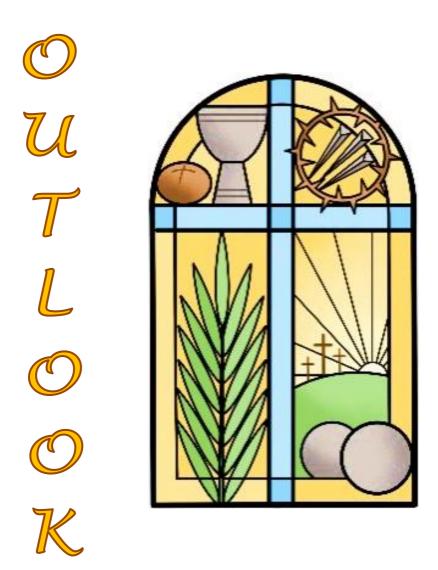
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Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am* & 6.30pm*

Tuesday*, Wednesday* & Thursday* 10.00am Friday* 12.30pm

> Saturday 10.00am* and 6.00pm

Service times may occasionally vary – please see weekly notice sheet for details.

All services are streamed except Saturday 6pm & Sunday 8am.

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To access streamed services:

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Holy Trinity Taunton

Fr Julian can be emailed directly: frjulianssc@gmail.com



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FR JULIAN WRITES...



April 2025

Although Easter is at the end of the month, most of April is focused on Lent and Passion Week; these are an essential prelude to the Easter festival. For foodies, just looking to Easter is like jumping to the dessert section of the menu before the main course! And indeed, the starters and main course come before the puds which as, my late father would say, 'complete the picture'.

I'm not going to push my analogy too far, but I hope that it gives you the idea that the next few weeks lead into Easter, and cannot be separated from it. By now, we may well have become a little complacent about Lent having had nearly four weeks of it already. We've got used to our disciplines in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and may think it's too late to start any new practices now (it is never too late).

We begin 'Passiontide' on 6th April, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Rather than looking at Jesus in the wilderness, we begin to think about the end of his ministry in Jerusalem. The forty days he spent being tempted in the desert marked the beginning of his earthly ministry; Passiontide marks the beginning of its end. We don't think so much of his suffering through self-denial, but his physical suffering as his life on earth comes to an end, as he fulfils and completes his work amongst us as a human being.

The shift in emphasis begins on Lent 5, 6th April. In many churches, all crucifixes, statues and pictures are veiled in purple from then. We don't have such veils – yet. A recent bequest has made it possible for to us to buy material for them, and this will be a very visible message that we are entering into a new part of the journey of the cross.

The following Sunday is Palm Sunday. Sometimes (rarely) it is called Lent 6. That is actually very wrong. Work it out – Lent lasts forty days, and so excluding Sundays (always feast days) Lent actually ends on Palm Sunday which is the start of a very much more significant period, the last week of the Lord's life.

It is in Holy Week that our liturgy, the services, in church become very much more direct, culminating in the Triduum. The purpose is not to put even more pressure on our precious time, but to enable to remove ourselves, even if only for a little while, from the here and now to the there and then. We enter more fully into the passion, the suffering, of Christ, not because we want to pile extra misery on ourselves, or to take masochistic pleasure in recalling Christ's agony, but because we want to be part of it, however painful it may be. And painful it is – and has to be.

But... We can cope with these two weeks because we know how the story ends. It doesn't end with death on the cross, but the empty tomb as Christ's triumph over the forces of evil and sin become so very apparent. The resurrection itself is not the end of the story, it is the purpose of the story. As we celebrate the new life Easter brings, we are renewed, liberated, freed from sin.

This is the most intense, and demanding, part of the Christian year. Yes, it involves sacrifice; for us that of time. It also creates difficult emotions. Some find it hard to handle, and so avoid the painful bits, but who wasn't told to eat their crusts?! We cannot avoid the reality of events, we cannot avoid the betrayal and dereliction of Christ. We cannot avoid dramatic liturgies that are challenging and even distressing. We cannot just jump to the desserts, but have to have a balanced and nourishing meal. Maybe smaller portions, but not so as to throw out the nutritional value of a 'good meal'.

I am tempted to say 'bon appetit', but merely would encourage you all to share in the full events of Passiontide, and so experience more greatly the joys of Easter.

With my prayers and all good wishes

Fr Julian

WHY AND WHAT ...?

I mention in my letter 'the Triduum'. It's not something which is in frequent use in our daily lives, and not even in some parts of the Church. It merely means 'the three days', and refers to the days beginning at dusk (in accordance with Jewish custom) on Maundy Thursday and is completed at Evensong on Easter Day. Rather than the day starting at dawn, it begins in the evening, so the Triduum covers three days in that respect, and follows the Gospel accounts.



The Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper is the bridge between Passiontide and the Triduum itself. The mass itself begins in celebration as the

eucharist is instituted. White vestments are worn and the Gloria is sung, but at the Washing of the Feet, the mood dramatically changes.

Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane where he prays to be delivered from what lies ahead, but accepts his Father's will. Symbolically, we process with Jesus, in the form of the Blessed Sacrament, into the 'Garden', the Lady Chapel, recalling Jesus' admonition, 'Could you not stay awake one hour'. The church is stripped of all ornaments; its bareness representing the dereliction that Christ experiences as one by one his disciples desert him and he is left alone.

Most of us will understand Good Friday, even if it is something which is both difficult and painful to contemplate. On a human level, we cannot understand such barbarity and injustice meted out to another human being. When we consider that human being is also the Son of God, and that it was for us that he allowed this to happen.



In the service at 10am, we hear again the Passion Gospel, an account of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. We 'venerate' the Cross, as a rough wooden cross is carried through the church, and we are encouraged to 'come and worship' the instrument of Christ's death but our life. And we receive Holy Communion, reserved from the night before, demonstrating that Christ's love and nurturing of us is never-ending.

In the afternoon, at 2.00pm, we mark the 'Last Hour'. Christ spent three hours on the cross before he died. In that time he forgave his executioners and the penitent thief. He entrusted his mother into the care of St John – the only two people who didn't desert him. And, all things accomplished, he died. The service is contemplative and solemn, in the presence of the cross dominating the chancel.

Again, because of the day starting at dusk, the 'third day' is Holy Saturday. Whereas this is usually marked by frantic preparations to decorate the church, restoring the ornaments and any furniture moved on Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil is got ready.

The Vigil is not just another Easter service. Yes, it includes the first celebration of an Easter Mass, but that is the climax of the service.



First, in a church lit only by candles the congregation carry, the great Easter or 'Paschal' candle is placed in its stand at the front of church. The Easter message is proclaimed, beginning with 'Rejoice' which gives this part its name, 'Exsultet'. Through readings and psalms, we hear the story of salvation from the beginning until its completion at

Easter. We rejoice in the new life of Christ shared with us as we reaffirm our baptism vows, and then move on to celebrate the resurrection as we do in every mass.

These observances have been celebrated perhaps more covertly in the C of E until 'commended by the Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England' in the book, Lent, Holy Week and Easter (LHWE) — a sneaky ploy to acknowledge what was already happening, but obviating the need to have it all approved by General Synod (we'd still be waiting...). With Common Worship's 'Times and Seasons', LHWE has been expanded and the Triduum becoming fully accessible and restored as part of the Anglican tradition.

EASTER DRAW

We will once again be having an Easter Draw using the £1-A-Square board. There will be at least 10 prizes to be won and the Draw will take place on Easter Sunday in the Hall after the service. Good Luck!



CALENDAR FOR APRIL

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days for April are listed below.

2 Wed S. Francis of Paola, Founder of Minim Friars (1507)

4 Fri S. Isidore of Seville, Archbishop (636)

5 Sat S. Vincent Ferrer, Dominican Friar (1419)

6 LENT 5 PASSION SUNDAY Theme: The Passion of Our Lord Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

S. Stanislaus, Patron of Poland, Bishop & Martyr (1079) 11 Fri

Theme: The Entry into Jerusalem 13 PALM SUNDAY Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke Passion

in Holy Week 14 Mon 15 Tue in Holy Week 16 Wed in Holy Week

Theme: The Last Supper 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Readings: Ex. 12.1-4, 11-14; 1 Cor. 11.23-26; John 13.1-17 & 31b-35

Theme: The Crucifixion 18 GOOD FRIDAY

Readings: Isaiah 52.13-53.12; Hebrews 4.14-16 & 5.7-9; John Passion

Theme: Light from Darkness 19 HOLY SATURDAY

Theme: The Resurrection of Our Lord 20 EASTER DAY

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; Luke 24.1-12

21 Mon in Easter Week 22 Tue in Easter Week 23 Wed in Easter Week 24 Thu in Easter Week 25 Fri in Easter Week 26 Sat in Easter Week



Theme: The Upper Room **27 EASTER 2** Readings: Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

28 Mon S. Peter Chanel, Priest, Missionary, Martyr (1841))

29 Tue S. Catherine of Siena, Teacher (1380)











EVENTS IN LENT

Stations of the Cross: Fridays, from 7th March, 6.00pm **Compline:** Tuesdays from 11th March, 8.00pm **Discussion Group:** Thursdays, 7.30pm, at the Vicarage

3rd April: Holy Catholic and Apostolic

10th April: The Last Things

Chrism Mass: 10th April, Exeter Cathedral

11am Mass, followed by a buffet lunch

Seder Meal: Saturday 12th April, 7pm

Holy Week and Easter Services



PALM SUNDAY

6.30pm Evensong & Benediction

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week

7.00pm Holy Eucharist & Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper & Passion Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (Followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Church Hall)
2.00pm Last Hour Before the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

8.00pm Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter



Fr Julian and Jane warmly invite everyone to celebrate Easter with them at a party in the Church Hall following the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Spotlight on...

