington, St Michael's Weston under Wetherley, St Margaret's Hunningham, St. Gregory's Offchurch, and St. Nicholas Radford Semele. We walked through Cubbington Woods, where there was clear evidence of initial earth moving to accommodate the Hs2 train route, as well as scenic views and glades of trees, highlighted by protestors who are so keen to preserve these historical sites and the wildlife. We were finally back into Leamington five hours later. A glorious walk that raised funds too!

As usual our thanks to everyone who so generously sponsored us. Knowing we had all that money at stake definitely adds strength to legs whether we are on foot or on our bikes.

All of that wonderful sponsorship raised a total of £405. This goes to the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust and half of it comes back to Holy Trinity.

Rachel and Charlie Middleton

The Heritage Weekend

We opened the church for three days in 2019 – September 13th, 14th and 21st - following on from the success of this venture last year. We were not disappointed and had plenty of visitors on all three days. As always, we collected a pleasing number of comments, about equally divided between admiration of our elegant church building and the friendliness of HT people.

This initiative is organised in our area by Warwick District Council, and churches, buildings, gardens and places of interest are opened for visitors to come and look round. Holy Trinity is open every Saturday, of course, but some of the venues are only ever opened during the Heritage Weekend. Entrance to all of these is free.

The National Trust, which masterminds the Heritage Open Days initiative, has recently encouraged participants to follow a theme in the presentation of their properties; and this year

the theme was “People Power”. We chose to mount a modest display of how Holy Trinity parishioners lived and worked during the Great War.

Again, as always, very many thanks to everyone who manned the church during the three days, and those who made tea and coffee and provided refreshments, and those who engaged visitors in conversation and showed them round the church. This understated, friendly and quietly efficient characteristic of the members of our congregation is for me its most endearing feature.

Patsy Spiller

Social Events

The social side of Holy Trinity Church has been rather minimal during 2019, partly due to the internal and external work which started on July 1st last year. We did have a Happy New Year lunch in the Bethany Room which was full to capacity. The meal followed the usual pattern of a main course made by the social team, and ready-made puddings.

Pancake Day this year was organised in the small kitchen and the Bethany Room. There was a good selection of savoury and sweet fillings. Rachel very successfully bought the pancakes which were lovely and saved a lot of work.

Adrian’s concerts continued to flourish between April and July and September to the end of October. Soup and bread and delicious cakes, made by members of the social team, were, as always, appreciated by the people who attended the concerts.

On the last Saturday in June we had a visit from an American Choir based in Baltimore. The Peabody Choir came in a fleet of coaches and launched themselves into the Church Hall to be fed by an army of our dedicated social committee. Rachel organised a massive amount of food for the 100 plus young singers and their chaperones, complete with known allergies. The concert was an added bonus and we were all very impressed by the amazing discipline of the young people and their singing, and the way they dressed and their movement onto the stage.

It was very busy that weekend, as on the Sunday a large number of us went to Coventry Cathedral, to witness Esther’s Priesting. This time the Social committee had a day off!! Top Nosh supplied the food and it was beautifully served in Esther and Mark’s garden. The weather was also lovely that day.

The Harvest Lunch followed the Sunday Harvest Festival Service. Due to the poor facilities in the Hall Kitchen it was decided we would make a choice of soup and then a cheese board and the regular bought puddings and coffee. The attendance was probably the highest yet, and the lunch was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

A dedicated team of coffee and tea makers generously supply milk, cake and biscuits to make provide refreshments every Sunday morning and at the Service@4. It is a very important part of the running of the church., especially as we are increasing in numbers. It would be lovely if more people would help keeping the church open on a Saturday morning by volunteering to make the drinks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the social committee for their loyal support and help over the last twelve months: Debbie Hoare, Jenni Holiday, Pam Iredale, Rachel Middleton, Elizabeth Pratt and Valerie Webb. They have unstintingly provided nibbles both savoury and sweet from time to time after Sunday services, and thanks also to Hazel for providing the snacks after the Service@4.

Chris Spooner

The Reading Group

The Reading Group's fifteenth year passed amiably through its nine meetings of discussion, chat, differing opinions and recommendations. Not to mention the refreshments afterwards – and despite its original remit of “Tea, coffee and biscuits only, please”, delicious cakes will keep on making an appearance!

