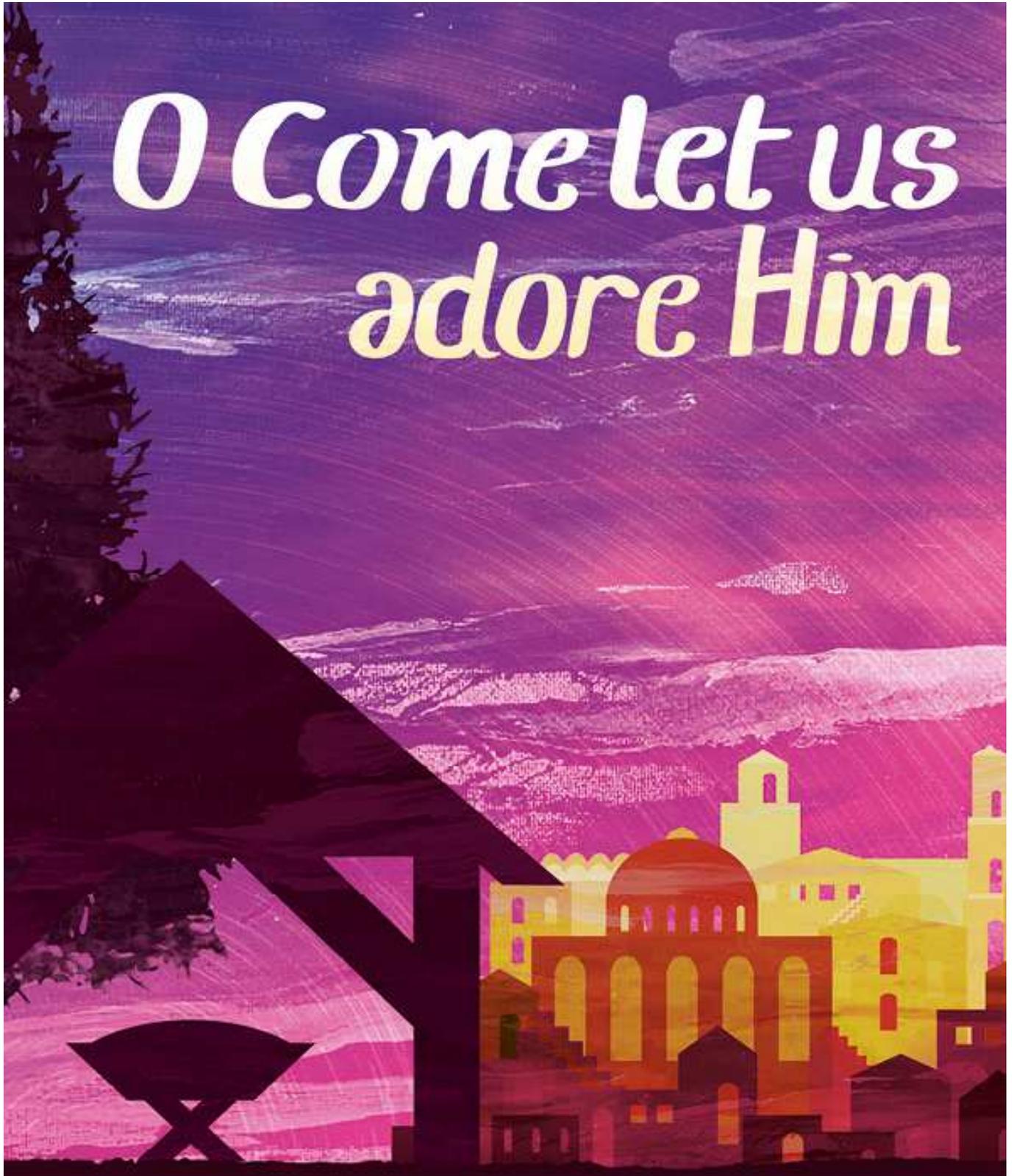


# THE *Trinity* TIMES

The Parish Magazine of Holy Trinity Church, Henley-on-Thames



December 2021 / January 2022

# THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Rising taxation, political unrest, difficult travel, family conflicts, refugee crises – are these the sub headlines from our Covid-ridden world of 2021? They could be, but they are not unique to our world today. They are actually all elements of the Christmas story – part of the life of the world into which Jesus was born.

We tend to dress up the Advent and Christmas seasons with fairy lights and tinsel, but the grim reality was that Jesus was born to a teenage mother in an impoverished backwater of the ancient world with many of the same struggles and issues that we continue to face today.

Many people only think of Jesus as an adult – and rather imagine him floating through life on a cloud, immune to worries and problems; exercising superpowers at will if things proved difficult – at least until things finally caught up with him.

We forget that when God sent his son to be Immanuel – God with us – he came as a frail little baby, not as some 'Marvel Comic book' superhero. Instead, he came as someone thrown right into the thick of the complexities and struggles of life – someone who could perfectly understand our human predicament.

But, as well as coming to be Immanuel – the name by which he is more commonly known, 'Jesus', gives us a clue to his great work that would

follow. The angel Gabriel told Joseph in Matthew 1,  
<sup>21</sup> *... and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'*

The authority and power he displayed as an adult was never used for personal gain – it was only ever used to demonstrate his true nature and purpose. And it was not used to foil the endeavours of his enemies to bring his life to an untimely end.

