

Holy Trinity St Mary's



St Aelred depicted in a medieval manuscript © Bibliothèque municipale de Douai (MS 392 f.3)

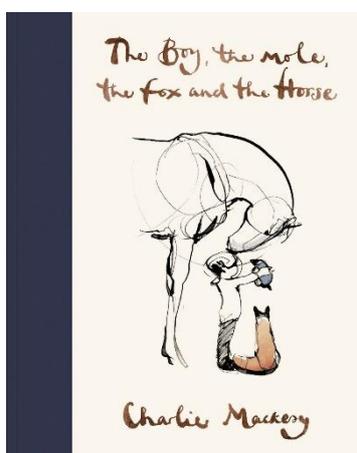
Friends,

On January 12th, the Christian calendar asks us to remember Aelred of Rievaulx. Aelred lived in the 12th century, rising from a humble background to be Abbot of Rievaulx monastery. This was a very powerful position in England, the Abbot being an advisor to the king and a negotiator with the Pope. But Aelred was not chosen for his ability to rule; he was known as a man of deep friendships. He bound people together, developing easy rapport with the lowly as well as the powerful. He was a prolific author, his best-known work being [‘Spiritual Friendship’](#). Friends value us – but also, friends show us that our friendship matters to them. True friendship is always two-way. The smallest gesture from a friend touches us deeply because we know that it springs from respect, love, kindness and trust.

The third volume of Hilary Mantel’s trilogy is called ‘The mirror and the light’. This is her title for describing King Henry the VIII. As a great king, he was called ‘the light of the nation’ as his presence brightened people and places. But he was also a mirror – reflecting back to the people he met their own value. He was, in his better days, both a role model and supreme encourager. That’s what happens when we experience honest friendship: we feel better about ourselves and then give our better self to the world. Do you remember that old Sunday School hymn: ‘What a friend we have in Jesus!’? If we only think well of Jesus, we are missing half of what friendship is. With Jesus as my friend, I know myself to be someone capable of bringing grace and kindness into the world.

Cicero wrote a classic Roman text called 'On friendship'. Aelred's response, One thousand years later, was more nuanced, rooted in his knowledge that God loved him. Cicero wrote: "Friendship can only exist between good people – those whose actions and lives leave no question as to their honour and purity, who are free from greed, lust and violence". I don't agree with that. Friendship helps me to be good. Recently, I have received some beautiful kindly messages – even a short email can be very moving, as, coming from a friend, I know that its source is a rich mixture of warmth, respect and delight. When this happens, not only do I feel good, but I am also more ready to be good for others as well.

So, dear friends, be gentle with yourselves – and that gentleness will spread to others too.



I mentioned this book in my sermon on January 3rd: 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. Many of you have said how much you have enjoyed it; some have asked for the full title. The pictures are as beautiful as the text.

One further quotation from it for this week: "When the big things feel out of control, focus on what you love right under your nose" Happy reading!

– Robert

Parish Finance Team update

In response to Robert's message in late October, we're delighted that two people have offered to help with personnel matters and financial housekeeping for the parish – thank you!

Our search for someone to lead the Finance Team continues in succession to Rogan Dixon, who retires from the Treasurer's position at the next APCM. At present the role involves: providing strategic input, operational oversight, reporting and managing cash flow, liaison with the auditors, and coordinating other volunteers. Whilst the role is vital to the Parish, it is not a full time position. The wider team will be on hand to work with the appointee to shape the role in accordance with their abilities, time availability etc.

The Treasurer reports through the Finance Committee to the PCC. This important role supports the mission and business management of the parish, and as such some remuneration will be offered. This will not be a commercial salary, but is intended to recognise the professional capability and commitment that the new person brings. If you would like to know more or to express interest in the role, please contact [Venetia Howes](#).

All are invited for a weekly chat via Zoom

It is important that none of us should feel isolated and out of touch because we are confined to our homes. So, for the foreseeable future we will hold **Trinity Club@Home every week** in the format like a drop-in café – you can come in, sit down with your favourite brew and have a relaxed chat. It will be a little like the breakout rooms after the services on Sunday mornings. All are welcome—we look forward to seeing you! –Brian and David

Trinity Club@Home Tuesdays 10.30am – 12pm

19 January
coffee & chat

26 January
Daphne Jefferis on *Silk, Squalor and Scandal – Hogarth and his Work*

2 February
coffee & chat

Keeping in touch through YouTube

Livestreaming our services on the [HTSM YouTube channel](#) is proving popular with a number of you in ways not expected and with added bonuses!

One family reported watching the 10am service on Christmas morning and then enjoyed the 11am service while peeling the veg. It has also opened up new possibilities for friends and families to feel more connected with each other. Here are a couple of comments that were shared with Robert:

“Lovely service. Very well done. The camera work was excellent, we almost felt we were there and it was great to see familiar faces.”

“Wonderful service and sharing with you makes us feel closer especially as we know [your brother] is viewing at the same time. Thank you for the link.”



Evening Services

Over the coming weeks we will be continuing our pattern of regular Sunday evening services from Holy Trinity on Zoom. These will take the form of Compline, which has its roots in the monastic daily office and is traditionally the final service of the day before bedtime. It is a particularly calming, settling time of prayer and worship with which to end the day and you are warmly invited to join us week by week, either using the link to the service sheet below or just settling back and allowing the words to wash over you as the wintry Sundays draw to a close.

Sunday Services • 17th January 2021

Church-at-home

10am Holy Trinity Eucharist (LS) • Sermon by Robert Cotton

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10, John 1.43-51

10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Andrew Wheeler

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-4

6pm Holy Trinity Compline • Reflection by Jonathan Hedgecock

Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5

To receive Zoom links and service sheets by email [subscribe to our newsletter](#)
or contact office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 567716

You can also watch our services (LS) Livestream on the HTSM YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/HTSMGuildford>

If there is news that we should know, please pass it on:

Rev Robert Cotton rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 575489

Rev Tom Pote curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 511725

Parish Office office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.
