

# HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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Christmas/January 2024

# *Holy Trinity Service Times*

Services are as follows:

**Sunday**

**8.00am, 10.00am & 4.00pm**

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

**Saturday**

**10.00am and 6.00pm**

**All services will continue to be streamed,  
except for Saturday 6pm and Sunday 8am.**

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

To access streamed services:



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Fr Julian can be emailed directly: [frjulianssc@gmail.com](mailto:frjulianssc@gmail.com)



Please use this QR code if you would like to make a donation to Holy Trinity

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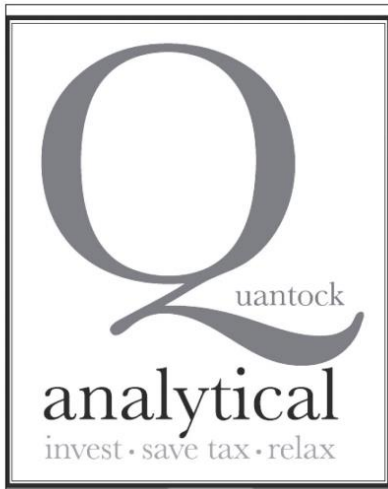
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# CHRISTMAS & JANUARY

\*HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS\*



2024

## ***FR JULIAN WRITES...***

‘So here it is, merry Christmas everybody’s having fun...’ You may not remember the pop group Slade’s hit Christmas song. Sadly, I do, although it was released 50 years ago this year! You may not think you know it, but I have no doubt that you will recognise it as it is one those Christmas ‘classics’ that have been assailing our ears in shops since October...

The arrival of Christmas for many people is a goal reached. For weeks, preparations have been made, with the sending of cards, the purchasing of presents, the planning of meals, and the counting of those who may be joining us. We are brainwashed into the ‘merry Christmas’ celebrations in so many ways, and I say ‘brainwashed’ because goal achieved, come the 26th Christmas is over for many. It is seen as the conclusion not the beginning.

Being an old fogey, I have to say I’m not particularly fond of the idea of having a ‘merry’ Christmas. What is it to be merry? As a word it is mostly linked with Christmas as an adjective; to be ‘merry’ can mean being a bit tipsy (as if!). I far prefer ‘happy’ because I think this is more to do with the celebration of Christmas.

So why should be happy at Christmas? You might think that there are too many reasons not to be. Faced with ever-increasing financial pressures, strikes and delays in NHS provision, wars and famine, global warming and other international problems, we might find it hard to be happy, except personally (for most) at Christmas. However, Christmas is the beginning, not the end of the story. We celebrate the birth of God’s Son, in a squalid cave amongst farm animals, away from his human parents’ home town. His birth was greeted by both ends of society – shepherds and kings – and a baby, he himself became a refugee.

The Christmas story does not end at the manger. We sing about the 12 days of Christmas, but actually our celebrations should go on for 40 days, until Candlemass, when Simeon recognises the Messiah, fulfilling God's promise to him. In those forty days, the Sunday readings telescope the opening actions of the adult Jesus, effectively preparing his mission to humanity.

So Christmas is a beginning, the beginning of a new relationship between God and humanity, where he discloses his purposes in a very real way by being born as one of us. This should be a cause of happiness, a sense of relief and satisfaction, knowing that we mere mortals do not have the sole responsibility for solving the world's problems, but are given the divine means and intent to do so.

Happiness isn't just the transient pleasure of presents under the tree, full tummies, good company (hopefully!) and a few days off work, but the joy of knowing love. The birth of Christ is a very visible sign of God's love for us. And love is something reciprocal. Knowing that we are loved enables us to be more loving in response. Those who first responded after Mary and Joseph, were the shepherds, summoned by angels. Then came the Magi, the wise men, who were summoned by their learning and guided by a star. When they arrived at the manger, they must have been happy; not necessarily because of the conclusion of their journey, short or long, but because of what they saw and realised.

It has been suggested that after Christmas lunch, men hide in the garden sheds as discussions take place about what to watch on the TV, tongues are made a little reckless by alcohol or adrenaline, and children behave like tired children. Not everybody will be having fun, especially if Christmas is thought to be over after lunch has been eaten, unless we can appreciate the true happiness of Christmas which recognised that it is the beginning not the end.

As the Slade song continues 'Look to the future now it's only just begun'.

With my prayers and good wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

*Fr Julian*



## JOHN RUDGE: Parish Treasurer

After 35 years in post as honorary parish treasurer, John is resigning from the post on 31st December. We owe him an incredible debt of gratitude, for the exemplary way in which he has managed the parish accounts and their presentation at the Annual Meeting, as well as a wide range of duties which he has fulfilled, many of which are not generally known. His last Sunday in post will be the 31st, when we shall be also joined by the congregation of the Good Shepherd, so we can have a really good 'do'!