Yet, little did they know that the barbaric crucifixion they forced him to suffer would prove far from the tragic end it seemed. Rather, in God's perfect plan, it turned out to be the means by which He would achieve his great goal of dying for our sins – a death that would bring us the possibility of God's forgiveness and the assurance of eternal life.

Christmas shows us the two sides of Jesus's character and work – his perfect understanding of humanity, and his perfect plan for our salvation.

I hope and pray we will be able to celebrate Christmas together this year. But even if life proves tough, the Christmas story reminds us that we are not alone – Jesus knows what struggles are like. And in God's perfect plan nothing can hold us back from enjoying the fulfilment of his perfect plans for our salvation!

Best wishes,

*Duncan*

The Reverend Duncan Carter

# Trinity at Four update

## Approaching Christmas as a Christian

Dear friends,

For many, Christmas can be a very difficult time – memories of those we've lost are raw, family tensions are brought to the surface, and isolation and loneliness feel especially hard. It can also be a very busy and stressful time: plans to make, gifts to buy, food to prepare, events to attend. In the midst of the difficulties and the busyness, can I encourage Christians to have a distinctive approach to Christmas, with three 'Ps'?

### 1. Perspective

In Colossians 3:1 we have been encouraged to 'set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father'. This is to be our mindset as Christians all of the time, so let's make sure that Christmas is no exception! In the midst of it all, let's cultivate a fresh appreciation of Jesus, and the very good news of his birth for us that first Christmas.

### 2. Presence

With the focus so often on presents at Christmas, I want to encourage us to focus instead on **presence**. One of the dangers of the busyness of Christmas is that we are not fully present for the people around us. We're so distracted that we stop really noticing others at all. But the greatest gift you can give your friends, your

children, your neighbours, isn't the 'perfect Christmas' but rather, your full attention and genuine presence. To stop, to listen well, to care. As Romans 12:10 puts it, to be 'devoted to one another'. At Christmas, we remember how God came to be fully present with us in Christ. Let's mirror that by being fully present for each other.

### 3. Proclamation

In Colossians 1:28, Paul declares of Jesus: 'we proclaim him!'. What a wonderful opportunity Christmas provides each of us to do that. Who could you invite along to our magical 'Follow the Star?' Who could you invite to join you at one of our Carol Services? Many of our friends will be pleased to be invited – so don't be shy! And let's also pray for opportunities to speak informally of our own faith in Christ this Christmas time. Jesus wasn't born in a church! He was born in the middle and chaos of family life. So let's not restrict Jesus to church either – let's speak of him in the midst of our own lives too.

Whether you expect the season to be hard or chaotic, my prayer is that it will be full of Christ, and therefore full of the joy and peace he brings.

With much love,

*Sam*

The Reverend Sam Brewster

No booking  
required for our  
services



# Holy Trinity

## Christmas services

Sunday 12th December 4pm Christingle

Sunday 19th December 10am Morning Carols  
4pm Candlelit Carols

Christmas Eve 5pm Christingle  
6:30pm Candlelit Carols  
11:30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10am Christmas All Age  
followed by communion



**"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON"**

For more information visit [www.trinityatfour.org.uk](http://www.trinityatfour.org.uk)

Bring a friend



Holy Trinity

**Free!**  
**Booking Required**  
[www.trinityatfour.org.uk](http://www.trinityatfour.org.uk)

# Follow the Star!

WED 8TH - SAT 11TH DECEMBER  
HOLY TRINITY, HENLEY, RG9 1SE



## WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?

Walk through our transformed church building guided by a wiseman to where Christmas began. A magical interactive journey for the whole family.

For more information visit [www.trinityatfour.org.uk](http://www.trinityatfour.org.uk)

Bring a friend

# As You Were?

When will we be back to life as it was? Will we ever get back? This thought was in my mind on my way home from Church this morning. Yes, we are meeting for worship and fellowship, but it is not the same. We used to have a rota of sides-people and a different person reading from the Bible each Sunday morning, and sometimes a different person leading intercessions. At the moment we are greeted by Peter handing out books and Michael or Duncan read the lesson and lead our prayers, depending on who is preaching. We learnt this morning that the P.C.C. will be meeting this week so I guess they will be discussing the way ahead, and, in particular, the arrangements for Christmas services.

At least Pam and I did manage to have a couple of holidays this year, and I hope that many of you will have been able or felt ready to have time away for rest and relaxation, and, perhaps, reunion with people and / or places you haven't seen for a while.

As you might know, our son David was appointed Pastor of Ebenezer Evangelical Church in Neath Port Talbot just before the first lockdown and we hadn't seen him or the family since, except on Skype or Zoom. So when the chance of a holiday came we booked a cottage for self-catering in a village called Pont-rhyd-y-fen in the Neath area to be able to see him and the family. That was in June, and we were able to spend some quality time with David and the family, despite one or two Welsh wet days. They all seem to have settled well in

their new home, although being in lockdown almost from the start was not ideal. David quickly organised himself to be able to preach his weekly sermon on Zoom, and the children were home-schooling for quite a while.

We also managed to visit some friends from Henley and Holy Trinity who have moved to South Wales.

First, we went to see **Brian Brent** and Liz now living in the Mumbles near Swansea. Brian and Avril were members of Holy Trinity before they moved to Saint Mary's. After Avril died Brian joined Saint Mary's church choir and met Liz and they married before moving away. Brian and Liz now sing in their local church choir. Liz's father is pastor of another Ebenezer Church in Neath.

