

## Lend me your ears

Dear Friends,

Friends, Romans, countrymen .... These are the stirring words that open Marc Anthony's funeral eulogy for Julius Caesar (according to Shakespeare). As a child, I giggled over the next phrase: 'lend me your ears'. But I was annoyed by the following sentence, believing that it should not be true:  
*The evil that men do lives after them;  
The good is oft interred with their bones.*



Later I learnt that, throughout his speech, Marc Anthony was stirring up the crowd, saying the exact opposite of what he really meant. Of course, he was really trying to win the crowd over by praising Caesar's good deeds – but had to pretend that his purpose was the opposite. Beware the slippery words of politicians! But now, I see we have a choice.

As we reflect on the life of a public figure, we can choose whether to allow their 'evil to live after them', or whether to keep in mind the good. As a young priest, when preparing a funeral address, I thought I had to speak the whole truth about the person who had died. But now I am less sure that that is right. In a eulogy, I would never want to pretend, nor would I want to paint someone to be an unblemished saint. But, in most circumstances, I find that it is right to remind people of the good done, the kindness showed, and the struggles overcome. For example, with Prince Philip, there are familiar tales of his gaffes and unintended insults. We can choose to recall those, allowing the tale of those unfortunate moments to live on. Or we can choose to remember loyalty, courage, creativity, service and honour.

At Caesar's funeral, Marc Anthony has power over the crowd (according to Shakespeare) because they are gullible, following the rhetoric of a crowd-pleaser. What is missing is a description of the choices each and every member of the crowd makes – to choose whether to lend their ears. Similarly now with Prince Philip – similarly, on a day to day basis, with much of what is written on social media: a platform that begs you to "lend your ears" so that all types of anger, hatred and mistrust can be poured in.

Your choice! My default choice is to allow "the good that people do should live after them".

– **Robert**



## Honouring Prince Philip

On the evening before the funeral, at 6pm on Friday 16th April in Holy Trinity, a short service of thanksgiving and gratitude will be held for Prince Philip. All welcome.

Shortly before the funeral on Saturday, the bells from Holy Trinity and St Mary's will be tolled, as a signal of respect. You will be familiar with the lines from the poem by John Donne, which bind us together as people seeking to 'do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God':

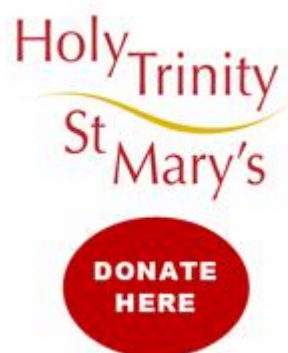
*Therefore, send not to know For whom the bell tolls, It tolls for thee.*

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## Worship in church

You are welcome to come in person to any of our services (no need to book) or join us on YouTube (HT) or on Zoom (SM). If you come to church:

- The chairs are spaced two metres apart, but you can sit with people in your family/bubble.
- Everyone wears masks, except for those who are exempt, the choir when singing and the clergy while leading worship. For now, only the choir is permitted to sing.
- We bring Communion to you so that you don't have to move around the church.
- We keep the doors open for improved ventilation, so please wrap up warmly!
- We're not serving coffee after services, so we ask that you leave the church promptly and to avoid mingling. You are welcome to chat in the churchyard or to nip home to join a Zoom coffee room.
- Service sheets and hymn books are quarantined each week.
- We ask people to maintain social distancing to avoid crowding around the doors.



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## Collections, donations and occasional giving

One normal part of public worship that is currently impossible (under current regulations) is the taking of a collection. You have been generous in your support of the parish.

Please continue to use the [red button](#) on the website, the "tap and go" machines (in Holy Trinity – one will be installed soon in St Mary's), or, for planned giving, be in touch with [Alan Brown](#)

## New Treasurer

As reported at last month's Annual Meeting, Paul Graham is taking over as Treasurer for the parish. In the last few weeks Paul and I have gradually been transferring responsibilities and the time has now come for me to step down fully and for Paul to take over. It has been a huge privilege to have been your Treasurer and I have always been grateful for your support and for the trust placed in me: thank you.

For emails Paul will continue to use [treasurer@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) which I will now stop responding to. Lesley and I are only in Cranleigh where I will shortly take over the Treasurer's role at St Nicolas' Church but I will of course be available to provide any advice or support to HTSM if needed.

**- Rogan Dixon**

*With enormous gratitude to Rogan and Lesley for all their contributions over many years.*

**- Robert**

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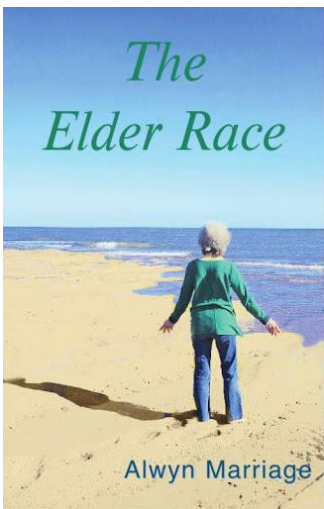
### Trinity Club@Home

All welcome to join us for a friendly discussion on various topics on Tuesday mornings via Zoom.

To join us, please [email the Parish Office](#).

#### **Tuesday 20th April • 10:30am – 12:00pm**

This week, we would like to welcome you for a chat over a coffee via Zoom in the virtual Trinity Centre.



#### **Tuesday 27th April • 10:30am – 12:00pm**

Dr. Alwyn Marriage will be in conversation with 'Trish McIntosh, when Alwyn discusses her latest book *The Elder Race* (Bellhouse Press, 2020). Alwyn is the author or editor of eleven books. Her poetry, articles and reviews are published widely in newspapers, magazines, journals and on-line; and her first novel, *Rapeseed*, was published early in 2017 and her second novel, *'The Elder Race'*, in 2020. This will be the subject of the conversation. *The Elder Race* is "Set in a future in which medical science has eliminated almost all life-threatening illnesses, one woman races to escape a Government that is responding to the resulting population explosion with deadly methods. Will she find safety and a new way of living? Will she find love?"



## Wizards, Muggle Crust and the Human Purpose of business

Thursday, 22 April 2021, 7– 8:30pm.

[Register for a Zoom invite](https://cutt.ly/5z4Wv0H)

In our lifetimes the purpose of business is being reformed. The idea that this was, exclusively, to make shareholders wealthier is dying (slowly). In relation to the climate emergency, boardrooms have the language (e.g. net zero) but need more action. But on the human and social side, purpose of business our language is lacking. After Grenfell and similar events we react with outrage: but what can guide us beforehand, capturing the positives of commerce as well as its problems? A team from St Martin in the Fields will be leading a discussion on this important subject. This is part of a series that I can thoroughly recommend ([see Heart Edge](#)). In particular, I commend to you the chief presenter on this evening, Douglas Board. Having just read his recent book “Elites. Can you rise to the top without losing your soul?” I am confident that this will be a fascinating discussion.

### Sunday Services • 18 April 2021 • Easter 3

**8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Robert Cotton**

[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

**10am Holy Trinity Eucharist • Sermon by Robert Cotton**

Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36-48

[YouTube live only • Breakout rooms on Zoom after the service](#)

**10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Lyn McKay**

Readings: Luke 24:36-48; Acts 3:11-19

[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

**6pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer • Sermon by Stephen Marriott**

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 20:11-16

[At Holy Trinity & on Zoom](#)

To receive Zoom links and service sheets by email  
contact [office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) | 01483 575489

Rev Tom Pote [curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) | 01483 511725

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