



Holy Trinity St Mary's

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, chose his inaugural sermon at Hexham Abbey to deliver a powerful challenge to the 'macho' attitudes in society which, he said, can 'ferment' into violence against women. Photo by Jane Pikett, Churchwarden at Hexham Abbey.

2 December 2021

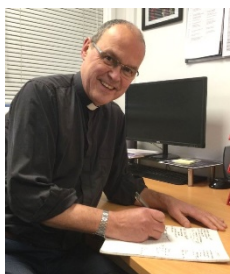
Dear Friends,

Change that is possible

"I wear a white ribbon today, because men need to change and because in Christ I see what that change could be." So said the Archbishop of York in a [sermon earlier this month](#), at a service remembering all victims of Domestic Abuse. Even though there are many dates in the calendar clamouring for our attention, this is worthy of respect. I feel drawn this year in particular to honour the work of those involved as there was a powerful seminar, hosted in Holy Trinity in October, when we heard from victims, police, magistrates and social workers. The courage that is required to bring peace into places of violence and such deep emotions, is only matched by the courage of the women who seek to flee. Violence traps everyone, but the pain is inflicted, in the vast majority of cases, on women. Being aware of these situations, being prepared to talk about the subject, being ready to show your support – all help in small ways to change what we understand as acceptable behaviour. Much fine work is happening on this subject in schools now. Churches need to follow suit.

The White Ribbon Campaign began as a response to a tragic day when 14 women were murdered in 1989 by someone who was driven by his hatred of women. From that tragedy has sprung a worldwide movement. I am reminded of these words, written by Tertullian, a Christian author, in about 200 AD: "The blood of martyrs is the seed bed of the Church". He was writing about unfair treatment of Christians by both the Roman authorities and those who stood idly by, noticing but doing nothing. Violent treatment was handed out to Christians, often on the basis of assumptions and rumours. Tertullian was urging the culture to change, not out of self-protection, but rather because we are less mature when we merely allow our passions to control us. We dehumanize ourselves when we inflict pain on others. So, I agree with the archbishop – men need to change, and in Christ, I see that change is possible and find the grace and forgiveness to make that journey.

– Robert



Rector's footnotes

Sunday

Apologies that the internet connection failed last Sunday, turning the preacher into “a pillar of salt” mid-sermon! The full recording of the service and the Advent Carol Service is now on our website www.htsmguildford.org; the sermon can be found at 14 minutes from the start of the video.

Taking good care

You will know about the increasing infection rate locally, which is certainly affecting schools in a particularly hard way. So, to express our care for each other as well as ourselves, you are now asked to wear a mask in church, if that is possible for you. I do hope that you will continue to sing these wonderful seasonal hymns – whether behind a mask or not. The choir is making full use of space in the chancel, so can lead our singing with enthusiasm. We will be keeping the doors closed, so that the church is warm during worship. We have also removed some rows of chairs at Holy Trinity, to provide more spaciousness. Please continue to use the gallery at Holy Trinity if you would like further distancing. Communion is brought to those in the gallery each Sunday. Sadly, we are stopping the provision of Sunday Coffee for the time being.



Carol services, concerts and events

As December begins, both churches will be hosting a variety of carol events – many involve schools or local charities. We seek always to welcome them at the start of the evening, so that they are not merely hiring a venue, but are both seeing a beautiful building and being greeted by a person of faith. I also pay tribute to Rob, Carol, Helen and Jonathan who clean and tidy, day by day, so that both churches are looking their best for these visitors.



Decorating the tree

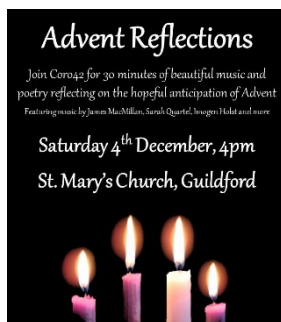
The full might and amazing talent of Café Club and Junior Café Club was brought to bear on decorating the Christmas tree in Holy Trinity. Enjoy! See if you can spot the knitted angels that came from Kwasa – a symbol of our celebrating this season together, even if travel is not possible, and distance seems to separate us.



Adventures through the Bible in 2022

Are you interested in going on an explorative journey together through the Bible? The Bible Course is an 8-week course produced by the Bible Society. It offers a quickfire journey through the Bible, with an overview week then the following weeks focusing on different books. More info can be found on [the Bible Society's website](https://www.biblesociety.org). There are videos to watch, questions to discuss and Scripture to read. There is further material to guide us. To express an interest, [please contact Annika Mathews office@stmarysguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysguildford.org.uk).

We will decide together whether this course meets weekly or each fortnight. If we have weekly sessions over Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-8.45 pm, starting 5th January, we will finish before Lent. Or if we go for meeting each fortnight, we can break for Lent and pick up again after Easter. All are welcome!



Advent Reflections • St Mary's Church
Saturday 4 December • 4pm

Join Coro42 for 30 minutes of beautiful music and poetry reflecting on the hopeful anticipation of Advent.

Featuring music by James MacMillan, Sarah Quartel, Imogen Holst and more.

Directed by Nick Graham.



Christmas with The Queen's Six • Guildford URC
Saturday 4th December • 8pm

Guildford Music Society and Hennessey Brown Music present Christmas with The Queen's Six. Advance booking [online](#), or on the door, subject to availability. Venue: Guildford United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Road, GU2 4BS. Free parking. There will be a voluntary retiring collection in aid of [Oakleaf](#).



Organ Recital • St Mary's Church
Wednesday 8 December • 1.10-1.50pm

You are invited to hear renowned concert organist Mark Brafield at St Mary's Church Wednesday 8th December from 1.10 to 1.50pm. Mark will be playing music by Buxtehude, Bach, Moore, Langlais and Salomé. To learn more about Mark, [visit his website](#).



From Chaos to Christmas...and beyond
Thursday 9 December • 12.15 for 12.30
St Mary's Church

A series of Advent Reflections followed by a bread & soup lunch

Why is the cradle empty? Allan Taylor

An opportunity to view the stunning Christmas pathway. in 21 metres walk from Chaos through Creation and the Nativity to the ultimate promise of being with God.



Pop-up Christingle Café • St Mary's Church
Saturday 11 December • 10.30am-12 noon

St Mary's will be offering this for the first time, with something for all ages to enjoy. Please come along and encourage family, friends and neighbours to drop in for this festive new event for all ages.

Sunday Worship • 5 December 2021 • Advent 2

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

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

10am Advent Eucharist • Sermon by Ben Cahill-Nicholls

[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4, Luke 3.1-6

10:30am Morning Worship • Sermon by Rosemary Lee

[At St Mary's](#)

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4, Luke 3.1-6

6pm Choral Evensong • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11, Luke 1.1-25

[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

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Midweek Holy Communion • Wednesdays • 12 noon • St Mary's

except for the 2nd Wednesday of the month

[Links to services by Zoom & YouTube and service sheets can be found below.](#)

Contact us:

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Please make sure we have your current contact details.