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TRINITY TIMES ONLINE

What a year! From Esther

Has 2020 been the year of firsts at Holy Trinity? I've only been part of HT for 2 years, so you'll need to let me know if I have got this correct or not - but surely HT has never seen so much change in the space of 6 months!

Since going into lockdown back in March, as a church, we've got to grips with online services, prayer meetings on Zoom, Bible studies using podcasts, email newsletters, PCC by video conference and my personal favourite, a virtual commissioning by Bishop Christopher!

The doors of the building may have been closed, but the church is very much alive and open, adapting and responding to the situation we find ourselves in. Despite being unable to meet in person, we have been able to maintain a presence in our community through our online services, and connect with members of the church family through the wonders of technology.

Even in such a time of uncertainty, God has continued to bless us at HT. One of the incredible blessings over the last few months is that we have grown in number. It's strange, perhaps miraculous, that a church with its doors closed might actually grow, but that is exactly what we have seen happen.

If you have joined Holy Trinity over the last few months, can I say a very warm welcome to you, and I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks. I am very happy you are part of Holy Trinity and thank you for joining us.

The coming months will bring fresh challenges to our church life, and my prayer as we enter this next stage of life together is that we continue to *pray, give us today our daily bread*. May God continue to provide for us today what we need for today, and may we trust him completely for whatever tomorrow may bring.

I know I have said this before, but I feel so privileged to be part of the story at Holy Trinity. I would like to again express my gratitude to everyone involved over the last few months organising the many services and events, both in the church building and online. We are blessed to be part of a growing, gifted and hard working church family!

As a reminder, here are the various in church and online services and groups happening at the moment. Everyone is welcome to come along to all our services and events. More details are on the website. Why not invite a friend along - they might just say yes!

WHATS ON A HT?

Sunday Service - Weekly at 10.30am

Join us for a service of Holy Communion in the church building.

Zoom prayer meeting - Wednesday 9.30am

During this time we pray for the church, our town, the world and for one another.

To join in, you can use the Zoom meeting ID 690 828 5618 or click on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6908285618>

Church open for quiet prayer and reflection Weekly on Wednesdays 11.15 -12.00

Come and enjoy the space of the church building for your own private prayers.

Mid-week Holy Communion Service First Wednesday of the month 10.30

A small communion service specifically for those who are clinically vulnerable, or have a preference for avoiding larger gatherings.

Mid-week Zoom Bible Study Wednesday 8pm

Why not join in with an in-depth study of Marks Gospel.

Zoom Coffee morning Saturdays 10.30-11.30.

Join in to spend time with others in the HT church family.

The Zoom meeting ID is 841 9430 0167, or you can use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84194300167>.

NEWS FROM “THE OFFICE”

Well, 2020 has certainly been a different year from “normal”.

In January, Esther and I were really excited that the church office was going to be open, along with the church, on Monday mornings. A steady stream of regulars came to enjoy the tranquillity of the church, and the welcome cup of coffee on arrival. We were also delighted when visitors came to look around the church.

On many occasions Esther met with Christopher for their staff meeting before meeting with myself at 10am to discuss the weeks' business. After a while Christopher introduced Morning Prayer, which was a lovely, thoughtful way to start the week.

Thankfully, John Reese was happy to continue taking the Morning Prayer, which was open to anyone, and then Lockdown came and everything changed. Church services stopped, the church was locked and then we were introduced to Zoom!

Whether we like Zoom or not, it has enabled the church to continue working. PCC meetings in March, May, and June with an extra-ordinary PCC meeting in July have been held, and the Standing Committee meets every Monday lunchtime. The Wednesday prayer meeting, which used to meet in the Lady Chapel, is now held by Zoom, as too the Saturday morning coffee meeting. On Sundays we can follow the 10.30am service online, and there is another chance to chat online via the Sunday coffee meeting link.