## DECEMBER/JANUARY SAINTS –

### Fr Julian's idiosyncratic selection of saints

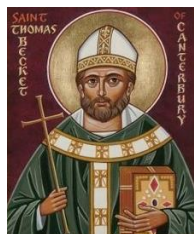
**26th: St Stephen** (c5 – c33-36) The Acts of the Apostles tell us he was the first Christian martyr. As a deacon in the Church, he enraged the Jews, who stoned him to death. A certain St Paul was present...



**27th: St John Evangelist** (c6-9- c100) St John has been identified with the 'disciple whom Jesus loved'. He was amongst the first called by Jesus, and with Peter and James became the closest followers of Jesus. The 4th gospel is named after him, as is the book of Revelation.

**28th: Holy Innocents** According to St Matthew's gospel, King Herod ordered all children to be killed, seeking to kill Jesus. Scholars dispute whether the event actually took place, but the Holy Innocents are regarded generally the first (unwitting and unwilling) Christian martyrs.

**29th: St Thomas a'Beckett** (1119/20 – 1170) Beckett was Lord Chancellor before coming Archbishop of Canterbury (been there) in 1162. He was engaged in conflict with his former friend Henry II over rights and privileges of the Church, and was murdered by the King's supporters. Just three years after he was declared a saint and his tomb at Canterbury became a great focus for pilgrims until its destruction by Henry VIII in 1538.



**Jan 2nd: St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen (330-379/320-390)**

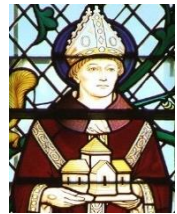
Both were considerable theologians defending the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and themselves formed a formidable Trinity with Gregory of Nyssa. Together with Basil's brother St Gregory of Nyssa they are known as the 'Cappadocian Fathers' after the area in today's Turkey where they lived and taught (been there!).

**13th: St Hilary (c310-367)** Hilary was Bishop of Poitiers in France (also



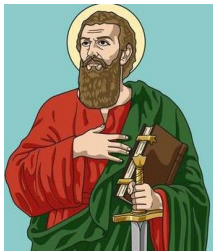
been there!) and a Doctor of the Church. He was again a defender of the Holy Trinity. His name means 'happy' or 'cheerful'; the root of 'hilarious'.

**19th: St Wulstan (c1008-1095)** Wulstan (or Wulfstan) was the second Bishop of Worcester (been there...) of that name, and is sometimes called Wulstan II (his maternal uncle was Wulstan I). He was the last surviving bishop in post before the Norman Conquest.



**22nd: St Vincent the Deacon (?2ndC – 304)** Vincent was ordained deacon by Valerius of Saragossa (not been there...) and was martyred in Emperor Diocletian's persecution in 304, along with Valerius. He is regarded as the first Christian martyr in Spain.

**25th: St Paul (c5 – c64/6)** Known also as Saul of Tarsus until his



dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, originally persecuted Christians, became a convert foremost in his spreading the teachings of Jesus in the first-century world. For his writings in the New Testament, he is generally regarded as one of the most important figures of the Apostolic Age. He also founded several Christian communities in Asia Minor and Europe from the mid-40s to the mid-50s.

**26th: SS Timothy and Titus (c17-97/? – 96 or 107)** Both men were companions of St Paul and Bishops. Timothy was Bishop of Ephesus (been there...) and received two fund-raising letters from Paul (1 & 2 Timothy). Titus was Bishop of Crete (yes, you've guessed it!) but only received one letter from Paul. However, Titus is credited by the bible scholar St Jerome as the one who wrote down 2 Corinthians.

# CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMAS & JANUARY

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

24 MIDNIGHT MASS *Theme: The Birth of Christ*

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

25 CHRISTMAS DAY *Theme: The Angels' Message*

Readings: Isaiah 62.6-12; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.8-20

26 Tue S. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

27 Wed S. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

28 Thu The Holy Innocents

29 Fri S. Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr (1170)

31 CHRISTMAS 1 *Theme: The Holy Family*

Readings: Gen. 15.1-6, 21.1-3; Heb. 11.8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2.22-end

1 Mon The Naming of Jesus

2 Tue SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops (379 & 389)

7 THE EPIPHANY *Theme: Revelation*

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

8 Mon BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12 Fri S. Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx (1165)

13 Sat S Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher (367)

14 EPIPHANY 2 *Theme: The First Disciples*

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-51

17 Wed S. Anthony of Egypt, Hermit. Abbot, (356)

18 Thu *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

19 Fri S. Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester (1095)

20 Sat S. Sebastian, Roman Martyr (3rd C)

21 EPIPHANY 3 *Theme: Water into Wine*

Readings: Genesis 14.17-20; Revelation 19.6-10; John 2.1-11

22 Mon S. Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, Martyr (c.304)

24 Wed S. Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher (1622)

25 Thu THE CONVERSION OF S. PAUL

26 Fri SS. Timothy & Titus, Companions of S. Paul

27 Sat S. Angela Merici, Founder of Ursuline Nuns (1540)



28 EPIPHANY 4

*Theme: The Lord our Teacher*

Readings: Deuteronomy 8.15-20; Revelation 12.1-5a; Mark 1.21-28

30 Tue Charles I, King & Martyr (1649)

31 Wed S. John Bosco, Priest, Founder of Silesian Order (1888)



Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.00am Family Mass with Carols