We also managed to visit **Charlotte and Steven Graham** in Aberdare. Charlotte was a Stewart when she was in Henley with sister Beatrix, and met Steven Graham when they were members of a Christian walking group. She and Steven are regular attenders of the Keswick Convention in the Lake District and Charlotte belongs to Mountain Ash Choral Society, while Steven, who used to be a Librarian, is very involved with the Aberdare local history group. Needless to say they are very involved in their local church. Both Brian and Charlotte send warm greetings to all who remember them.

Finally we visited Charlotte and Philip Aspden in Llandaff. Philip was

organist at Saint Mary's after Cynthia Hall moved on and Charlotte and their two daughters sang in the choir.

So it was a real time of reunions with family and friends. Not only that, it was a time of reunion for me with the village where I was born (i.e. Llandaff), and where we used to have our summer holidays, staying with my grandparents. For me, it almost felt as though I hadn't been away. There were some changes, the main one being the amount of traffic, but it was so good to be able to reacquaint myself with the house where my grandparents and aunt lived (from the

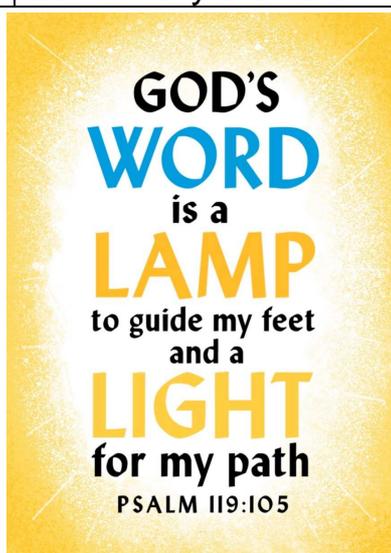
outside), Llandaff Cathedral and the River Taff, where my grandfather used to take my brother and me to skim stones across the river. It was also a sad time for me because I was not able to share this holiday experience with my brother, as he died in May after a short illness.

We had hoped to visit **Rosemary Woodroffe**, who is also now living in South Wales, but she was away. It was good to read the note from Rosemary that was in a recent issue of *Trinity Times*, and which, in a way, prompted this rambling collection of thoughts.

Mike Hails

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HENLEY DIARY DATES

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<i>Advent Carol Service. 6:30 p.m. Saint Mary's Church</i>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<i>Meeting about Henley Gospel Project. 7:30 p.m. Christ Church URC</i>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Deadline for Christmas donations to Nomad Food Bank. Can be dropped in to the Tesco basket or the d:two Cafe basket</i>
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Henley Choral Society and Henley Youth Choir Christmas Concert. 6:30 p.m. Saint Mary's Church</i>
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Henley Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concerts. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Christ Church URC</i>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. 6:30 p.m. Saint Mary's Church</i>



# Children's Pages

## Advent

The nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas is Advent. It means 'coming'. It refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace. Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

four  
weeks  
advent  
coming  
Jesus

first  
baby  
return  
triumph  
second

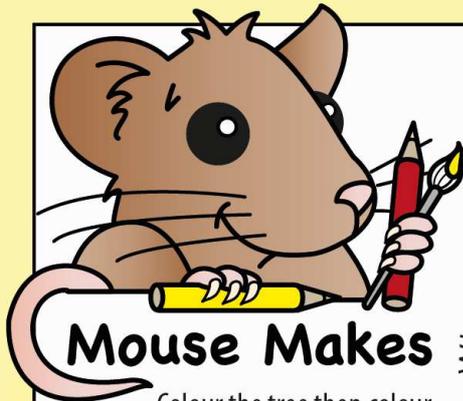
establish  
perfect  
justice  
new  
order

peace  
eating  
drinking  
celebrations  
days

gifts  
epiphany  
twelfth  
decorations  
revive



# Children's Pages



## Mouse Makes

Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

Presents at Christmas  
under the tree,  
A red Christmas stocking  
waiting for me,  
But what really is Christmas,  
What is it about?  
Just look and the Bible  
and you will find out!  
It's about **JESUS**  
- the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
God's gift to us all!

**A STAR**  
shows the way  
to Jesus  
Read  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

**ANGELS**  
bring messages from God  
Read about  
Gabriel's message in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

Read the  
shepherd's story in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS  
AND CANDLES**  
remind us that Jesus  
lights our way to God  
Read *Luke 2:29-32*

**PRESENTS**  
remind us of God's  
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

# Children's Pages

## Epiphany

The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw the Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!

Epiphany  
Wise  
Men  
Camels

Baby  
Jesus  
Star  
Herod

Worship  
Gold  
Frankincense  
Myrrh

New  
Resolutions  
Bills  
Work

Study  
Running  
Gym



# Children's Pages

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 2: 1-10

Around the time of Jesus' birth, in a land far to the east of Israel, there were men who studied the stars...

When they saw a new star they believed it showed a special King had been born.



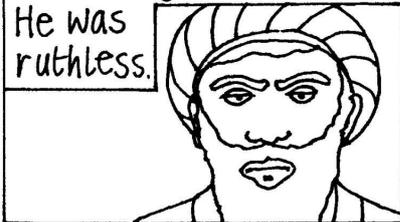
They set off to see that King.



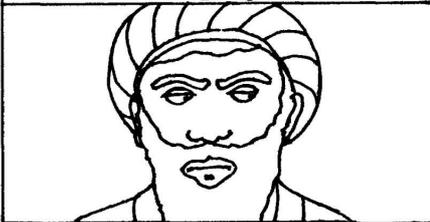
They reached Jerusalem, the home of King Herod.