With lockdown, obviously not only was the church in lockdown, but the church hall premises too. Ultimately, that meant little income was coming in, but thanks to Martin Haywood keeping a close eye on the income, our accounts are still looking healthy.

In **MARCH**, the major items the PCC were asked to vote on were:

- 1) We adopted the current baseline budget as the general fund operating budget for 2020
- 2) Standing Committee Commitment Authority level increased to £3,000.
- 3) International giving.
- 4) A Hardship Fund to be set up. A budget of £500 set to be put aside annually.

An urgent PCC meeting by correspondence was held in April. This was to co-opt Pam Iredale formally as PCC Secretary, a move which had previously been overlooked.

In **MAY** there was a general update given on Covid 19, the security of the church due to lockdown, and Faculties that had been applied for were:

- 1) to install external lighting to illuminate the church,
- 2) a request that the diseased Weeping Ash tree be taken down

In **JUNE** the PCC were presented with the Pathfinder Document by Andrew Paine. This document is about looking ahead, and the possible future plans for Holy Trinity.

The PCC were asked to study the document, and approach members of the congregation to obtain thoughts and ideas, and report findings back to Pam Iredale.

An Extra-ordinary PCC meeting was held in **JULY** which discussed:

- 1) working towards re-opening the church again for public worship,
- 2) approval of the 2019 accounts.
- 3) discussion of the Parish share for 2021. Our recommendation was to offer the same as in 2020, ie £36,000.

The next PCC meeting is in September, when hopefully we will receive instructions from the Diocese about holding the Annual Parochial Meeting.

Pam Iredale
PCC Secretary.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS DURING COVID19

How were we to know that this terrible Pandemic would lead us into this strange world of comparative non-activity and for so long?

I ask myself what have I missed the most since the start of lockdown in March? The very first occasion which comes to mind is not being able to celebrate Mothering Sunday in church, followed by having lunch with my younger daughter and her family. In all the years of being a Mum I have never spent it on my own until this year. Then it was Easter! All I can say is thank goodness for Zoom and Vimeo and to all the people who take part in the addresses, readings and intercessions, and to Jon Randall and Don Arthurson who have been putting the 10.30 services in place for us. Zoom can be a bit of a problem sometimes, when it seems to fail and people can't enter easily. It seems to be particularly difficult for the two coffee mornings on Saturdays and Sundays. In the main the 10.30 Sunday service seems to be going well, and is greatly appreciated.

For me the highlight of the Vimeo Services was the one led by Bishop Christopher. When it came to me reading the lesson. I was terrified. I didn't like the clothes I was wearing. Then I brushed my hair a number of times because even in mid-May it was showing signs of needing a trim. Then I thought the kitchen was probably not the best place to read and finally settled at the table in the dining room.

When asked what I have missed or disliked about the present situation, my reply is; I don't like looking at myself on video! I seem to be completely incapable of smiling

when I am reading. I miss the friendship and socialising on a Saturday and a Sunday. I miss singing in the choir and the people in it, I miss taking wine and a full Communion Service. Having said that I have really enjoyed the new 9 o'clock service with the special treat of Adrian and Roger playing and Adrian being the Cantor for a psalm at that service as well and, of course, being able to chat to people on the pavement after the service is over. I definitely miss a good chat!

We look forward in hope and prayer for a new start to the Sunday Services in September and to welcoming Esther back after her summer break. Her dedication and enthusiasm will, I am sure take us through the autumn and winter and together we will overcome any difficulties which may be in part beyond our control.

CHRIS

THE WALK

I don't know if you feel the same as me, but I am having great difficulty in coming to terms with the insanity of the last few months. Yet again I have just witnessed another television bulletin full of absolute doom and gloom in which they seem to be almost elated that vast numbers of us are dying of this awful virus. Is it any wonder that great numbers of the nation are now suffering from depression.

We have been told to lock ourselves away from our friends and families, we have been told to maintain social distancing and cover our faces with masks. When we walk in the street we now seem to be nervous when someone approaches us.

