

Holy Trinity St Mary's



Dear Friends,

I cried. I don't usually cry, even in tear-jerking movies (apart from ***The Railway Children***, which always reduces me to tears). But this summer I unashamedly cried while reading ***Hamnet*** by Maggie O'Farrell. I had to put the book down at times, because I was so moved. If I were now teaching at a theological college, I would recommend this novel as a brilliant, insightful description of the pain and bewilderment of bereavement.

When I was training as a priest, the recommended equivalent was ***A Grief Observed*** by CS Lewis. But this is just as evocative. Don't worry - it is not a sad novel; but it is very moving: poignant, perceptive, hopeful, realistic. What's more, the novel is based on a fantastic description of how deeply people can understand each other and take delight in their peculiar characteristics. Husband and wife, mother and son, siblings and friends - in many different ways, the novel shows how we are enriched through close relationships when we experience acceptance, not only for who we are but also for who we are becoming. In that way, the tragedy of the novel is located in a framework of love, joy, honesty and trust.

This is not a simple historical novel though it is based on the true story of Shakespeare, his wife and their son who died early. Ironically, I finished the book with a similar feeling that I

have at the end of a Shakespeare play: that I have been enabled to look deeply into the human soul; I have understood more of what it is like to be tempted, travailed, and provoked by pride or lust; and that, in drawing closer to others, I am readier to face the challenges of living well myself.

The Parish Office at work

I am very grateful to Michèle and Corinne for keeping the parish office functioning well throughout lockdown. Much of their work has been done remotely. We have had to learn new ways of doing things – some of which are proving really useful and more efficient. A time of furlough has happened, though this is coming to an end. So we need to establish a new working pattern that will be safe for them, and help the parish flourish.

If you want to be in touch with the office, the best way to start is by email: office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk.

The office is a very constrained space, where it is hard to be 2 metres apart from each other. So please do not call in unannounced with the expectation of being able to spend time in the office.

Face to face meetings may have to take place outside, or in the lower hall (if it is not being used).

Core office hours remain 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Anything arriving outside those times will be dealt with promptly, but that may be on the next day.

Parish Blog

Last week we heard from Citizens Advice Guildford and Guildford Samaritans. Next up in the blog [found our website](#) is news from Holy Trinity Pewley Down School. Photos included!

Worship in the parish this week

- Corinne Jones will be preaching at Holy Trinity this Sunday on Matthew 16.13-20, 'Turning sterile pits into cradles of life' and has recorded a [Pause to Pray](#) that will be available to view at the weekend.
- At St. Mary's Church-at-Home, Keith Beckingham will be reflecting on theme 'Our Inherent Identity'. The readings are from Isaiah 51: 1-6 and Matthew 16: 13-20.
- Morning Prayer continues each weekday at 8:30am. This is a simple way to start the day well. You can join in easily for the 20-minute meditation.
- Services and other parish activities are updated regularly on our [website](#).

Robert

Links to services, morning prayer and service sheets

[SUBSCRIBE](#) to this newsletter to receive the Zoom Links to services (sent by email only).

Sunday 23rd Aug 8am Holy Communion

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 23rd Aug 10am Eucharist & coffee

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 23rd Aug 10:30am Church-at-Home

SERVICE SHEET

Pause to Pray

SERVICES ON VIDEO

Weekday 8:30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

WEEKDAY PRAYER

Download Zoom links and call-in details

HTSM NEWSLETTER

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 (on leave to 22nd Aug)

Parish Office: office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

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