The Romans had made Herod king of the Jews about 30 years earlier. He was ruthless.



The Jews hated him and he was always worried that people were plotting against him.



He had them killed even if they were his wife or children...



So what the wise men said about a new King upset Herod



and that made everyone else afraid.

Herod got the teachers and priests together and asked about the king's birthplace.



That would be Little Bethlehem\*



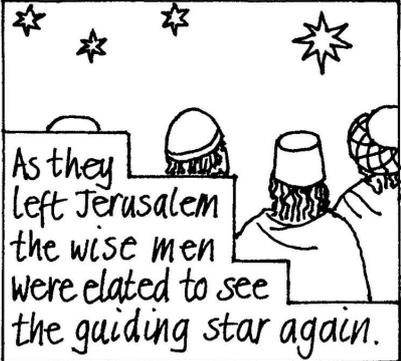
Herod secretly met the wise men and asked when they had first seen the star.



Go to Bethlehem and look for the child. When you find him let me know so I can come and worship him.



As they left Jerusalem the wise men were elated to see the guiding star again.



# SERVICES in DECEMBER

The Vicar, the Reverend Duncan Carter, will lead the morning services, with the assistance of the Licensed Lay Minister, Michael Forsdike. The Reverend Sam Brewster, will lead the Trinity at Four services.

## **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **Second Sunday of Advent**

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP  
4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC

## **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **Third Sunday of Advent**

10:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
4:00 P.M. CHRISTINGLE

## **FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

10:30 A.M. TRINITY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS SERVICE

## **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:00 A.M. CAROL SERVICE  
4:00 P.M. CANDLELIT CAROLS

## **FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **Christmas Eve**

5:00 P.M. CHRISTINGLE  
6:30 P.M. CANDLELIT CAROLS  
11:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS  
COMMUNION

## **SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **Christmas Day**

8:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS MORNING  
WORSHIP for all ages  
followed by HOLY COMMUNION



## **SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** **First Sunday of Christmas**

10:00 A.M. MORNING WOSHIP



### **Reverend Duncan Carter**

Holy Trinity Vicarage  
Church Street  
Henley-on-Thames  
Oxon RG9 1SE  
Tel: (01491) 574822

The Vicar is always glad to see anyone needing help or advice. Talking through problems and praying with people are his top priorities. Do not feel worried about sharing your problems, whatever the concern, large or small. For your reference, his day off is Saturday.



# SERVICES in JANUARY

The Vicar, the Reverend Duncan Carter, will lead the morning services, with the assistance of the Licensed Lay Minister, Michael Forsdike. The Reverend Sam Brewster, will lead the Trinity at Four services.

## SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY Second Sunday of Christmas

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC



## SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY Baptism of Christ

10:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC

## SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP  
& BAPTISM

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC

## SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY Third Sunday of Epiphany

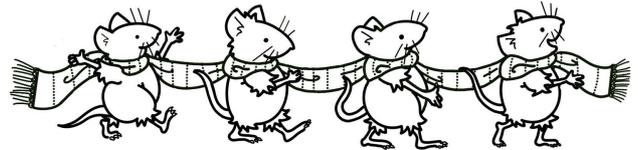
10:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC

## SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 A.M. MORNING WOSHIP

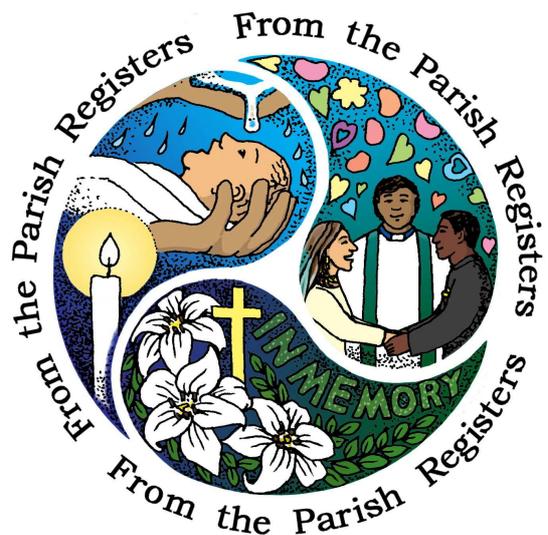
4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR  
at Christ Church URC



## SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR



## FUNERALS

18<sup>th</sup> Nov

Edna May Barklem

# Why I'm excited to be teaching through the Ten Commandments at Trinity at Four

From January to March at Trinity at Four, we are planning a teaching series working through the Ten Commandments. Over the last few years, we have been intermittently working our way through the book of Exodus and having now got to the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, we will be slowing right down, spending more or less one sermon per commandment! I'm hugely looking forward to this series. Here are a few reasons why.

## 1. The Ten Commandments show us God's wonderful character

The revelation of God's law to his people is a revelation of his character. What is this God of the great rescue from Egypt (Exodus 1-18) like? The law makes that crystal clear: he is a God who is perfectly holy and righteous. What he prohibits in the Ten Commandments is a strong statement of what God is *for*. He's against stealing because he's *for* trust and security. He's against adultery because he's *for* the flourishing that stable relationships bring to spouses, children and society at large. He's against coveting because he's *for* contentment. He's against murder because he's *for* life lived in peace. So we could go on. In short, the God revealed in the Ten Commandments is good beyond our imagination.