I needed to deal with this in my own way, although I also was careful that I should follow the instructions given by the government to keep safe.

Well , what should I do ?

As a Christian, I believe that God will show us the way through this pandemic and I believe he has shown me the way at least to avoid the rhetoric of the news media doom mongers.

I have a dog which needs to be taken for walks, as he has always has done, every day, without fail. The various government agencies also decreed that we should take periods of exercise for the good of our physical and mental wellbeing. Great, I thought. I can now satisfy the Government and myself!

As we are fortunate to live fairly close to the countryside I am able to walk through an area of natural beauty.

Our dog, like a few of us, is now getting old and suffers from arthritis in his legs which means that he can only stroll along at a manageable pace for me.

Kate asked me the other day what my favourite colour is, to which I gave my usual non-committal answer of, I like all colours, which is true of course, but I wasn't able to give a true answer to her question.

I must mention that I use the dog walk, and always have done, as a time to think about problems and questions which arise almost continuously and you've guessed it, the colour thing came into my mind. As I started the walk, passing the gateway into the field, looked ahead and there was the answer; Green.

The grass is green, the trees and the hedges are green also, and at this time of year the crops are green, therefore my favourite colour must be green.

Anyway I digress. As I walk I observe the hedges, which are made up of many different shrubs, hawthorn, blackberry, dog rose etc. Within the hedges the birds are nesting and going about their business in their melodious fashion, blackbirds, hedge sparrows robin and wrens.

Above, if it's sunny, the skylarks are hovering, singing their skylark songs. The swifts dart around, catching insects (their aerobatics put the red arrows to shame), and in the distance I can see buzzards being harassed by angry rooks.

As I continue, I can now see my favourite tree. This tree is an elderly Oak, a magnificent example of the English Oak which has been here, in its own plot of land for well over a century. Its green canopy stretches high into the air, a wonderful sight against the blue summer sky. Its trunk is gnarled and rough, and close to fifteen feet round.

As I stand under its boughs and touch its rough bark, I can transport myself to another world of peace and tranquillity, away from the noise, stress and violence of the modern world.

Finally, as I leave my tree after giving it a hug, my walk continues. I turn my face upwards to the sky, the sun has passed on, covered by cloud, the rain starts, along with the wind. I continue to face the rain and I thank God for allowing me to enjoy this wonderful world of natural beauty and ask him to protect us all and my wonderful Oak.

TERRY

THE PANDEMIC AND HOPE

We are living through a painful season that has brought loss of life, incapacity, unemployment and massive insecurity here in the UK and to countless millions in Asia, Africa and South America. The industrial and economic foundations of our western societies are being shaken and we cannot yet see full impact this is going to have on our lives. This must be a time for reflection on what really matters, when

statistics show that increasing numbers of people are losing hope, or a sense of their own value.

The psalmist says:

*What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them,
mere human beings that you should seek them out?
You have made them little lower than angels
and crown them with glory and honour. (Psalm 8 v.5,6)*

Sadly, statistics show that many people find this hard to believe about themselves. Many will agree with atheist Richard Dawkins that:

The universe we observe, has precisely the properties we should expect, if there is at bottom no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.

In fact many of the world's leading scientists will not agree with that statement. Nor could most of us who have held a new-born child, been hugged by a grandchild, find ourselves loved despite ourselves and just know, deep down, that our sense of right and wrong cannot be the chance result of a mindless process. Our eyes are opened to what really matters – the welfare of our families and friends, our communities and all who share this planet, our extraordinary home in the vastness of the universe.

Christians believe that there is Good News for all. Love is at the heart of all things; 'God is love' (1 John 4.16). We are not the product of 'blind pitiless indifference' but we are all made 'in the image of God' (Genesis 1.26,27)

We are children of God, the Father. His face is seen in his Son who 'dwelt among us.....who is close to the Father's heart'. (John 1.14, 18). When hope is destroyed by a Pandemic, or a bomb blast in Beirut, or the slaughter of a 10 year old child in Yemen, or just as tragically by insecurity and the lack of love shown to any individual, hope is to be found in God who is eternally in our midst. Jesus' cry and ours, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me', is always heard. He bears our pain and heals our hopelessness. He has shared our life and our death, promising; 'I will be with you always' (Matthew 28.20).

