

Holy Trinity St Mary's

Friends,

Opening up Holy Trinity

The Angel of the North is a stunning, impressive statue, installed in Gateshead in 1998. Visible from the motorway, it commands attention. To my eye, it is welcoming, guarding, and blessing. If you pass it going north, the angel greets you; going south, the angel (even with its back to you) sends you on your way (politely). You have been commissioned to take with you the history, beauty and culture of this area. The Angel marks a territory. It invites us to say: "I am glad to be here", whether we are arriving or leaving. By its wordless presence, it marks out sacred space.

I wonder how much Holy Trinity church works in a similar way (though on a much smaller scale). I continue to be surprised by how many people say to me "I have lived in Guildford for 20 years, but have never been inside". Although that could be dispiriting, I hear in these words 'I may never have been inside, but I am glad it's there'. I certainly hear people expressing: 'Why didn't I come here 20 years ago?!'



Perhaps this is why June 15th is an exciting moment, in the course of this dismal lockdown. New government regulations now allow us to open the church for individual prayer. Public worship will follow later – at a date still to be decided. Of course, God is not only to be found in church – nor is the North (with its enormous statue) the only region of our country that is blessed by God! But this building is in part God's call: 'bring me your

brokenness and your strength; come with your anger and your passion'. Then, after the stillness has worked its magic, and we have absorbed God's grace, we leave – encouraged, commissioned, ready for more. Go on your way, whistling: "when you needed a neighbour, I was there"!

So, Holy Trinity will be open to the public, from June 15th, Monday to Saturday, 10:00am – 12:00noon. To make this happen, we need volunteers (though the rota for the first week is already full). A valiant group of church sitters has done excellent work keeping Holy Trinity open and accessible, for many years. Once lockdown is fully over, and once it is safe for everyone to be outside, we hope those who have helped in the past can do so again. At this stage of the easing of lockdown, we are asking for volunteers who can go out, and can do this safely (for themselves and those they live with). The church wardens are arranging this. [Click here](#) for more details.

St Mary's Church

St Mary's is not yet ready for opening, as the building works are still progressing. We have been fortunate that the builders have been able to work for much of the lockdown period. But this building will remain closed until the works are complete. And then – it will be "party time"!

Thank you for your support

The generous responses to Treasurer's messages and Sunday's virtual collection plate have seen almost 50 individual donations and more than £17,000 of additional income. This is making a valuable contribution to offsetting lost income from lettings and collections. It also underlines our decision to look after our employees and fully make our Outward Giving commitments for the year.

Also, Sharron Dinnie, principal of Kwasa College, has written expressing deep gratitude for our donation and support during these difficult times. She appreciated the prayers that we offered last week, both for Kwasa and for those involved in the Black Lives Matter protest, which were focussed on the parish of St John's Lafayette, another parish which is linked with Kwasa.

Music and Worship

- There will be a Choral Evensong on Sunday 14th June, using some music from old recordings of Holy Trinity choir (see links below). Some of this dates back to the 1970s – yet there are certain choir members, still singing, whose voices can be heard in these old recordings too!
- Don't miss seeing 104 members of our choirs and congregations coming together virtually to sing the joyous hymn '[Angel Voices Ever Singing](#)' in celebration of our Patronal Festival, Trinity Sunday 2020.
- If you are joining the 10:00am or 11:00am service on Sunday, please ensure that you have the new service sheet (see below) that has been produced for worship during June.

Links to services, morning prayer and service sheets

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

Sunday 14th June 8am Holy Communion	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 14th June 10am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 14th June 10.30 Church-at-home	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 14th June 11am Eucharist & coffee	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
Sunday 14th June 6pm Choral Evensong	<u>SERVICE SHEET</u>
<u>Pause to Pray</u>	<u>SERVICES ON VIDEO</u>
Weekday 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>WEEKDAY PRAYER</u>
Saturday 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom	<u>SATURDAY PRAYER</u>
Download Zoom links and Call-in details	<u>HTSM NEWSLETTER</u>

With best wishes,

Robert
11th June 2020

P.S. 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.