Fr James Finnemore

As a special treat we now have Fr James Finnemore who came to us quite recently.



Fr James thank you so very much for speaking with me today, tell me, how long have you lived in Taunton, do you have any family and what did you do for a living?

My mother was born in Taunton and my grandfather ran James Steel & Son, the tailors on East Reach. The shop was there until the 1960's and can still be remembered by some. I still have family in the area and that played a big part in my decision to move to Taunton on my retirement.

Mother emigrated to South Africa and there met my father. It was there in Port Elizabeth that I was born, one of four boys (the Finnemores usually have boys!). Unfortunately, due to the political situation over there at the time, we returned to England in 1964 and settled in Oxford where I grew up.

I went to the local Grammar School and to University at Pembroke College Cambridge. I trained for the priesthood at Mirfield and served title in Crossgates in Leeds, from 1985-1988. Between 1988 and 1992 I undertook my second curacy in Hessle East Yorkshire, the wonderful Humber Bridge was in our parish. In 1992 I became Rector of four parishes in Garrowby Hill near York. This quickly became five churches with a total population of 1400 adults and two church primary schools. I had moved from an urban life to a country life. I'm fortunate to have made and kept friends from everywhere I have ever lived.

Unfortunately, the health of my mother deteriorated in 2016 and I returned Oxford to care for her, but always knew I would end up in Taunton, having purchased my house here in 2015 from Mr Winmill, the painter and decorator.

What do you do in your spare time, what are your hobbies?

As a teenager I had an allotment in Leeds and then in Hull but embracing the country life in Garrowby Hill, I bought two paddocks and set about breeding shorthorn cattle, keeping hens and growing my own vegetables. I purchased a heifer at Perth Cattle market and took her back to Yorkshire but in keeping with the true Finnemore style, she only produced bullocks and no heifers, so although I had my Herd Mark I was never able to register a pedigree; however, I did eat well!! I am currently in the process of digging up my back garden in order to grow vegetables and fruit.

Besides cattle, I love medieval history, theatre, cooking and watching cricket, Rugby Union and cycling and tomorrow I am off to the races. As a family we spent our holidays in a hut on the cliff at Branscombe. This I am pleased to say, is still in the family and I love to go there occasionally, it has the most amazing views. Yet another reason to settle in Taunton.

What would you say is important to you and what does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?

Politics and the future of South Africa are very important to me. I have been back possibly a dozen times including teaching in a Mission School when I was eighteen.

I love agriculture and am looking forward to the Bath & West show. This follows a family tradition and one of my sadnesses is that a cartoon of my grandfather visiting the show in 1936, along with another of my maternal grandfather wearing a kilt, were both lost in my move to Taunton. I am proud of my family history and of my grandfather who was in the West Somerset Yeomanry. He served under General Allenby in Palestine and was at Gallipoli and was saved by his wrist watch. He was shot at and the bullet bounced off the watch casing, I am proud to say that this very watch now resides in the Castle Museum.

Now retired, I am glad to be active in Priestly Ministry and assist at Holy Trinity in Bridgwater, Weston super Mare All Saints, Heavitree Exeter, St Marys Steps and Colyton in Devon, occasionally. I am also known to be asked back to Pusey House in Oxford from time to time. In fact, in 2024 I made the huge 'self-sacrifice' to assist in an Advent weekend in Monte-Carlo, poor me!

I have always enjoyed visiting people who live in the parish and hearing their stories, whether they come to church or not. I suppose I am a people person (as well as a cow person).

My faith is hugely important to me. I say the morning and evening prayers at home daily and I love the fact that I am in walking distance

of Holy Trinity. I would be called a traditionalist and cannot see myself in a church with stages and drum kits! I rejoice in the Catholic Tradition, so Holy Trinity is a wonderful home for me.

Thank you Fr James, who would have guessed that you are a true country boy at heart (we might even accept you as an honorary Yorkshireman!)

Pauline Holt

lendwithcare

Your generous donations to Lend with Care have been distributed. We were able to help five people/groups. I had £75 to donate on your behalf. Thank you.