## 2. The Ten Commandments show up our own sinfulness

The apostle Paul says, "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in

God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law, we become conscious of our sin." (Romans. 3:20) Sometimes people flippantly declare 'I keep the ten commandments.' But Jesus said that even getting angry with someone amounts to a breach of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment not to murder. He said that even a lustful look amounts to a breach of the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment not to commit adultery. We don't even keep the very first command to have no other gods before the one true God. How often do we set up other things as functional 'gods' in our lives and give them more of our time and devotion than we ever do the true and living God? The Ten Commandments bring us back down to earth and remind us how far short we fall from God's perfect character.

## 3. The Ten Commandments help us appreciate Jesus' salvation

Whilst we cannot keep God's holy law, wonderfully God had always planned to send us a saviour. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law. The more deeply you look into the Ten Commandments, the more astonishing this truth becomes! And then in love, Jesus substituted himself for us. He took the place of the lawbreaker and bore the full punishment for lawbreaking through his death on the cross. And those who trust in Christ are now given his perfect record of law-keeping. Not only so, but Jesus then sends his Holy Spirit to bring about the fulfilment of the law in our own lives – he is

remaking us into people who exhibit the perfect love that the law ultimately points towards (Romans 13:8).

#### **4. The Ten Commandments show us what a life of love looks like**

Jesus summed up the law as 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:30-31). As Christian believers, we no longer try to obey the law to try and earn God's approval or acceptance- Jesus has won that for us unconditionally. But we long to live a

life of love- and the ten commandments show us in some detail how that life of love should be worked out practically in our lives and relationships. The law drives us to Christ for the salvation it reveals that we need. But once we've received that salvation, Christ sends us back to the law, as the perfect revelation of God's character of love- the very character he's committed to remaking in us.

I hope you'll be free to join us for this exciting series!

*Sam*

## **Safeguarding**

Any concerns you might have regarding any safeguarding issue may be addressed to any of the following:

Our Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Cook, : Tel 07739 359584,  
E-mail: [sarahcarlile65@icloud.com](mailto:sarahcarlile65@icloud.com)

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Tel 01865 208290,  
E-mail: [safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org)

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call the emergency services on 999. If there are concerns about their immediate welfare, don't delay: call Children and Adult's Social care on 0345 050 7666 or the MASH Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team: 0800 833408

The Parish Safeguarding Policy is on our website.



We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!

# Intricacy of Creation

The news has been full of the climate crisis, COP26, biodiversity loss and the damage that man is doing to the planet and what we can do about it.

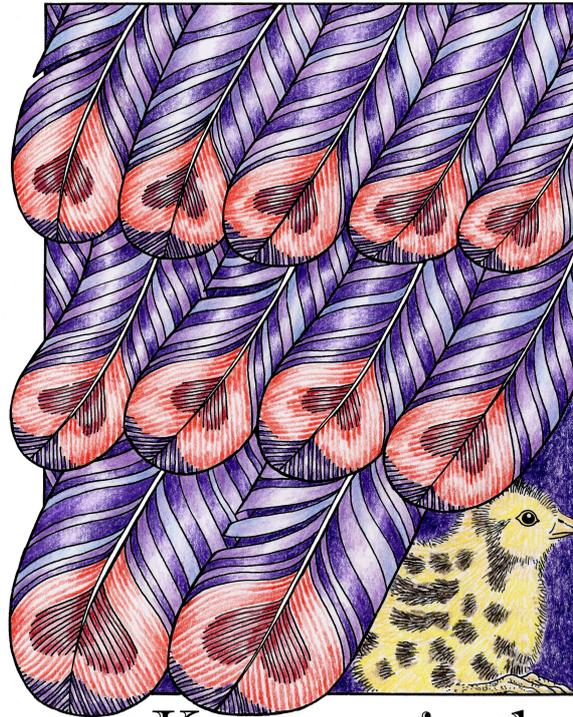
I have recently been reading a book by Annie Dillard called *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* in which she explores the woods, streams and fields of the lower Shenandoah Valley in the U.S.A. through the seasons.

One chapter, entitled *Intricacy*, caught my attention. She writes at one point: "creation carries on with an intricacy unfathomable and apparently uncalled for". It made me realise that I have taken creation and the creator for granted for most of my life. Did you know that a molecule of chlorophyll is made up of 136 atoms of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen arranged in an exact and complex relationship around a central ring, at the centre of which is a single atom of magnesium? If that isn't amazing, which I think it is, did you know that if you replace the atom of magnesium with an atom of iron you get a molecule of haemoglobin? Our plant world is mainly green because of the presence of chlorophyll, while our blood is red due to haemoglobin. Both play such important roles in life.

Have a look at Wikipedia and see how chlorophyll works. It is quite exciting

and overwhelming to see the detail of the whole process of photosynthesis and its importance to us.

Annie Dillard is American, so examples she gives come from the U.S.A. She describes the structure of the longleaf pine. It has three-sided needles arranged in clusters of three in fascicles which are attached to flexible



shelter of your wings Ps 17:8

Keep me in the

twigs, and the twigs are covered in many silvery-white, fringed long-spreading scales. These scales themselves have an intricate structure finishing with a small reflexed prickle. Wow! There are 6 million leaves on a big elm tree, which is amazing in itself, but each leaf is toothed and each tooth is

itself toothed. Such detail. Talking of elm trees reminds me of Dutch elm disease and the efforts my wife's father put in as part of a campaign to stop its spread in the area of the South Downs near where he lived.