Besides reading and discussing novels (of which, we have agreed, one each year should be a “classic”), we have a play-reading, and Christmas festivities of a vaguely literary nature. Two meetings a year are “Own Choice”, when a theme is set, and members bring along their own choice of lit. and talk about it. We mainly provide our own novels, but two a year are borrowed from Warwick Library Reading Groups collection.

This year the “Own Choice” themes were *Ireland, the Irish or Irish Writers*, and *A novel with a religious theme, or featuring religion in some form*.

Our play-reading consisted of five short plays from a collection entitled *As She Like It*. These sometimes challenging, occasionally sad and often humorous little plays all featured Shakespeare's women characters, and dealt with their view of the events in the plays.

The novels we read were *Cranford* by Mrs Gaskell (the classic), *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon (rather sweet and unbelievable), *I Am, I Am, I Am* by Maggie O'Farrell (a sort of fictionalised autobiography and quite horrendous in places!), *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan (possibly this brilliant author's best yet), and *The Automobile Club of Egypt* by Alaa Al Aswani (a huge, chaotic, difficult-to-get-into book).

We have had a quiz for the last few Christmas meetings, laboriously devised by Chris and Patsy, and equally laboriously undertaken, with much sighing and groaning, by the rest of the members. For 2019, however, we decided to have a change, and we all brought along a reading or poem to illustrate the Christmas spirit. Chris started us off in fantastic fashion by bringing in a boar's head (imitation, I'm happy to say) and singing the Boar's Head Carol as well. And as if that weren't enough, she had us all joining in and singing *Gaudete!* And the festive nosh was superb, as usual!

Altogether a very jolly – and thoughtful – year. If you're interested, however remotely, and wouldn't mind seeing what we get up to, just have a chat with Chris or me.

Patsy Spiller

The Scouts

This year has seen a lot of success, change, fun and Scouting opportunities for all of our members. The Spring term started off with a wide range of activities going on across all sections.

At the start of February, our Cub Pack entered the District Swimming Gala where two of our Cubs saw individual success. Alex came 1st in the Under 9s backstroke and Luke came 3rd in the Under 10s front crawl. February continued to be busy with our Cub Pack and Scout Troop taking part in a Clip and Climb session at Newbold Comyn. Towards the end of February, our Cub Pack also took part in a night hike and sleepover in the Church Hall.

March also saw a lot going on, with the Cub Pack and Scout Troop taking a trip to the Spa Centre to support two of our members taking part in the Warwickshire Annual Gang Show, a variety show put on by members of Warwickshire Scouting. The show was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Cub Pack enjoyed a movie night and sleepover at Hatton Scout campsite, followed by an afternoon of learning basic survival skills and cooking on an open fire. To finish off the month, all sections celebrated Mothering Sunday at Holy Trinity Church.

May saw all sections take part in a week's camp at Blackwell Adventure in Bromsgrove. Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts took part in a wide range of activities such as Archery, Zip Wire, 3G Swing, Climbing and Abseiling, to name just a few. The Scouts also enjoyed a day trip out to Cadbury's World where a lot of chocolate was consumed!

Taking advantage of the light nights and warmer weather in July, all sections enjoyed taking part in either kayaking or a fun boat session at Leam Boat Centre.

September saw even more Scouting activities with the Explorer Scouts taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze assessed expedition. It was great to see some brilliant teamwork and Scouting skills being put into practice.

Teamwork continued to be a theme with the Cub Scouts attending the District Sports Day where Cubs took part in both individual races and events, as well as team races. For the first time in the Group's history, we came first place! To end what was a busy Scouting month, all sections attended the animal service at Holy Trinity Church – it was great to see everyone and their beloved pets.

As Winter approached, all sections continued to carry on their programmes indoors with lots of badges being earned and new skills being learned. It was great to see everyone gathering at Hatton Scout Campsite to celebrate Bonfire Night, where Cub Scouts learnt the dangers of fire, Scouts enjoyed playing wide games and the Explorer Scouts socialised and sung around the campfire.

2019 was an amazing year of Scouting for 12th Leamington which was topped off with a fantastic Christingle Service.