With this hope in our hearts may Christians be at the forefront of thinking afresh about what is unhealthy in our societies, and threatening to our common well-being.

JOHN REESE

FINANCE

The entrance to 2020 for Holy Trinity finances saw the blessings of 2019 in terms of a general giving increase of c.25%; sizeable legacy donations from dearly departed friends; and the completion of our major roof project, including generous support from the Heritage Lottery fund.

There is no question regarding the servant and giving hearts of our congregation, but as the renewed Vision for our Community evolves, supported by our Vision Steering Group, the challenge to change for the benefit of bringing those to a reality of Christ Being Relevant Today (to whom we have not yet been introduced) will certainly be to consider whether we really grasp the depth of “loving our neighbours as ourselves”. I am humbled to see the first shoots of this as the level of giving has continued into 2020 and our surplus being ahead of budget. The impact of COVID19 has not been insignificant on our congregation and, with the financial challenges being different for each household, I cannot let the opportunity pass without passing on my heartfelt thanks to all of those who have continued to answer God’s calling regarding their personal giving. This cannot be taken for granted at any time, let alone in the current economic climate.

How we develop our ministries, mission, Infrastructure, services and buildings / facilities for the benefit of our community partners will evolve over the coming year. Leaving everything at the foot of their cross, that is ultimately His, for our saviour to use, will be challenging for us all, but will also be exciting, frightening, exhilarating and character building. A “new norm” leaves us all in the same boat and, with us not being able to meet together as we have done before, will test each of our hearts to rethink “How can I be Christ in my community”.

God bless you all in your continued faithfulness

MARTIN HAYWOOD

MUSIC

Who, at the beginning of this year, would have been able to foresee how different our lives would turn out to be in 2020? Everything and everyone has been affected by Covid-19 including, of course, music and musicians.

Lockdown put a stop to most of the music-making at Holy Trinity - but not quite all, I am pleased to say. Singers and musicians from the 10.30 and 4 o'clock services, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, have been able to provide hymns and

songs for the on-line services over the last few months, and now that services in church are resuming, live music-making is once again possible.

So far at the 9 am services the organ has been played at the start and end of the services and during communion, and on some Sundays a psalm has been sung or a Taize chant played. Hopefully from September it will be possible now to have a few more singers, properly distanced - though maybe not the whole choir just yet - to contribute music to the worship.

The entire season of lunchtime concerts at Holy Trinity has had to be abandoned as have the organ concerts planned for Wednesday evenings in September, but several of the players and singers who have not been able to perform this year have expressed an interest in taking part in next year's series. Watch this space!

ADRIAN

FLOWERS

Not a lot to say about flowers in these difficult and uncertain times.

While the church was open just for private prayer I just did flowers for the porch and on the welcome table, and by the Remembrance Book.

Since there has been a Sunday morning service I have put a small arrangement in the Chancel. I have been using artificial flowers by the Remembrance Book unless there has been a name we know and would specially like to be noted. I know not everyone has returned to church yet, but if anyone would like me to do special flowers for an anniversary, whether or not you are able or ready to return to church, please let me know and I will do something in memory of your loved one.

JENNI

CORONACROSTIC!

P pyrexia, persistent cough, paracetamol shortage, pubs close,

Prince Charles has Covid, Priority post boxes, Phone Pals, Primrose mail order for seeds, Prime Minister in hospital, picking early blackberries, Prayers via Zoom, PCC via Zoom, pilates via Zoom, protests (Black Lives Matter), Parks re-open, perspex screens and visors, picking sweet peas, parties in the street on VE day, , puzzles and quizzes, Parading safely.