Look in detail at a feather of a goose, and what do you find? 500 barbs line either side of a central, flexible shaft. On each barb are two fringes of 500 barbules, making a million (!) barbules on each feather, fluted and hooked in a matrix. Annie has more examples. An ordinary caterpillar of a goat moth has

228 separate and distinct muscles in its head.

My brain cannot take in the complexity and amazing intricacy of the things that she describes, and I have taken so much for granted over the years.

That brings me back to the world we live in. When this book was published in 1974 Annie says that of all known forms of life only about 10% is living today. I wonder what that figure is today? She describes the migration of the monarch butterfly over her valley.

Many thousands of butterflies are migrating southwards and they kept coming for five days. Population counts have been done over the years and conservationists warn that there could be local extinctions. There are various species and subspecies of monarchs and they feed on milkweed. It is estimated that 167 million acres of monarch habitat have been lost in the U.S. since 1996 due to development of agricultural areas and the overuse of herbicides. This is just one example of what the human race is doing. We need to be aware of what we can do.

MRH

## *Advent Books*

The Church Times usually has pages of reviews of new Advent books and courses, but this year there are only relatively few. Here are some details:

**The art of Christmas: meditations on the birth of Jesus**, by Jane Williams. Published by SPCK at £9.99.

This book contains 20 works of art depicting different aspects of the Christmas theme, each with a biblical reading and a meditation. All are paintings except the Black Madonna of Monserrat. Doctor Williams picks out arresting details from the paintings to draw our eye to them and arouse our interest, but her main focus is on biblical truth and how it is expressed by the artist.

**Music of eternity: meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill**, by Robyn Wrigley-Carr. SPCK, £10.99. This is the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2021.

The author has assembled some of Evelyn Underhill's writings as an aid towards having a prayerful and holy Advent. The aim is to help the reader focus on God, and the reviewer feels

that what comes through most clearly from Underhill's writings on the Christian life is God's compassion.

**The whole Christmas story: an Advent adventure through Genesis, Revelation, and points in between**, by Jo Swinney. BRF, £8.99. This book keeps the reader's attention focussed on Advent by looking through the lens of Christmas rather than the other way round. There are biblical texts from the Old and New Testaments with a commentary, a reflection and a prayer.

**Reflections for daily prayer: Advent 2021 to the eve of Advent 2022.**

Produced by Church House Publishing with various contributors, £16.99.

This has daily full lectionary details for Morning Prayer; a reflection on one of the readings; and a collect. It also contains a simple form of Morning

Prayer with seasonal variations; a short form of Night Prayer; and a guide to building daily prayer into daily life.

**Reflections for Advent**, by Stephen Cottrell and Guli Francis-Dehqani. Church House Publishing, £3.99. This is a seasonal extract from the main annual volume (see previous title).

**An Advent book of days: meeting the characters of Christmas**, by Gregory K. Cameron. Canterbury Press, £9.99.

This comprises 25 short chapters and uses each to examine a person or image that appears in the Christmas story. The author lays out the scriptural and/or anecdotal material that we have today, and leads on to a reflection on what that might teach us now. Each chapter starts with a

painting or image as a visual aid for the reflection that follows, and concludes with a short prayer.

**Celebrating Christmas: embracing joy through art and reflections**, by Leo Boucher. BRF, £9.99.

Memories and reflections. This is a very personal book with illustrations which Leo produced for his daughter.

**Sacred space: Advent and Christmas 2021-2022**, by the Irish Jesuits. Messenger, £4.50.

This provides a daily scripture reading with points for reflection; a weekly topic and six points of prayer; and an Advent retreat.

All these books can be obtained from the Church Times Bookshop. These are the ones reviewed in the Church Times and I expect there are many more.

*Mike Hails*

## 20 Years at Holy Trinity Church

This January marks me being part of Trinity Church for 20 years. I'd always believed in God and learnt a lot at school. I'd never had the opportunity of going to Sunday School. My Mum had suggested it once and I was interested but that's as far as it went.

Before I became a member of the church I'd agreed to work on Sundays at my job since it was time and a half and you got paid for your lunch break. Since I used to enjoy getting up early to walk my dog, I realised I could get up early to go to an 8:00 a.m. service in a church. I asked my neighbours who were members of the Baptist Church to recommend a church and they recommended Holy Trinity. On the first Sunday of 2002 I cycled down there. The only other person

there was Norman Attrill who had not got the message everyone else had. There was sign on the door and the church was closed. I remember being miserably cold as I cycled home. After that, except on Easter Sunday, I airways walked down and joined in the 8:00 a.m. service. It was a few months before I went up for communion but I remember meeting Duncan on the way out who asked if I was visiting and I said this was going to be permanent from now on. I still remember what the first sermon was about. I think it was based on advertising trying to make us covert. After that every time I was offered time off work I asked to have Sunday off and went to both morning services. I also was given the first two hours off on occasion for special services. It

was hard cycling to work and having to pass by Church Street on Sunday mornings when I could hear the bells ringing.

I did actually tell them at work I was unwell once so that I could go to the Harvest Festival and stay for the lunch afterwards. I was happy with the decision since Duncan supported it.

It's interesting to note that after my confirmation, Duncan bought me a bible and decided to give it to me during the 10:00 a.m. service but I hadn't told him I'd be going to that service on that week.

I did get up early one May Day to see the Yateley Morris Men dance in the May at sunrise at 5:30 a.m. I didn't get back in time to go to the 8:00 a.m. service so I went to the 6:00 p.m. one where we had Duncan and a congregation of two people.

Reading the *Trinity Times* used to be my highlight of the month.