Section	Age range	Meeting details	Contact
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) harry@leamingtontrinityscouts.co.uk

Red Lid Drop-in Club

The Red Lid Drop-in Club, for young people with learning disabilities and their carers, is open in the Parish Hall from 11 am every Thursday morning in the year. That is unless it coincides with Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Or an election, when both halls are needed for a polling station. We provide tea, coffee, biscuits and friendship, and the service is free. Besides allowing us to use the room free, the PCC also gives us a yearly grant for our Christmas Party. Throughout the year our volunteers generously provide tea, coffee, sugar, milk and biscuits etc.

We remarked in the 2018 report that numbers had fallen slightly, but in 2019 they remained level. Then Geoffrey made a welcome return, so we had 'full house' again.

With the coming of spring our friends and their carers take a lot of walks, and we have sometimes met them – usually in town or on Newbold Comyn. These are always happy meetings.

In 2019 we sent fliers around, advertising our existence, and Emma, our best-known carer, has dropped some off in various other care homes too.

Our Christmas Party went off well, with festive food, balloons and streamers – not forgetting our dear Father Christmas (aka Keith, our invaluable friend from Lutterworth Methodist Church).

And at this party we started discussing with some of the support workers the exciting possibility of extending our activities to Music and Movement in the Bethany Room. Early days yet but watch this space!

Red Lid could not continue to function without our dedicated but tiny band of volunteers and friends: Emily, Debbie, Chris, Keith, Valerie and Patsy.

We do need more.

Patsy Spiller

Christian Aid

Drawing on the Vicar's Letter in Trinity Times last summer, here is a reminder of what Christian Aid is, and does:

Christian Aid is all for the sake of the poorest people in the world. Whatever their faith (or lack of it), whatever their particular need, Christian Aid responds with emergency aid and long-term development, bringing hope and life.

Thank you to everyone in Holy Trinity who contributed in any way to our Christian Aid collection in 2019. Here is a breakdown of our giving:

	£
Lent Lunches	359.50
Coffee Morning	134.40
Gift Aid envelopes	269.00
Donation	200.00
Late cash gift	20.00
Gift Aid	210.00
TOTAL	<u>2,192.90</u>

Valerie Webb

The Children's Society

Alan Lees took over the running of this charity in 2015. Sadly, the amount of money we gave to this charity in 2019 dwindled, as a number of people holding the boxes had passed away. There were many requests through the weekly church notices for someone to assist with this very worthwhile charity, but regrettably no-one come forward.

2019 was not a good year for the box collections. We only sent £45 from collection boxes to the Society. We used to generate a lot of money through the sale of Christmas Cards as well. but even that became more difficult as the Society expected us to pay for the cards upfront and didn't really give us much help when we asked for it.

We do have a very successful Christingle Service every year, and it has always been Holy Trinity's tradition to send the collection to this very worthwhile charity.

It is however with great regret that we will no longer be supporting the Children's Society through our boxes. Anyone still wishing to give, can do so by setting up a direct debit to the Society. Please see me for their details. Many thanks to all those who have given in the past.

Chris Spooner

The Mission to Seafarers

We celebrated Sea Sunday at Holy Trinity on September 15th, 2019. This event coincided with our monthly Morning Worship service, with a visiting preacher, the Reverend Victor Storey. He had been to us several years ago, as he is on the list of relevant preachers from the Mission. Sea Sunday is the global celebration of the enduring and vital work of the Mission to Seafarers. It has been happening every year for over 160 years and is the biggest fundraising event of the year.

The service was arranged around a suggested theme from the Mission to Seafarers, and the Revd. Mr. Storey also contributed to choosing suitable readings and hymns. We were delighted to welcome a group of young people from the Leamington Sea Cadet corps and scouts from the Holy Trinity group were also invited. Our curate Esther was invited to lead the service jointly with the Morning Worship team.

This was an excellent celebration, with a parade of the Sea Cadet banner, and the visiting preacher, having a background within the Mission to Seafarers, focused his attention and content on the younger members of the congregation. It was, however, very much an inclusive service, and we were gratified that the younger people stayed on for refreshments and engaged readily with the regular congregation.

Many thanks to all who helped and contributed during the Sea Sunday celebrations. A donation of £283.10 was sent to the Mission from HT, which consists of card sales (£29.50), collection boxes (£88.60), and a retiring collection, with some gift aid declarations.

