

Holy Trinity St Mary's



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.”

Dear Friends,

A friend sent me a quotation from something I wrote in 2014. It was moving that she had kept and treasured these words all that time; but I was anxious before I opened the attachment, unsure whether I would stand by what I had written. Apparently, I had been reflecting on the hymn “Lord of the dance” by Sydney Carter, and had said:

Perhaps one part of his style is its open-endedness. A faith that is ready to learn, respectful of others, keen to penetrate dark situations to look for the light, is very attractive. It was noted that Carter’s songs would change from rehearsal to rehearsal – indeed, from performance to performance. I have seen that too when I have been fortunate to be close to Will Todd at work. He has re-configured some of his “completed” pieces for different arrangements of voices and instruments, to suit the resources of this parish. The song remains the same – but we hear it differently as new people are drawn into the singing. That, perhaps, is an image of what happens around Jesus – his divine song remains the same, but must be heard and sung afresh in each generation.

Well, this Christmas is definitely going to be different – but we still need to hear and proclaim the message: “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it”. That is the truth that comforts. That is the truth that is familiar, faithful and fresh in each moment when we behave to make it real.

This is how our Christmas services will work.

Option A: Church-at-home via Zoom

This is ideal for those who are protecting themselves or a family member, or who enjoy singing – you can sing along with the choir at home on Zoom, in a way that is not permitted in church.

Option B: Church-at-home via YouTube – Live or Recorded Service

Make good use of our livestreaming to [YouTube](#). The quality is the same. You can sing and pray. You can catch up with our worship at a time to suit yourself.

Option C: Come to Holy Trinity – seating is limited

Please consider attending one of the new services this year: Carol Service at 5pm on December 20th; Christmas Eve service at 6pm; Christmas Day service at 11am. **There is no booking system; the limited number of seats can only be allocated on ‘first come, first served’.** Please spread the word.

Supporting local charities

The parish has just made a number of donations to local charities, especially those working with children, the homeless and prisoners, to enable them to bring light into some darkened situations. In response to a personal letter, the donation and the promise of prayers, we have received some heart warming grateful messages, such as this one from Shooting Star Chase:



We really are so very grateful to you for continuing to show us such kindness, and your donation is so greatly appreciated. Like for so many others, this year has been very tough for Shooting Star Children's Hospices. It's only thanks to our wonderful supporters, like you, that we're able to continue providing vital care to children and their families who are facing the unimaginable.

News from the congregations

Congratulations to Hazel Barnby on a significant birthday! Hazel has been worshipping at Holy Trinity for 60 years. Hazel, with her husband Guy who died 9 March 2015, has brought delight, kindness, warmth and love to this parish for many years.

Sadly, I report the death of Bill Crawforth last weekend. Bill also was a long-time faithful member of the congregation at Holy Trinity – quietly spoken, with an entrancing chuckle, he showed determination and faithfulness in his last years here, before he moved to be close to his family in Walton on Thames. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Christmas traditions

At the end of the morning service at Holy Trinity this Sunday, there will be the traditional playing of "Sleigh ride" – this year, this will be played on the organ and percussion instruments.

So that we can welcome as many people as possible to our services, there will NOT be a table under the gallery in Holy Trinity this year, where you can leave Christmas cards (as in past years).

Holy Trinity's final Wednesday Advent Communion will be at 12pm on 23rd December, before Gordon Bridger's funeral service at 1.30pm (family only).

Please [let us know](#) if you would like to receive Communion at home. Ministers from both Holy Trinity and St Mary's would be delighted to bring Communion to you, which we will arrange in a safe way.

Look for next week's letter on Tuesday 22nd December. This earlier edition will include Zoom links and service sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

-Robert

Christmas Services 2020 at Holy Trinity & St Mary's

4th Sunday of Advent • 20 December

Festival of Readings & Carols • St Mary's | Zoom • 3.30pm
Festival of Readings & Carols • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 5pm
Festival of Readings & Carols (R) • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 6pm

Christmas Eve • Thursday 24 December

Crib service • Holy Trinity • 4pm
Christmas Communion (R) • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 6pm
Christmas Communion • St Mary's • 9pm
'Midnight' Communion • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 10pm

Christmas Day • Friday 25 December

Holy Communion • St Mary's | Zoom • 8am
Festival Service (R) • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 10am
Christmas Communion • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 11am
Christmas Service • St Mary's | Zoom only • 10.30am

Epiphany • Sunday 3rd January

Epiphany Eucharist (R) • Holy Trinity | Zoom | YouTube • 10am
Epiphany Communion • St Mary's | Zoom • 10.30am
Compline • Holy Trinity | Zoom • 6pm

(R) Recording of service will be available on the HTSM YouTube channel

**Links for services on 20th December can be found below;
all other links will be sent on 22nd December.**

[Click here for a printable version of Christmas Services 2020 – updated 10 Dec](#)



The Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert

[This festive film](#) was put together instead of the annual live concert in Holy Trinity, Guildford. Join in with the audience carols, sit back and listen to the choir and the readings, and please donate generously to the Mayor of Guildford's chosen charity, [the Coronavirus Response Fund](#).



The Hungarian School and Cultural Association Guildford presents Festive Family Concert at Holy Trinity Church, 28 December 4-5pm

An programme for all the family with baroque favourites, a Hungarian flavour and Christmas perennials. To book tickets please email: boxoffice@hcaguildford.org.uk. Pre-booked tickets only: £10/adult, children come for free, £17.50 family ticket (2 adults 2 children).

Worship in the parish for the fourth week of Advent

- Pause to Pray: [Lighting the third Advent Candle](#)
- Holy Trinity - 10am service – Rod Pierce will be preaching. Robert Cotton will lead the Carol services at 5pm and 6pm.
- St. Mary's - 8am Holy Communion and 3:30pm Carol Service only (Weather permitting carols will be sung outside the church in a safe, socially distanced way from 3:15pm.)
- Midweek communion at Holy Trinity 12pm Wednesday 23rd December

[Click here](#) for the full schedule of What's On in the parish.

Links to services on 20th December, HTSM videos and daily prayer. Please note, service sheets for carol services at Holy Trinity and St Mary's are 12 pages long. [SUBSCRIBE](#) to this newsletter to receive the Zoom Links to services (sent by email only)

Sunday 8am Holy Communion

[SERVICE SHEET](#)

Sunday 10am Holy Trinity Advent Eucharist

[SERVICE SHEET](#)

Sunday 10am HT Live on YouTube	SERVICE SHEET
Sunday 3:30pm St Mary's Carol service	SERVICE SHEET
Sunday 5pm Holy Trinity Readings & Carols	SERVICE SHEET
Sunday 5pm HT Live on YouTube	SERVICE SHEET
Sunday 6pm Holy Trinity Readings & Carols	SERVICE SHEET
Sunday 6pm HT Live on YouTube	SERVICE SHEET
Pause to Pray videos • HT services on video	Walking with God
Weekday 8:30am Morning Prayer	WEEKDAY PRAYER
Sat 9:30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	SATURDAY PRAYER

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.
