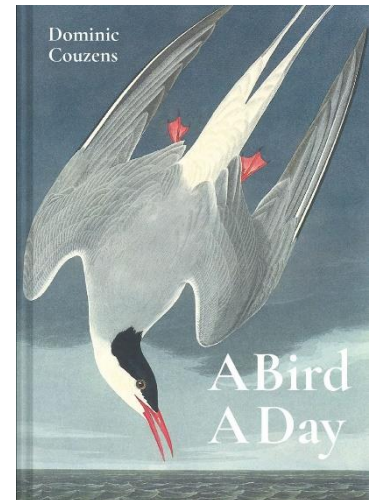


Remarkable behaviour

Dear Friends,

"A bird a day" by Dominic Couzens is a wonderful book. With a beautiful picture on each page, Couzens describes 366 birds from around the world. It takes one minute to read each page, but the feelings that are evoked can last the whole day. The Calliope Hummingbird weighs only 2.6 grams - 10 of them would weigh one ounce. Yet it defies its physical limitations, undertaking an autumn migration from British Columbia to Mexico (2,400 miles) - and flying by an even longer return route in spring (over 3,300 miles).

I spend more nervous energy merely thinking about that than the weight of one of these birds. Or, what about this remarkable story involving *Gallus gallus* (commonly known as a domestic chicken)! On February 4th 1975, a large earthquake struck the city of Haicheng, China, killing 2,000 people. However, in the preceding weeks, locals observed that chickens were running around in panic in the middle of the night and had stopped laying eggs. With similar unusual behaviours being displayed by other animals too, the authorities decided to evacuate the city 12 hours before the earthquake struck. It is estimated that 150,000 lives were saved.



Remarkable behaviour in birds and other animals can delight us. Similarly, when we see fellow human beings behave in wonderfully good ways, are you demotivated, or do you take encouragement?

We belong to the Body of Christ. We have some share in the goodness of others. It is a sign of spiritual maturity not to be threatened when others behave remarkably well. Indeed, this is not limited to the Christian community. With our vocation to be 'the light of the world', we have a responsibility to nurture, and draw attention to, goodness, wherever it is found. Other people's heroic behaviour does not put us in the shade. We are big hearted as we receive, delight in and give thanks for inspirational role models. Moreover, for each one of us, there is someone who needs our example - our behaviour may be normal to us, but is the remarkable inspiring encouragement that someone else needs.

Being able to recognise that behaviour can be both normal (to the person doing it) and remarkable (to the person in need) helps me understand the Sermon on the Mount. This is such a challenging passage of Jesus's teaching as he names ideals that, at first sight, appear way beyond my capability: not being angry, loving my enemies. Much of this seems unachievable. The Sermon on the Mount backfires if it demotivates, turning us away from growth in holiness (which is so much more important than being holy). I am somewhere on the spectrum between 'hating my enemies' and the sort of holy perfection shown by Nelson Mandela, a hero of reconciliation and forgiveness. Nevertheless, his example can ease my way forward. This month is a hard moment. For some there is the exhaustion that comes at the end of the school year; for others, there is a heightened level of anxiety as we wonder how to manage the change of regulations and easing of lockdown.

So, now is a time to be offering to others, and identifying for ourselves, examples of encouragement. What you are already is good - it may be normal behaviour to you, but precisely the sort of remarkable-ness that others need to see. And, as you move ahead into 'what will be', you will find companions in hope, and God's gentle presence walking alongside. So, let Couzens describe for you 'the marvellous democratic way in which Kingfishers feed their nestlings in the early stages. The young sit in a circle in the nesting chamber with their backs to one another, looking outwards. One chick faces the light that comes in from the tunnel entrance. When the adult arrives with a fish, this chick takes the offering. Then, all the chicks move round until the next bird on the carousel is facing the light, and is in position to take the next meal'. What a remarkable example of kindness and each finding the nourishment that is needed!

-Robert Cotton

Choral Evensong and more

Verse 3 of the hymn "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended" has the beautiful phrase: the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away. For so many months, our worship has been buoyed by the sound of choristers singing - our prayer and praise has indeed not been silent! We are so grateful to all involved: choristers, supportive parents and families, adult choristers (largely silent) and musicians.



The last Choral evensong before the summer break happens on Sunday at 6pm in Holy Trinity. Do attend, on site or on-line, for some wonderful music that will long echo in your hearts.

Once we know exactly what the new Covid regulations will allow in terms of singing, the churchwardens will let us know how we can manage this so that it will be safe for everyone, without anxiety or worry.



Keith Beckingham
Methodist Minister

Welcome back!

Keith Beckingham returns from his sabbatical today, preaching at St Mary's in the morning. We have missed you, Keith, and delight in your return, hoping that this has been a restful and nourishing time. I heard that Keith was first licenced for authorised ministry 46 years ago this week. Wow! "Well done, good and faithful servant".

- Robert



Junior Church in a rainy churchyard

We had an almost complete session outside on Sunday before the heavens opened and we were caught in the sudden deluge. We were all equipped and managed to shelter.

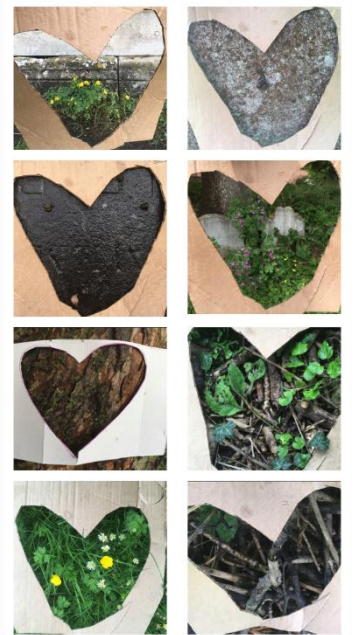
We always talk about being able to pray to God wherever you are and whatever you are doing and He will hear us. We decided it was a form of

Extreme Praying, talking to God in a rainstorm – it was certainly fairly to the point! But we managed to convey our thanks for our friends at church, for the rain to replenish the rivers, lakes and reservoirs and provide water for humans and animals, when many would be glad of such bounty.

As we were about to come into church, one of the children was very keen that we should sing 'I'm so glad you're here' at the end of our session, a song he loved at nursery. This slightly delayed further our seeking refuge in a dryer place but it was worth it, and it certainly all made for a memorable morning!

While we were still dry, the children used 'Nature Frames' (pictured) to focus in on little areas of wonderment in the churchyard.

-Pippa Mitchell, Children & Families Co-ordinator



Trinity Club@Home in July • Tuesday mornings

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

13 July • 10 am–11.30 am Chat Session

20 July • 10 am–11.30 am Chat Session

27 July • 10.30 am–12 pm Speaker: Mary Alexander

This week (13th July) and next (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 (27th July), we welcome back to the parish Mary Alexander to speak on 'Clergy Styles over the Centuries' starting at 10:30 am.

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 • 11 July 2021 • Trinity 6

8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Rod Pierce

At St Mary's & on Zoom

10am Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist • Sermon by Tom Pote

Readings: Psalm 85.8-13 and Matthew 5.21-26

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

10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Keith Beckingham

Readings: Amos 7.7-15 and Mark 6.14-29

At St Mary's only (not on Zoom)

6pm Holy Trinity Evensong • Sermon by Robert Cotton

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 4.11-end and Ephesians 1.3-14

At Holy Trinity & on YouTube

*Jonathan Hedgecock is leading worship at St Mark's Wyke
Rod Pierce is leading worship at St Peter and St Paul's Godalming*

To receive Zoom links and service sheets by email
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.