Rachel Middleton

Churches Together in Leamington

The Church is represented on the committee of CTiL and is encouraged to join in their activities. This year CTiL organised: - the United Service during the Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity; the Good Friday Service in Christ Church Gardens; An Easter Day sunrise service; Prayer Ministry for people attending the Peace Festival; and a “Living Library” event at which people serving in various ministries in our town were available for “reading” for five minutes by those who wanted to know more about them.

During the year Rev. Brian Nash stood down as Chair of the committee, as he was moving to become Vicar of a parish in Coventry. The Rev. James Church, Minister of Radford Road Methodist Church and Lillington Free Church, took his place.

Hazel Reese

Foodbanks

Warwick and Leamington Food Bank is part of The Trussell Trust's UK-wide food bank network. It is supported by local churches, businesses, community groups, and individuals. A report stated that the food bank network provided 823,145 emergency food parcels to people in crisis between April and September 2019, a 23% increase on the same period in 2018. One in five people in the UK lives below the poverty line.

Today in Warwick District there are families struggling to put food on the table. For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis - redundancy, benefit delay or even an unexpected bill - can mean going hungry. Every day parents skip meals to feed their children, and people are forced to choose between paying the rent and eating.

Warwick District food bank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis. Based at St Paul's Church, Leicester St, there are several satellite centres set up to hand out food Monday to Friday within the area. The scheme has already engaged the public by setting up supermarket collection points for shoppers to donate particular items that are needed.

This year saw a marked increase in vouchers given to cover the cost of school holiday meals. For some families the summer holidays can cause financial hardship - having to spend more on food when normally a free school meal is provided and finding money for days out puts extra strain on already over-stretched budgets.

How it works:

- Non-perishable food and toiletries are donated by the public
- Volunteers sort and pack food into emergency food boxes
- Frontline care professionals such as doctors and social workers give food bank vouchers to people in crisis.
- Food bank vouchers are exchanged for three days of food at a foodbank.
- Food banks take time to listen and signpost clients to further support.

Holy Trinity Church regularly donated items to be collected and delivered to one of the Foodbank outlets around Leamington Spa. Our donations were much appreciated and received gratefully from staff at the centres.

Each time I visit, I ask about specific products that are in short supply, or items that are **not** needed in excess: this way, we can be sure that all foods and non-perishable items are gratefully received by the Collecting Centres and allocated to those in the community who have a significant need.

Many thanks for all your generous donations, as our giving continues into 2020. For further information, visit the website www.trusselltrust.org.

Rachel Middleton

Summer Lecture Series

In 2019 we held the first of a series of lectures, from May through to September, which were very well attended by people who wouldn't normally come into Holy Trinity.

The topics were: Israel Palestine – A Tortured Land. Reflections on living in East Jerusalem; Ethical Banking; The history and present-day life of Christchurch Gardens; Keeping yourself, your property and your neighbourhood safe; The History of Leamington Spa in 100 Buildings.

We hope that this will become an annual event in the church's calendar.

Hazel Reese

Cathedral Partners

Each parish is invited to have a representative to strengthen the links between congregations and our cathedral. Reports of the Partners' meetings are published in Trinity Times. Please pray for the clergy and all the staff at the Cathedral as they prepare for the challenges and opportunities of Coventry City of Culture 2021

John Reese

The Deanery Synod

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a Deanery Synod is convened by the Rural Dean or Area Dean and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery, plus lay members elected every three years. It acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish in its deanery and the synod of the diocese as a whole.

In England its lay members also elect the deanery's lay representatives to its diocesan synod, and its diocesan members of the House of Laity to the General Synod of the Church of England. This takes place every five years by a system of Single Transferable Vote.

Holy Trinity Church is within the Warwick and Leamington Deanery, one of 12 other churches. It meets every three months and is usually hosted by churches within the Deanery.

Various issues within the Deanery are put to discussion and/or working groups and it is an opportunity to bring views and news from around the Deanery. There is an annual discussion and setting of diocesan Parish Share allocations.