A anosmia, advice guidelines, African family updates, A-word drama, antigen and anti-body testing, Ascot (Royal, via Face time in a hat!), arrange shopping for others, announcements from the Chancellor. All the family on Face Time, Ascension Day in Lockdown, Algorithms for A levels, attempts to clear the attic, appointment with the hairdresser after 21 weeks.

N no swimming, no travel, no social interaction, no loo rolls. NHS plaudits, neighbourly waves, Newbold Comyn walks, need for regular thorough hand washing, non-essential travel restrictions

D daily updates broadcast at 5pm, dodging the crowds especially joggers, distancing socially, daughter in self-isolation, Dominic Cummings goes travelling, decontaminating the post, delivery of wine from brother in law. Digging up weeds, dog walks.

E exercise once a day, Easter in Lockdown, early supermarket shopping slots, Education at Home, Esther commissioned as Pioneer Curate, exploring new novelists, Eventbrite book a visit to Recycling centre. EveryOne Active restarts. Exam results, even more Pilates (on Zoom)

M masks, Mothering Sunday in Lockdown, Memorable birthdays for Diane, Margaret, Lydia, Emily, Chris, Hazel.
Makaton workshops, Mindful chef meal orders, Meaningful Communication training, Meet new RLSBC music director via Zoom. Metres length apart. Mowing the lawn, Morning Service on Sunday via video, Meetings via Zoom.

I infection control, isolation, information, Intercessions on Zoom and on video. Innovative cooking with new recipes.

C coronavirus, closed churches, consultations via video (GP), cancelled weddings, community spirit, calls to HT family, Clapping for the NHS, coffee chats with close friends, coffee mornings via Zoom, Cuckoo heard (twice), Christopher, Bishop of Coventry 'comes' to HT, choir practice via Zoom, Cornish days away, Charlie goes to the barber after 25 weeks.

R.M.

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Coronavirus, March 2020 – continuing life was very quiet at first – the by-pass near my house was extremely quiet!

I was able to go out to join the queues at various supermarkets. The weather was mostly good, so that helped. I was shopping for an elderly neighbour, and also for a friend who was undergoing chemotherapy. Strange empty shelves – no toilet rolls or baked beans.

I missed seeing all my friends at Holy Trinity too. I spoke on the telephone, and kept in touch with quite a lot of people from Holy Trinity, plus friends and relations.

I did manage to watch the Vimeo services that Esther, John and others have kindly sent out each Sunday. I wasn't so good with Zoom. I also watched the BBC Morning Services – they stopped them too soon.

I was also waiting for an urgent eye appointment, as I had seen the optician on the Monday before Lockdown, and a referral was made. This was stressful. I did see the consultant in June, for which I used Voluntary Transport. There have also been physiotherapy and consultant appointments by telephone.

When things began to ease a little we had a Scarecrow Trail in Southam, for Heroes. It was good to see everybody's efforts.

I regularly watched the daily Coronavirus reports on BBC 1 at 4.30 pm, and I went out each Thursday to clap for the NHS and all careworkers. Having worked for the NHS for nearly 38 years, this was a must, when thinking of my ex-colleagues. I was sent a 'return to work' email, but there were too many health problems to return to practice.

It was lovely when Holy Trinity opened up for quiet prayer on Mondays and Fridays, and being able to see people again and have a socially distanced chat. I am looking forward to the 10.30 am services returning in September. I believe there was a good attendance at the 9.00 am services, but they were too early for me. I have attended two 10.30 am services at All Saints, and it was lovely to have Holy Communion again. It was also good to see little Michael Wilson.

Another event was a birthday party in Christchurch Gardens for Emily and Lydia. I have also seen church friends in Jephson Gardens, which was lovely. I have a 'bubble' with Jean Eustace, and we have celebrated a 'big' birthday! I have managed to visit Margaret Salvin once, by appointment, in the garden of her care

home. Margaret celebrated her 99th birthday on her own, but received many cards, gifts and phone calls.

