

Threshold to greatness

Dear Friends,

Threshold to greatness

When is a boundary not a boundary?
When it is a meeting place. 'Boundary' signals separation and limitation; 'meeting place' indicates connection and exchange. The story of the Roman Empire is usually based on the narrative of a small city state gradually expanding its boundaries until the Empire covered Europe and western Asia. The decline of the Roman Empire set in – so the story goes – when the barbarians eventually found the strength to cross the boundaries and invade. But the historical reality was that Romans and barbarians had been meeting for centuries. For example, all along the Rhine, towns and markets were built, where ideas were shared, skills learnt and goods exchanged. Of course, occasionally there was conflict; but the "boundary" of the Empire was essentially the place where different cultures met.



Sharron Dinnie and her dog inspect construction progress on Kwasa's 'White Building'

This has relevance for the Church of England today. As an institution it is remarkably anxious, and fixated on its power (in decline). It is so worried about falling numbers (money, people, clergy) that it obsesses with the language of growth. I wonder what it would be like if our church were to change the narrative to focus on how we can meet with others of good-will, how best we can exchange ideas and hopes, confident that we have as much to offer as we have to learn.

But rather than be gloomy, I encourage you to read the story of the 'white building' at Kwasa, as told by Anne Marriott. The hero of this tale is the building that sits on the edge of the property owned by Kwasa College. It is a story of redemption and transformation, how a place has been turned from a dangerous eye-sore to a beacon of hope. If the full vision becomes a reality, this will truly be a meeting place for the community, where all can find education, health provision, employment advice and fresh hope. – **Robert**



The 'white building' at Kwasa

In 2003, when Robert Cotton first visited [Kwasa](#), the entrance to the site was dominated by a vast, dilapidated building. He remembers “a broken-down building with junkies and alcoholics drinking home-made liquor, past which all children and staff had to walk day by day to reach the sanctuary of school”.



Now in 2021 that same building is home to a school hall with sound and lighting system, an IT room, offices and reception, and a clinic for the use of both the College and the local community. The story behind this transformation, the result of vision and determination, is told [here in words and pictures](#).



Young Holy Trinity – Keeping in touch

I was delighted to reprise my Advent tour round the homes of our parish young families at the start of the Easter weekend, to have a doorstep chat and a catchup. This time I took Easter craft, small chocolate eggs and Easter cards from the parish. My dog Juno, who also came visiting last time, wore an artificial Easter daisy-chain instead of tinsel. She is good at politely staying back when necessary but also being mobbed when children are keen on dogs!

It was a joy to see our young families, especially at Easter time, and it will be even better when they can be in church and Junior Church/Trinity Breakfast Club with us again.

Café Club, our group for 12 -15 year olds, had its last Zoom meeting (we hope and pray) on Maundy Thursday, celebrating with an online Bible-themed Easter Escape Room and a 'Confectionery Tasting'. That's what we're officially calling it, anyway... – *Pippa*

Trinity Club@Home

Tuesday 13th April 10.30am – 12pm

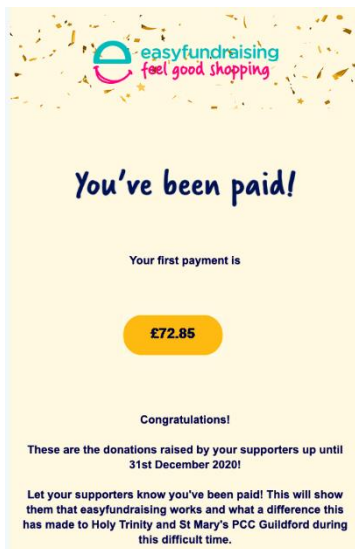
This week, we would like to welcome you for a chat over a coffee via Zoom in the virtual Trinity Centre. To join us by Zoom [please email the Parish Office](#).

- David Uzzell & Brian Roberts



Fools for love

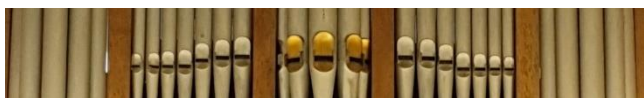
Congratulations to Jillian and Ciaran Doran who marked their 30th wedding anniversary on April 1st (really? Yes, really!). To mark the occasion, they kindly distributed easter eggs on Sunday at Holy Trinity, reminding me of the phrase in a wedding prayer: “may we share in each other’s joy”.



easyfundraising update

I am delighted to report that your efforts are paying off and we have been sent a payment of £72.85! Thank you all so much for the various purchases you have made that have contributed to this. We are hoping to build up the channels through which parishioners can give to or generate money for the parish, recognising that different generations like to do this in different ways. So although you may not see much action on this particular front for now, please keep going because it will come and I hope we shall be joined by many others in due course.

– Venetia



Recital - Friends of St. Johns Merrow

To celebrate the refurbishment achievement of the 140-year-old William Hill Organ there will be a free on-line Organ Recital at 7:30pm on the evening of the **14th April 2021**.

The programme will include the story of the evolution of this amazing instrument from its installation in 1881 to the present day. This will be followed by a Recital of an eclectic mix of organ music from Elgar, Bach, Franck and others. The music will be presented and performed by Mr. Mark Shepherd MA, FRCO, ARCM - Director of Music at Charterhouse School. To watch the livestream of the recital, [click here to request a weblink](#).



Helpful guidance

Due to the impact of Coronavirus over 5.5 million people are claiming Universal Credit. Many people are new to claiming Universal Credit having been negatively impacted by Coronavirus. I have been encouraged to share [this guide](#) so that you can claim,

or help others find their way to claiming, Universal Credit. You can also visit the [government's website](#) which provides additional guidance on employment and benefits support. – Robert



Vacancy • 1-bedroom flat • Stoke Hospital

Applicants usually need to fulfill the following criteria:

- Aged over 50
- Able to live independently
- Connection with the county of Surrey
- Limited financial means
- Preference given to ladies over the age of 55 who have lived in Guildford.

For further information please [click here](#)

Sunday Services • 11 April 2021

Easter 2

8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Tom Pote
[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

10am Holy Trinity Eucharist • Sermon by Tom Pote
Readings: Acts 4.32-35; John 20.19-31
[YouTube live only • Breakout rooms on Zoom after the service](#)

10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Robert Cotton
Readings: Acts 4.32-35; John 20.19-31
[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

6pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer • Sermon by Rod Pierce
Readings: Isaiah 26.1-9, 19 and Luke 24.1-1
[At Holy Trinity & on Zoom](#)

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.