In 2019, the following topics and aspects were covered:

- An update from the Acceler8 project which is an initiative established by the Diocese of Coventry and the wider Church of England to try to reverse the trend of falling numbers in the 20s to 30s age group. Further information can be found on the Diocese of Coventry website.
- A presentation by Tim Mitchell – Healthy Churches Mentor on the Current Progress of the 8eqs Strategy. (The 8 Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches.)
- A presentation by Bishop Christopher – 'Mutual Flourishing'; he shared the 'Five Guiding Principles' (ref Ephesians, Chapter 4 v 3) which emphasises the tension between men and women priests within the worldwide church and how the five guiding principles support the range of practices.
- A talk by Rev Elaine Scrivens on a recent visit to Kenya. Two years ago the diocese made a link with Kapsabet, Kenya. Two visits have been made from us to them and there have been several reciprocal visits from Kenya. The diocese has been working with British Council for reciprocal school visits and funds have been helpful in providing a variety of projects. Bishop John leads a steering group to develop further links.
- The Lay Chair position is still vacant.

Rachel Middleton and Chris Spooner

The Church Website

Visitor numbers: during the period shown, the old website has been retired and replaced with a new one. The year-on-year variance for visitor numbers is not available, since the new site tracks visits by page, not overall (one visitor may view two or more pages).

Since the new site is fairly recent, absolute numbers shown do not reflect the year totals; however, they are indicative of popularity of topics.

Please also note that not all pages were added at the same date, therefore a true representation will be available after the last added page has been in place for 12 months. Figures then will allow for annualised adjustment.

Top 5 most popular articles:

1384 views - Contact Us
349 views - Events at Holy Trinity
258 views - Christmas 2019
255 views - Latest events
242 views – Safeguarding

Least popular articles:

Giving to the work of the Holy Trinity - Views 217
Alpha Course - Views 220
Prayer Meetings – Views 233

Contacts: the contacts page (either directly from the website, or via “A Church Near You”) has generated 251 e-mail communications (in total, received and sent) over the course of the period indicated. **This is an increase of 1% on the previous year.**

The primary subjects for these were a fairly equal split of various enquiries, with Church and Hall bookings email enquiries reducing significantly *

*At Terry and Kate’s request the email enquiry option remains removed from the website, with ‘phone contact only.

The amount of spam and phishing received has shown an increase.

Contacts by ‘phone, where the contact details were obtained from the web, are unable to be quantified, as are enquiries sent directly to members of the Clergy.

Updates: The new site is up and running and feedback is requested for enhancements please.

Grant Colledge

Trinity Times

Trinity Times can lay claim to be a genuine “voice” of Holy Trinity people. Some have more voices than others, but any member of Holy Trinity who has something to say, can say it in the pages of *Trinity Times*.

It is not a conventional parish magazine, with advertisements to provide revenue, cookery recipes for church festivals or a children’s page, for example, but it is a useful organ of communication and information all the same. A standard parish magazine generally comes out every one or two months, and we do tend to lose out slightly here. On the other hand, TT is easy to produce and extremely adaptable. (Stop Press, for instance, can be included up to the day before publication, now that we are producing it in house, thanks to Pam.)

There is scope for a few more ‘feature’ items, and I should like to invite someone from our congregation to provide an article on *A Hymn (s) that Means a lot to Me* for the next TT, which will, we hope, go ahead as normal, even if it has to be online. Please e-mail me if you are willing to do this.

Whatever you find in the pages of *Trinity Times*, however, it is due entirely to the co-operation and goodwill of its contributors, both regular and occasional, and to whom, as always, I give my hearty thanks.

Patsy Spiller

Who's Who at Holy Trinity 2019

CLERGY

Revd. Christopher Wilson

CHURCHWARDENS

Revd. Esther Peers

Mrs. Chris Spooner

LAY VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Terry Gardner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mrs. Rachel Middleton

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Mr. Adrian Moore

TREASURER

Mr. Roger Pascall

BOOKKEEPER AND DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

Mrs. Kathleen Green

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs. Pam Iredale

GIFT AID RECORDER

Mrs. Patsy Spiller

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr. Graham Kew

NEWS SHEET CONTACT

Mrs. Rachel Middleton

FLOWERS

Mrs. Margaret Tomlinson

HALL TREASURER

Mrs. Rachel Middleton

HALL BOOKINGS & HALL CARETAKER

Mrs. Jenni Holliday

Mrs. Vanessa Holmes

CUBS/SCOUTS

Mrs. Kate Gardner

TRINITY TIMES EDITOR

Mr. Harry Robbins

Mrs. Patsy Spiller

WEBMASTER

Mr. Grant Colledge

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