My double glazing replacement windows were due to be done in April, but were done in July. I was rather apprehensive about having workmen in the house.

Let us pray that a vaccine will soon be found, and please look after those who are vulnerable in our church family. Pray for everyone in the world to stay safe, keep well and maintain social distancing. I wish good health to all.
VALERIE

TALKING TO STRANGERS

Phone conversations between complete strangers have been taking place all over Leamington over the last five months, thanks to an initiative launched by the Covid19 Mutual Aid Group. Volunteers have been put in touch with people who have asked for a chat on the phone and amazingly the 2000th call was made ten days ago.

I do sometimes wonder whether I am getting more support from the call than the person requesting a chat. I have had so many wonderful conversations with people telling me about growing up in Leamington or elsewhere, their travels, families and so much more.

I have talked to musicians, artists, poets, policemen, soldiers, engineers, nurses and teachers. I've learnt about steam trains, icebreaking ships, numerous sports teams and the Knights of the Templars and got advice on what sort of TV to buy and how to grow my vegetables more successfully.

Some tell me about their experiences during the war, some have travelled all over the world by every type of vehicle you can imagine and some were real pioneers in all sorts of ways. One woman told me about becoming a bus driver when there were no female bus drivers and the reaction of all the men drivers when she walked into the drivers' waiting room. She just happened to mention getting her pilot's licence in our latest call.

There are many happy stories of meeting partners, family holidays and the joy of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And of course, there are sad stories as well, lost loved ones, missed opportunities, ill health and loneliness especially during the lockdown period. But the themes that run through all the calls are of amazing resilience, great concern for everyone else and even some guilt about having to rely on others for support when they are accustomed to being fiercely independent.

It is a very special and at times quite humbling experience having these conversations with strangers. Actually, some of them don't feel like such strangers now after our time spent chatting, even if we have not met in person. Perhaps when we are able to, we will all get together in the park to celebrate our newfound friendships.

CHARLIE

RIDE AND STRIDE

Ride+Stride is a national fundraising event that raises £1 million annually to support churches and chapels across the UK.

It is the annual Ride and Stride once again, and as usual it coincides with the Heritage Weekend within the district ; this is Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust's principal source of income; Holy Trinity plans to be open for two Saturdays to show its participation in both these events.

Ride and Stride is a shared opportunity for churches of Warwickshire to raise funds to keep our church heritage in good repair into the future. Any sponsored money raised is divided equally between a named church (ours!) and the County Trust. Last year Holy Trinity gave a cheque for £405 .People wishing to be sponsored can plan to cycle, walk, run, jog or even ride on horse-back a chosen or recommended route around the various town and village churches.

Obviously, this year, things are going to have to be slightly different. We can Ride and Stride (socially distanced) on any day in September to make it as flexible as possible. We cannot expect churches to be open, nor to provide refreshments, but we can still visit as many churches as possible (up to 25 max in total) and raise some money for ours.

Fundraising can be done easily online (either a one-off donation from £5 or setting up a personal fundraising page): www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/RideandStride2020Warwickshire

If you are on Facebook, here is the link to our post about Ride and Stride 2020 – we urge you to please to share it on your Facebook page and with your email contacts.

<https://www.facebook.com/Warwickshire-Coventry-Historic-Churches-Trust-232032643988992>.

For more information go to www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ride-and-stride.

I have taken part in this event for the past eight years, surprised myself by enjoying the challenge, and have been hugely supported by the Holy Trinity congregation.

Charlie and I plan to participate and we will be encouraging sponsors from this weekend coming.

Rachel Middleton

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS AT HOLY TRINITY

HT has supported this National Trust/District Councils initiative since its beginning, and we are continuing to do so this year – with reduced visiting hours and (sadly!) no refreshments of course. Please support us if you can.