When I finally got another job that left me free at the weekends I went to both morning services for a month and then started coming to the one at 10:00 a.m. I went to the 8:00 a.m. on days when I couldn't do the 10:00 a.m. one and on Easter Sunday.

I helped out with the children's group The Chimes for a while, first with Wendy Lord, then Duncan and then Pat Lewis. After a while I went to an Alpha group and a Beta group which clashed with The Chimes. When I went back, Pat had Jenny Griffin in to help so when an opening for printing, collating, stapling and folding the magazine came up, I changed to doing that.

When John decided to step down as

the editor, everyone assumed I would fill that roll and when nobody else wanted to, I saw that if I didn't, the magazine would end. However when I got a new job, I delegated the original tasks. Pat Herrington offered to collate, staple and fold it and often put her grand-children to work while John offered to print it after I'd got the masters to him when he found out it wasn't actually rocket science which he'd first assumed.

While I was helping with The Chimes I put together a website for the church which made Holy Trinity Church to be the first church in Henley to have a website. I originally shared half my personal web space with the church but since my internet provider was Demon, the church decided to buy [holytrinityhenley.org.uk](http://holytrinityhenley.org.uk) hosted by the Diocese of Oxford rather than have Demon in a church website address. In 2012, my company brought out a new content management system and allowed me to give the church a free website so I was able to revamp the design. I started then publishing the Parish Jottings as a weblog to keep visitors up to date with church life and I now also upload the magazine and services each month and at the present update the YouTube link each week for Sunday Morning services. I also have a page for Christmas, Easter and Summer services at the correct time of year. There is also a page about the Churchyard, a slideshow photo galley and a virtual tour.

I have seen the church and the magazine change a lot in those 20 years and really enjoyed being a member of the church family and I look forward to the next 20 years.

*Richard Young*

# YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM 2021

Your magazine team wish all readers a Joyous Christmas. Next year is the magazine's 131<sup>th</sup> year of publication - Happy New Year 2022,



Editor	Richard Young
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Printing	Sam Brewster
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Distribution Managers	Rosemary Woodroffe Sarah Cook

Thank you to all our magazine contributors. Without your valuable contributions, the magazine would be greatly lacking in valued content.



We encourage all readers to submit articles of interest for inclusion in forthcoming magazines. Please do not hesitate to send them in to the Editor, either in electronic or manuscript form.

# On the Peril of Choosing New Kneelers

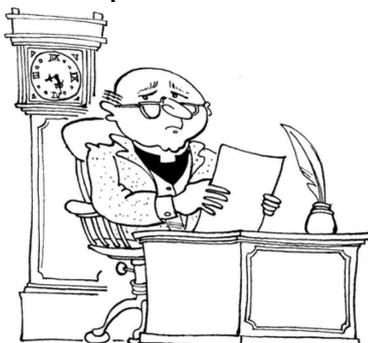
The Rectory  
Saint James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking, and after more than a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then leaves Mattins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but it lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.



So, we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of Saint Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes; on the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism.... and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

*Parish Pump*

# PARISH JOTTINGS

## Back to Church

The church family is steadily returning to communal worship after the disruption caused by the pandemic. The morning congregation is growing and Trinity at Four is already back to, or surpassing, pre-pandemic levels. It is particularly encouraging to see not only old faces returning but new people coming along to join us, both morning and afternoon. Though some people are understandably cautious, fortunately our building is large enough with high ceilings and lots of air and ventilation, to give people plenty of space and minimise risk. Many stay on for refreshments after the service and have been enjoying chatting to friends old and new, a pleasure we have all been missing for so long.

## Greener Churchyard

Working parties have been busy in the upper churchyard this autumn, organised by Sally Rankin with helpers from Greener Henley and Henley Gardening Buddies as well as some church members. Our friends from Gardening for Good strimmed the grass in September but if the cut grass is left to lie it inhibits growth of wild flowers in the spring and summer, so a lot of raking up of cut grass was done as well as some overdue maintenance work in the Millennium Garden. Hopefully we should all be able to enjoy the benefit next year.