Details will be on the display in the Hall, but here is a brief outline:

- 1. Stars 1102 group are now fully funded. We may even be getting а
 - repayment soon! However, as usual, we have to accept that we may not get any repayment - but we have faith in the Entrepreneurs.
- 2. Janvier- a farmer
- 3. Samuel retail groceries
- 4. Jean Baptiste a farmer 5. Francois retail clothing/ foot wear

Thank you for your continuing support for Lend With Care.

Trudi Watkins

SCRAP JEWELLERY FOR CASH

I am once again collecting gold, silver and precious metals to be weighed in for cash. If you have any broken or damaged items or odd earrings or cufflinks you would like get rid of, I will add them to the collection for weighing in. This has raised a tidy sum for Church funds in the past.

Also, I continue to collect jewellery and jewellery boxes (ring, necklace boxes) for my Jewellery Stall, all donations gratefully received. Many thanks.

Cheryl Grindle

A RECIPE FOR APRIL

MINI EGG CHEESECAKE

This is an easy no-bake cheesecake. It is good to make for Easter with mini eggs (or leftover Easter eggs) but could also be made at other times of year with different chocolate.

Ingredients

200g Digestive biscuits
80g Unsalted butter, melted
250g Mini Eggs or leftover Easter eggs
400g Full fat soft cheese
150g Icing sugar
1 tsp Vanilla bean paste
400g Double cream
Vegetable oil for the tin



Method

- Oil a 20cm deep springform cake tin and line with baking parchment.
- ➤ Tip the digestive biscuits into a food bag or the bowl of a food processor and crush or blitz to a fine crumb. Mix with the melted butter, then press into the base of the prepared cake tin and chill for 30 mins.
- Roughly chop half the Mini Eggs.
- ➤ Beat the soft cheese with the icing sugar and vanilla until just combined using an electric whisk.
- Clean the beaters, then beat the double cream to stiff peaks in a separate bowl. Gently fold the whipped cream into the soft cheese mixture along with the chopped Mini Eggs.
- Spoon the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base, then smooth the surface. Chill overnight.
- The next day, carefully release the cheesecake from the tin (you may need to run a knife around the edge to loosen it) and top with the remaining whole Mini Eggs to decorate.

Contributed by Jane Laurence

THE SUN RISING

Following last month's magazine article of about John Donne (one of the 'metaphysical' group), it seemed appropriate to include a poem by him in this month's edition and this is probably one of his best known ones and not so opaque as some.

He starts by chiding the sun for waking him, asks him to 'bother' others and asks where are the 'th' Indies of spice and mines and the kings' of 'yesterday'? - all in his bed?, but the sun still continues to enlighten and warm our world and everything living on it with impartiality. As it will, so the scientists say, for the next 5 million earth years or so.

THE SUN RISING (John Donne 1571 or 2 - 1631)

Busy old fool, unruly sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains call on us?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide
Late school boys and sour prentices,
Go tell court huntsmen that the king will ride,
Call country ants to harvest offices,
Love, all alike, no season knows nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.

Thy beams, so reverend and strong
Why shouldst thou think?
I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink,
But that I would not lose her sight so long;
If her eyes had not blinded thine,
Look, and tomorrow late, tell me,
Whether both th'Indias of spice and mine
Be where thou leftest them,
or lie here with me.
Ask for those kings whom thou saw'st yesterday,
And thou shalt hear, All here in one bed lay.

She's all states, and all princes, I,
Nothing else is.
Princess do but play us; compared to this,
All honours mimic, all wealth alchemy.
Thou, sun art half as happy as we,
In that the world's contracted thus.
Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be.
To warm the world, and that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
This bed thy centre is, these walls, thy sphere.

Pat Hitchcock

HOLY TRINITY $\frac{200}{\text{Clab}}$ WINNERS

February 2025

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| 2nd | Julie Harland | £33.00 |
| 3rd | Andrew Puckett | £22.00 |

GUILD OF THE SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

This is a Guild of Altar Servers which seeks to deepen the spiritual life

of its members and who meet regularly at their Chapter for worship and fellowship. The local Chapter is the Chapter of The Holy Cross which covers Chard, Bridport, Yeovil and



Taunton areas. Three of Holy Trinity's servers belong to GSS (shown in picture at a recent meeting in Chard).

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 16th April 2025

TRESPASSERS BEWARE!

There is an amusing tale from school-folklore, which tells of 'Little Johnny' who was overheard in Assembly sing-songing his way through The Lord's Prayer. 'La-la-di-dah! he sang. 'La-la-di-dah!'