Each year, in September and along with several other churches, historic buildings and gardens, Holy Trinity opens its doors to visitors from all over. Mainly from Warwickshire and neighbouring counties, but we have had visitors from the other side of the globe!

Taking part in this wonderful initiative helps to put HT on the map, and increases the number of people who visit. Every year there have been more visitors, many of them leaving lovely comments on our visitor pages, almost equally divided between appreciation of our beautiful church itself, and the heartening welcome visitors receive from HT members who greet them.

And so, many thanks again to those who have kindly offered to be ‘on duty’ for the two Saturdays. The church will be open on Saturday, September 12th, 12 noon – 3 pm, and Saturday, September 19th, 12 noon – 3 pm.

A.P.S.

SCOUTS



Back in March, we received the sad news that all face-to-face Scout meetings and activities were suspended until further notice. Before this announcement was made, our Scout Troop (10.5 to 14 years) enjoyed a weekend survival camp at Hatton Scout Campsite. The Scouts hiked from the Scout Hut to the campsite before building their shelter to sleep in. They also cooked their evening meal on an open fire.

Although face-to-face Scouting between March and July was put on hold, our Leaders and Young People didn't let this stop them from finding new ways to participate in Scouting. The Cub Scouts (8 to 10.5 years) enjoyed a mixture of online

meetings via Zoom and completing various badges such as the Scientist, Naturalist and Digital Citizen badge. The Scout Troop (10.5 to 14 years) also participated in online Zoom meetings where Scouts learnt new first aid skills, completed problem solving tasks, practised their map reading skills and learnt about the Countryside Code. The Explorer Scouts (14 to 18 years) also continued Scouting online, with various quizzes, their very own bake off competition and even an online escape room.

Between March and July, over 50 badges and awards have been achieved and four enrolments took place. Some young members even went camping in their own back garden, where they enjoyed campfires and outdoor cooking. Not even lockdown can stop our young members from taking part in Scouting.

As the Autumn term commences in September and lockdown restrictions ease, we can finally welcome all our young members back to face-to-face Scouting, although this will look very different from what we are all used to. I would like to thank all our Leaders and Group Executive Committee members who have worked hard over the Summer holidays to ensure all procedures are in place and that it is safe for face-to-face Scouting to recommence.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at 12th Leamington (Holy Trinity) Scout Group, I would like to thank Holy Trinity Church for their continued support, which enables us to offer Scouting to over 50 young people.

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

It is rather sad to read the Red Lid report in the last *Trinity Times (Lent & Easter 2020)* This came out at the end of February, and was intended to cover March, April and May this year.

Not a hint of Covid 19 (although we know now that it had reared its ugly head as early as December last year). The drop-in report, however, was full of enthusiasm and promise. We were looking forward to the possibility of extending our Red Lid activities to a Wednesday morning Music and Movement session in the Bethany Room.

And it took place! On Wednesday, March 11th, we welcomed our Red Lid friends to *WATCH*, for a couple of hours of music and movement. There were some extra volunteers as well, and altogether it was a good and promising experience.

Then it was the regular Red Lid in the Parish Hall the next day – and that was the last we saw of our Willes Road friends! But we have kept in touch, by ‘phone and text, and are pleased to report that the general health of carers and service users has been good, and everyone is looking forward to getting together again – some day!

A.P.S

THE READING GROUP

We all knew it. You can't keep a good Reading Group down! Lockdown? So what? Social distancing? We can cope with that. Face masks? Don't need'em – well not for online meetings anyway.

The Reading Group moved seamlessly from animated chat plus refreshments in members' living rooms to animated discussion online in our own rooms, and with our own refreshments.

It wasn't, and isn't, the same of course – how could it be? Most of all I miss the sudden bursts of laughter which would erupt now and again during our old-style meetings.