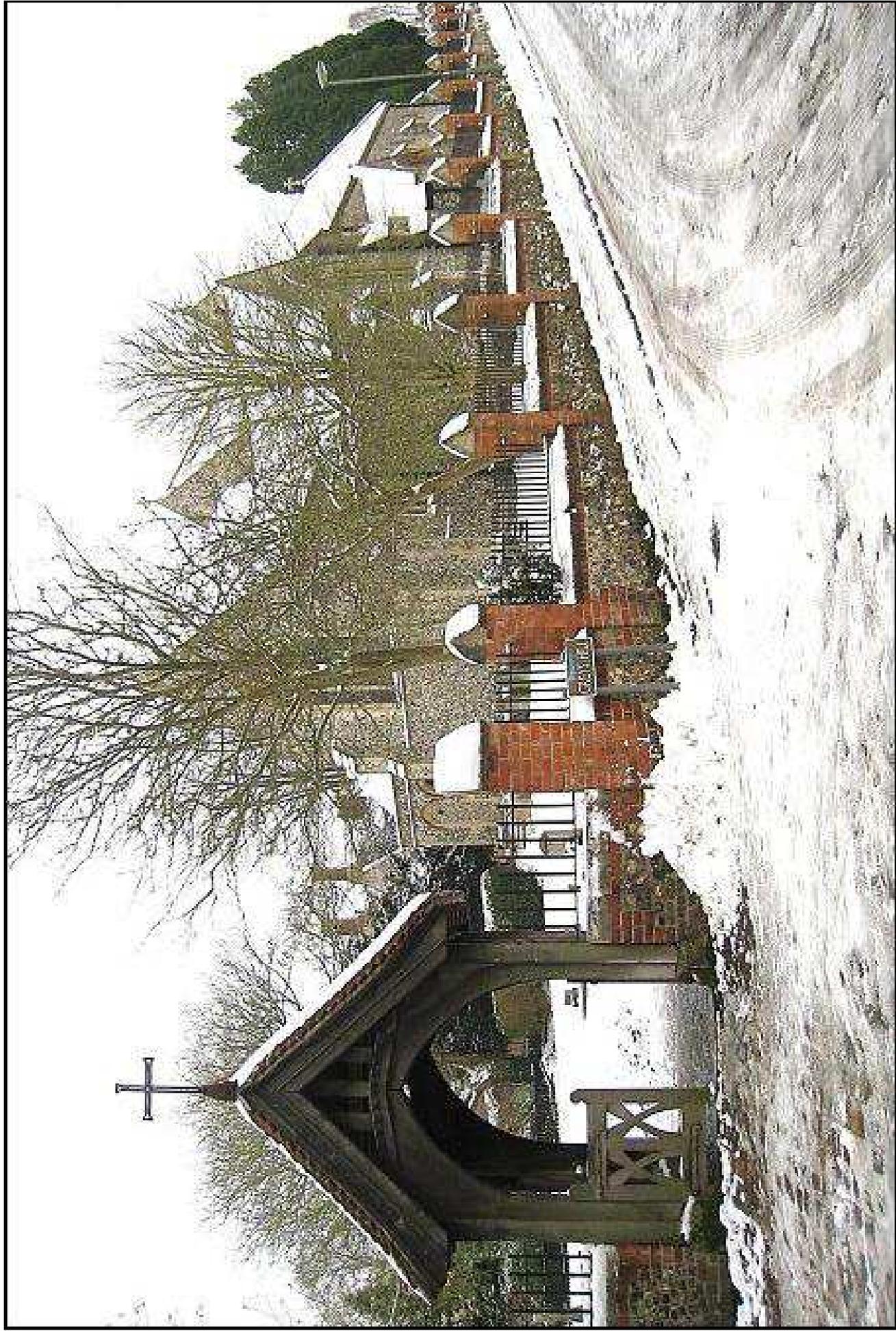


## Safeguarding

The safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults is, sadly, much in the news currently and even churches, in a few cases, have allowed things to happen which should not. We have to take the problem seriously and therefore the P.C.C, at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November, adopted a revised Parish Safeguarding Policy. Sarah Cook kindly took on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for Trinity Church, including Trinity at Four, last March and all relevant people have undergone, or are shortly to undergo, the training recommended by the diocese and those most involved have nearly all completed DBS checks. If anyone has any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue they should go to Sarah for advice and help ([sarahcarlile65@icloud.com](mailto:sarahcarlile65@icloud.com)).

## Remembrance Sunday

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday were marked by several events in church this year. An act of Remembrance at 11:00 o'clock was included at the end of the morning service on Sunday and Trinity at Four had a special talk for children about the significance of the day. On Armistice Day Trinity School held a very touching ceremony when the whole school gathered in the lower churchyard and planted poppies they had made, while a pupil played the Last Post on the violin. On Saturday Duncan led a meeting in the churchyard of an organisation that celebrates the service of members of the Home Guard.



*Holy Trinity church, Henley-on-Thames (January 2013)*

# THE *Trinity* TIMES

The current parish magazine of Holy Trinity church, Henley-on-Thames.

Published monthly throughout the year. This issue is Number 323.

1,543 Holy Trinity church parish magazines have been produced since 1890.

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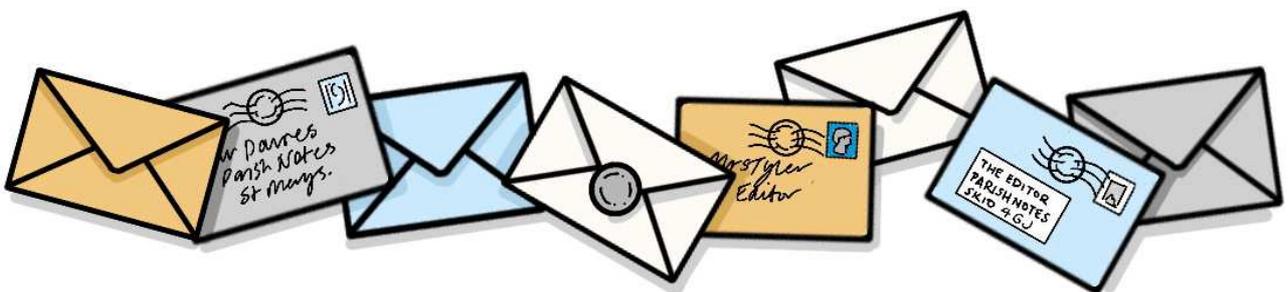
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Holy Trinity website : <http://www.holytrinityhenley.org.uk>

Readers are invited to contribute articles, features, notices, etc., for publication in the Trinity Times. Submissions should be delivered to Richard Young, 11 Saint Mary's Close, (Telephone 578422), or may be e-mailed to the Trinity Times mailbox at '[magazine@holytrinityhenley.info](mailto:magazine@holytrinityhenley.info)'.

For inclusion in the next magazine, submissions must be received by Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.