When asked why he did not say the words, he simply stated that he had learned the tune but not the words, yet.

This reminds me of how we often sing-song our way through the prayers we say, using rhythm especially to say our prayers together.

However, sometimes, I suddenly focus on a phrase which I have used countless times since I was 'Little Johnny's' age. It's as though I am seeing it for the first time! I start to think... ...

In The Lord's Prayer we say 'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.' That's serious.

Why? Well, how many times have you, like me, said 'I can never forgive so-and-so for that!' I know I have said it lots of times, but we, in the prayer taught to us by Christ himself, don't just ask for forgiveness for our sins but tagged on is the phrase 'as we forgive those who trespass against us'. It is a contract of sorts.

A sort of: please forgive me in the same way as I forgive so-and-so. We cannot sail our way through the prayer being pleased with ourselves having asked forgiveness for our (many) sins-and job done! What about 'as we forgive those who trespass against us?

Also, what about the way we forgive those who have trespassed against us? Do we really forgive them, fully, completely? Or is it a grudging forgiveness? A sort of fractional forgiveness?

If so, that's what we will get in return. From God!

What do you think??

Lord

Luke 11:1

TUB2PUB CAMPAIGN

This is a campaign by Green King pubs to recycle plastic tubs left over from Christmas festivities. The campaign encourages customers to bring their empty plastic sweet



and biscuit tubs to 1,600 participating pubs nationwide between January 1 and February 16. The initiative seeks to prevent these from ending up in landfill and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The tubs, collected from Christmas festivities, are often not suitable for kerbside recycling. Instead the polypropylene tubs are converted into new UK made products.

Last year, the campaign collected around 150,000 plastic tubs from Greene King pubs

Over the past 5 years Tub2Pub has collected 230,000 tubs, equivalent to 26.253kg of plastic, generating £23,908 for charity.

At Somerset Council 109 tubs were collected, of which 3 were from Holy Trinity. My fault I left it a bit late, but in 2026 I'm sure we can do better, so please start saving your sweet tubs now. I'll do a reminder in the November/December magazine.

Wendy Burge



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

13 April The Anchor, Hillfarrance (£10 deposit)

11 May Pickeridge Golf Club

8 June The Maypole, Thurloxton (£5 deposit)

All bookings are for 12.15. Please let me know if you want to come along to any of the lunch club outings on the previous Sunday so that numbers can be confirmed with the venue.

If you need a lift please make sure you arrange transport beforehand with one of the drivers.

Wendy Burge

ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

It was:

- 250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 that J M W Turner, the British artist was born. Known for his landscapes and marine paintings.
- 175 years ago, on 16th April 1850 that Madame Marie Tussaud, French artist known for her wax sculptures, died. Founder of Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London.
- Also 175 years ago, on 23rd April 1850 that William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.
- 150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.
- 125 years ago, from 14th April 12th November, that the 1900 Paris Exposition was held. Nearly 50 million people visited Paris that year.
- 100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 that F Scott Fitzgerald's novel The Great Gatsby, was published.
- 80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 that Adolf Hitler, German Nazi Party Leader, committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.
- 70 years ago, on 5th April 1955 that Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced his retirement because of failing health. He was succeeded by Anthony Eden on 7th April.
- Also 70 years ago, on 10th April 1955 that British nightclub hostess Ruth Ellis shot and killed her lover, David Blakely. She was hanged at Holloway Prison, the last woman to be executed in the UK.
- Also 70 years ago, on 18th April 1955, that Albert Einstein, German-born American theoretical physicist, died.
- 50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 that Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded.
- 30 years ago, on 4th April 1995 that Kenny Everett, DJ, comedian and TV entertainer, died. Known for his zany humour.
- 25 years ago, on 12th April 2000 that Queen Elizabeth II awarded the Royal Ulster Constabulary the George Cross in recognition of its collective and sustained bravery.
- 20 years ago, on 2nd April 2005 that Pope John Paul II died.
 Succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th April.
- Also 20 years ago, on 9th April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, married Camilla Parker Bowles, who became Duchess of Cornwall.



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| Sacristan | Mrs Jenni Llewellyn | | 01823 | 354800 |
| Captain of Bellringers | Mrs Margaret Jordan | | 07972 | 524557 |
| Church Flowers | Mrs Sylvie Paul | | 01823 | 279436 |
| Hall Booking Secretary | Parish Administrator | | 01823 | 354800 |
| Trinity Church School Head of School | Trinity School, South S Ms Lisa Eadie | Street | 01823 | 284128 |
| | | | | |

Website: www.holytrinitytaunton.org

Email: holytrinity01@outlook.com Facebook: Holy Trinity Taunton