But we've had, and are having, some fun and entertainment. We aim to keep more or less to our plan for the year, but many other books and reading experiences are mentioned in between times, and recommendations have been taken up – sometimes for books that we'd never heard of, and other times for old favourites. And one advantage of being online is that you can trawl back through your emails for a title or author you'd lost track of. And another benefit is that you can be more expansive, and talk about places and holidays – and how to nurture one's Amaryllis!

Briefly, our main topics were *Maskerade* by Terry Pratchett, *1984* by George Orwell, Own Choice – *Biography/Autobiography*, and for September it will be a Library Lucky Dip choice – *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson – rather a change from our normal fare. All good fun.

But it will be nice when we can all meet together again!

A.P.S

CHRISTIAN AID UK

As most of you know, our church supports Christian Aid. The week set aside for Christian Aid collections was in May, but because of Lockdown we were unable to undertake any fundraising or make collections. Esther mentioned it in one of the 'At Home' mailings, but only two people made donations.

In this country our Government has provided help for the vulnerable during the pandemic – the homeless have been moved into hotels, free meals provided for children who needed them. The furlough scheme has helped too.

Christian Aid UK works in 37 countries, helping people regardless of religion or race. The governments of countries such as Bangladesh and Syria offer no help to their vulnerable people. Help is especially needed in situations where there is overcrowding, and therefore increased risk of Covid 19 spreading. Christian Aid provides medical aid, fresh water, food and shelter, along with other agencies such as Oxfam.

Please can we as a church donate a little more this year to this worthy cause, gift-aided where possible. Special envelopes will be placed at the back of church during September.

Thanks to everyone.

VALERIE

POSTCARDS

As you know, we have collected these for very many years and used to give them for resale to a charitable organisation working in South Sudan. This is no longer possible, however.

I now have quite a lot of cards, about 2,000 in all, at a very rough count, including many from All Saints. Therefore, after much consideration, I contacted Myton

Hospice. They have an eBay selling site and are extremely pleased to accept our cards.

All I have to do now is make an appointment to take them there, and I will let you know any further developments.

JEAN

100 YEARS AGO AT HOLY TRINITY

This will be a short-ish report, even though it covers the months from March to August 1920. Thinking about the current pandemic, I naturally thought of the 'Spanish flu' of 1918-1920, which caused at least 50 million deaths worldwide. It amazed me that I could find no reference in the HT parish magazines of the time, not even in *The Sign*, the syndicated church booklet that formed the cover of our magazine.

In March 1920, however, things were going well at Holy Trinity. The main news was the formation of an Electoral Roll, which the government of the time had ordered by law. The Revd. Bernard welcomed this move, as he felt that all church members would now have a right to take part in the running of church and parish.

The April magazine is full of news, especially about sports initiatives, another enthusiasm of the Vicar, who was keen on looking after one's bodily as well as spiritual health. So cricket and tennis clubs were set up, with willing volunteers to run them, and there were hopes for a swimming club too. The best news was that Mr. Lucas, of the Brewery, had kindly made some ground available for HT members to play cricket on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. This must have been the beginning of the Cricket Club, as we all know it.

The Vicar's May letter included news of the newly elected PCC, and its immediate decision to collect enough money (£40) to provide anthem books for the congregation, so that they could follow the words in the choir anthem each Sunday. In June it was decided to collect money for a special treat for the choirboys, who had worked so hard on their music throughout the year, on weekdays as well as Sundays. A trip to London, and visits to the Zoo and Westminster Abbey were planned.

There were more outings in July – a trip to the Malverns for the Sunday School, and a half day in Warwick for the Juniors. The Mothers' Meeting were to have an outing to Edge Hill in 'a Motor Char-a-banc'. In August there was little news, except that the church was to be closed for one week for its annual cleaning. There would be no services that week. I found that interesting!

A.P.S.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to all who have sent news and comments for this online *Trinity Times*. The deadline for the next TT (and who knows in what form it will appear!) is **Sunday, November 15th**, for the issue 'ADVENT & CHRISTMAS', covering December 2020, January and February 2021.

PATSY