

Banish the darkness

Dear Friends,

I have arranged delivery of 100 candles to Holy Trinity school which will be used on Friday at the special service for Year 6, who are leaving the school this summer. In normal times, we host this service at St Mary's. During that, I give every child a candle, asking them to walk around the church so that they can place the lit candle in a spot that seems meaningful for them. Some place a candle on the organ; some by the pulpit. There will be candles by the beautiful stained-glass window, and on the high altar. It works so well at St Mary's that I want to do the same this year. But, because the service will be on Zoom, the children will have to place the candles around their classroom. If they do this near a musical instrument, for example, it becomes a prayer that their own musical talent will flourish. Or maybe the candle will be by a book that the child has specially enjoyed reading. The possibilities are endless.



I once tried doing this on my own, in the dark at St Mary's. I lit a small T-light and carried it around different parts of the church. To be more effective, I turned all the electric lights off. By the time that my eyes had got used to the darkness, I was staggered by how much brightness comes from one small candle. Placed on a table under the tower, one candle transforms the whole interior so that you can safely walk all around the church. What would be hopeless would be NOT to light the candle. I have a great antipathy to unlit candles. When we give a candle as a sign of Baptism, I urge the family to light it over the coming years - whether on the child's anniversary of Baptism, or on their birthdays, or on any day when the parents want to express their joy and gratitude for their child. Any time! Just don't leave it unlit.

The same is true for us, now. This is a moment of transition, as regulations are about to be eased. No one says it's going to be easy. We will all be anxious or cautious; our emotional muscles have been over-developed in some ways, and under-used in other ways. The world feels different; but we need to find a place where we can shine our light which, without necessarily being aware of this ourselves, will bring hope and confidence to others.

The Welsh poet, R. S. Thomas, put a lighted candle in his window on New Year's Eve and found a new-born at his door the next morning. He wrote: "This morning I discovered the new-born year on my doorstep, begging to be welcomed into the house. I hesitated a moment for fear of what might come in its wake. But it continued to plead until I picked it up, not out of pity, but because I had to." This happened in 1938, a year when the clouds were dark worldwide and the mood was very threatening. But the struggle between light and darkness is asymmetric - however dark and gloomy it is, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it" (John 1.5). The only way the dark can win is for our candles to remain unlit.

-Robert Cotton



Shine as a light to the world

Pray this weekend for all those being ordained as deacons or priests, including Ben Cahill-Nicholls, Susie Watson and Tim Clifford Hill. We look forward to welcoming Ben to worship at Holy Trinity on Sunday 11th July at 10am. If you wish to contact Ben, please use his new email address: ben@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

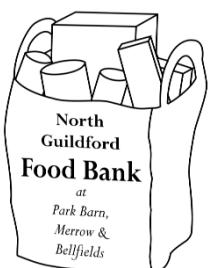
Summer singers needed 18 July, 1 and 15 August

Sunday worship at Holy Trinity has been going so well as we have benefitted from having the young choristers sing. The choir is on holiday after July 11th. I am keen to arrange a group of six adults to sing the hymns in unison on July 18th, August 1st and 15th. On the August dates, there will be a baptism so it would be good to have as full a worship for our guests as possible. Ideally, we will have singing every Sunday - but will have to wait to see what regulations will allow after July 19th. If you are willing and able to assist sing on these three Sundays, please [contact the office](#). – Robert



Guildford High Street closure

The High Street will be closed to traffic from 7am to 8.30pm on Sunday due to the Arts & Makers Market and Guildford Fringe Festival events.



North Guildford Food Bank

It's our monthly Food Bank Sunday this weekend and we'll be glad to receive donations of groceries and household items at Holy Trinity if you are able to attend morning service in person. Please include any of the following if possible: tinned meat, tinned fish, long life milk, toilet rolls & household spray cleaner

Items can also be taken to St Clare's Church, Park Barn, GU2 8JW on a Monday morning, preferably between 9.30 and 11am, when donations are sorted, or to the drop-off point at Sainsbury's Burpham where 'most needed' items are listed as well as [online](#). Or [contact Mara Uzzell](#) who will collect and deliver for you. Smaller donations can be put in the bin at the back of Holy Trinity when it is open (weekdays 11am-1pm, Saturday 10am-midday).

Please continue to support the Food Bank with your prayers, particularly following the recent death of Heather Roche, the Food Bank's Coordinator. Thank you. – Mara



Junior Church & caring for God's acre

It has been wonderful to be out in the churchyard with our children on a Sunday morning, as part of the Church of England's 'Churches Count on Nature' initiative and Surrey Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild in June, immersing ourselves in God's creation on a small and intimate level, studying the habitats and the wildlife that comes to our churchyard.

I have appreciated anew how much work goes into maintaining this area by the churchyard team, for the benefit of 'all God's creatures'. We are looking forward to some of the churchyard team joining us before the end of term, to enhance our experience even more.

I love the way this poem by Nicolette Sowder brings home an aspect of engaging our children in the natural world.

– Pippa

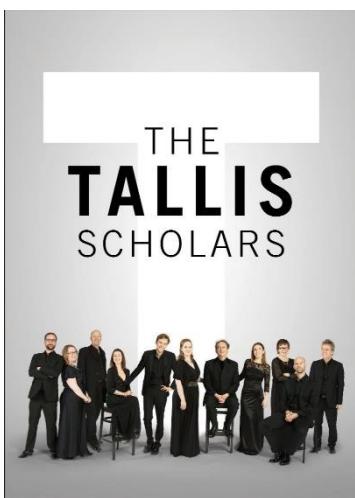
*May we raise children
who love the unloved
things - the dandelion, the
worms and spiderlings.
Children who sense
the rose needs the thorn
and run into rainswept days
the same way they
turn towards sun....
And when they're grown and
someone has to speak for those
who have no voice
may they draw upon that
wilder bond, those days of
tending tender things
and be the ones.*



Trinity Club@Home • Tuesday 6 July • 10:30–12pm

This week, we would like to welcome you for a chat over a coffee via Zoom in the virtual Trinity Centre. All are welcome.

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



Investec International Music Festival presents The Tallis Scholars

The award-winning Tallis Scholars will perform at Holy Trinity Church on **Saturday 18 September** at 6pm and 8.30pm - their first appearance in Guildford in a decade!

Founder and conductor Peter Phillips has chosen a programme of personal favourites from their touring repertoire including Allegri's much loved Miserere alongside works by William Byrd, Thomas Tallis and, bringing us right up to date, Arvo Part and Nico Muhly.

The one hour no-interval programme will be performed twice, at 6pm and 8.30pm.

For full details of events in September [download the brochure](#). Tickets can be purchased at Guildford's Tourist Information Centre [online](#)

Sunday Services • 4 July 2021 • Trinity 5

8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Robert Cotton
At St Mary's & on Zoom

10am Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock

Readings: 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 and Mark 6.1-13

At Holy Trinity & on YouTube • Breakout rooms on Zoom after the service

10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Robert Cotton

Readings: Ezekiel 2.1-5, Mark 6.1-13

At St Mary's & on Zoom

6pm Holy Trinity Evensong • Sermon by Rod Pierce

Readings: Ezekiel 2.1-5 and Romans 14.1-17

At Holy Trinity & on YouTube

Guildford High Street will be closed to traffic from 7am to 8.30pm on Sunday

Rod Pierce is leading worship at St Mark's Wyke

Tom Pote is at St Nicolas Cranleigh for the First Eucharist of Tim Clifford Hill

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.