

## Disaster and triumph

Dear Friends,

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same" - famous words from Kipling's poem 'If'. How hard it is to deal with tumultuous emotions, whether triggered by triumph or disaster! Sadly, that is what we saw in action, when some of the England football team were racially abused after the Euro 2020 final. This was, quite literally, disgraceful behaviour - the racists were seeking to 'dis-grace', to remove the grace from Marcus Rashford. Yet he showed such enormous grace, in his firm and gentle response to the racists, and in his acknowledging that support from the public moves and encourages him. What a grace-rich young man! I am proud to belong to the same nation as him.



Preparations are beginning to mark the 800th anniversary of the Synod of Oxford, which happened in 1222. Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, had just returned from the Lateran Council in the Vatican when all the church dignitaries had been encouraged to make life hard for the Jews. Langton, currying favour with the Pope, enacted at the Oxford synod the first anti-Jewish laws in this country. Henceforth, Jews were not allowed to build synagogues or own slaves, and had to wear a distinctive yellow badge in public. Though one person was soon afterwards burned at the stake because of these new laws, they were largely ignored. That may be a small relief, but it remains true that words uttered by distinguished public figures can provide a platform and an excuse for others to behave badly. National leaders can disclaim responsibility, but their words fan the flames of hatred.

Ironically, many historians believe that this synod was also the occasion when St George's Day was first decreed to be a public holiday in England. Holding these two themes together, I am led to ask: can we only be patriotic by disgracing others? The easiest way to boost a group's sense of identity is to find others to hate. William Golding's novel 'Lord of the Flies' tells that truth in story form so clearly. Yet, there are plenty of historical and biblical examples that follow the same pattern. Never forget that tremendous, challenging verse from Isaiah:

'They shall beat their swords into ploughshares'.

We need to be careful of criticising previous generations for doing what seems to be repeated in all ages: creating a sense of group/national identity by first finding an enemy. We are doing that in our own times, in ways that we probably don't recognise. Each generation makes mistakes - but that should not be the end of the matter. Swords can be turned into ploughshares. Marking St George's day need have no connection with anti-Jewish laws. So, look at the pictures of the mural of Marcus Rashford, painted in Manchester: disfigured by racists; yet, on top of that, the public have placed hundreds of messages of support.

**-Robert Cotton**



## Garden of Hope open at St Mary's

The Garden of Hope is a community space where you can reflect on the past year and share messages of remembrance, hope and thanks. There are still a few slots if you can help as a 'welcomer'. To sign up please [click here](#).



## Covid regulations for worship are changing

Regulations are changing for public worship. We will continue to ensure that all worship and social activities held in the parish are as safe as possible. We will also seize the opportunities that are now permitted under these new regulations. We will implement any changes gradually, fully respecting that we will all be experiencing different emotions and having a mix of responses: anxiety, joy, relief, hope and much more. We will publish more specific details soon. In the meantime, please continue to practice social distancing and wear a face covering in church. As far as I can tell, hymn singing will be permitted from Sunday 25th July! - *Robert*.



## Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone who has made Ellie, Hector and me so welcome at HTSM during our first week here. Already, I can see what a very special parish this is: with its inclusivity, music, eucharistic heart and incredible range of community involvement, it really is everything I'd hoped for in my curacy - and more!

A real highlight of Week One was speaking with some of the choristers at last Thursday's barbecue. We are clearly blessed to have such bright, committed and talented young people giving so much to our parish's musical life - but, more than that, I was struck by their passion for what they do, and their plans and aspirations for what comes next in their life stories. A new father myself, I left feeling inspired and energised, and that I will be proud indeed if Hector is like them in fifteen years' time! – *Ben Cahill-Nicholls*



## WHAT'S ON @HTSM

Need more information? Contact the Parish Office:  
[office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) | 01483 567716

HOLY TRINITY OPEN • Mon-Fri 11.00-13.00 • Sat 10.00-12.00  
ST MARY'S OPEN • Tue 12.00-15.00 • Thu 11.00-13.00 • Fri 10.30-12.30  
Morning Prayer on Zoom • Mon-Fri 08.30 • Sat 09.30

[Visit our website](#) or [download the flyer](#)

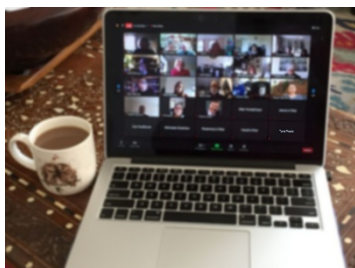
to see 'What's On' in the Parish of Holy Trinity and St Mary's this month.



## Walking with God

Watch Walking with God: An evening walk with Jonathan Hedgecock and words from the prophet Isaiah and the service of Compline. (13 minutes)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwZMG\\_xEIHQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwZMG_xEIHQ)



## Trinity Club@Home in July • Tuesday mornings

All are welcome. To join us, please [click here](#).

20 July • 10 am–11.30 am Chat Session

27 July • 10.30 am–12 pm Speaker: **Mary Alexander: The HTSM clergy revealed: from Italian missionaries to pillars of Victorian society**

On 20th July we would like to welcome you for a chat over a coffee via Zoom in the virtual Trinity Centre. As with all our chat sessions they will start earlier at 10am so that those who wish to attend the midweek service in St Mary's can get there. For the last session of the summer on 27th July, we welcome back to the parish Mary Alexander. Starting at 10:30 am, Mary will talk about the clergy of the two churches from the earliest days in the 600s up to the First World War, relating them to the world in which they lived. The Trinity Club will start again on 7 September. The programme for the autumn is currently being planned, but one date you can put in your diaries is Tuesday 28 September when Matt Pinches of the Guildford Shakespeare Company will talk to us. - *David Uzzell*

## Sunday Services • 18 July 2021 • Trinity 7

**8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Tom Pote**

*At St Mary's & on Zoom*

**10am Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist • Sermon by Ben Cahill-Nicholls**

Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6 and Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

*At Holy Trinity & on YouTube • Chat on Zoom after the service*

**10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Reflection by Rosemary Lee**

Readings: Psalm 23 and Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

*At St Mary's & on Zoom*

**6pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer • Reflection by Anne Marriott**

Readings: Deuteronomy 30.1-10 and 1 Peter 3.8-18

*At Holy Trinity & on YouTube*

*Zoom links and service sheets can be found below*

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.