Boxing Day

10.00am Mass (S. Stephen)

Wednesday 27th

10.00am Mass (S. John the Apostle)

Thursday 28th

10.00am Mass (Holy Innocents)

Friday 29th

12.30pm Mass & Soup Lunch

(S. Thomas Becket)

Saturday 30th

10.00am Mass

Sunday 31st

10.00am Parish Mass (The Holy Family)

Sunday 7th

10.00am Parish Mass for the Epiphany



## **BISHOP OF OSWESTRY**

Bishop Paul will make his first visit to Holy Trinity on Sunday 14th January, at the 10am Parish Mass. It will be lovely to welcome him, and I'm sure he would like to get to know us all. I have met him on several occasions, most recently at a Congress in Walsingham and was impressed by his care and devotion to his clergy and parishes. Please make every effort to be in church that day.

Fr Julian

# A RECIPE FOR CHRISTMAS/JANUARY

## CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR RECIPES

There are two recipes again this month. Both are suitable for Christmas or a New Year's celebration.

### **SWEET AND SOUR RED CABBAGE WITH APPLES**

We all have our Christmas meal traditions and one of mine is a piece of boiling bacon or gammon cooked in cider and served with mashed potatoes and this slow cooked dish of red cabbage and apples. I like to add a few dried prunes halfway through cooking time. Eaten early on Christmas Eve evening after listening to nine lessons and carols from Kings, it is dish which can be cooked ahead of time and leftovers take well to reheating in the days following. I use a slow cooker but it can be made on top of the stove or in a low oven but check from time to time stirring and adding a little water if necessary to prevent things from drying out.

#### *Ingredients*

- 1 small red cabbage
- 2 medium sized onions
- 3 or 4 eating apples
- 3 or 4 tbl soft light brown sugar
- 3 or 4 tbl vinegar (any)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ pt water



#### *Method*

- Cut a small head of red cabbage into quarters discarding the hard white stalk and any damaged outside leaves. Slice across each quarter and put in your chosen cooking vessel.
- Peel and slice the onions and add to the pot.
- Peel, core and cut up three or four eating apples - Cox's are my preference - plus salt and plenty of black pepper.

- Finally add about a quarter of a pint of water, the vinegar and sugar and give everything a stir.
- Cook on the lowest possible heat for three or four hours until the cabbage is very soft. If you are using a slow cooker allow at least five hours.

This is also good served cold with the remains of the Christmas day roast.

### **ATHOLL BROSE**

After a full scale traditional Christmas meal even the hardest digestive system sometimes balks at the richness of a pudding loaded with dried fruit, breadcrumbs and suet so this simple Scottish dessert of honey, cream and whisky is a good alternative. It is delicious and quick to make involving only three ingredients; honey, whisky and cream although it does require the best quality 'runny' honey and a decent malt.

*Ingredients (serves 3 or 4 people)*

300ml double cream  
1 or 2 tbl honey  
2 or 3 tbl whisky



### *Method*

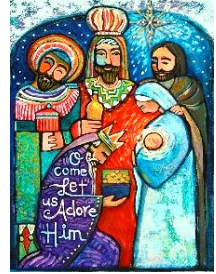
- Beat the cream to soft peaks.
- Add the honey followed by the whisky.
- Mix all together and serve in small individual glasses, chill.
- A little toasted oatmeal can be scattered on top.

Atholl brose is often served as a drink in which case do not whip the cream.

Alys Williams

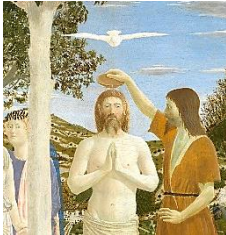
## EPIPHANY - THEOPHANY

On the 6th January we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. It is the culmination of the Christmas season with on the eve of Epiphany, (Twelfth Night) various festivities being held and decorations being taken down as to leave them any longer might bring bad luck.



An alternative name for Epiphany is Theophany, which is what it is called in the Eastern Christian tradition. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek, 'epiphaneia' literally meaning 'manifestation from above' and Theophany, also a Greek word, 'Theophaneia', means 'manifestation of God', an appearance of God to a person. Although having similar meanings there is a different emphasis in Theophany from Epiphany.

We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany as the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the Three Wise Men (then subsequently during the



Epiphany season the revelation of Jesus through his baptism and at the wedding at Cana). However, in the Eastern (Orthodox) Church, Theophany commemorates the Baptism of Jesus and the revelation of his divinity, as the visit of the Magi is celebrated in their Christmas feast.

A Theophany typically reveals something about the character of God. When God appears, He does so for a purpose. The term itself does not appear in the Bible, but there are several Theophanies in the Old Testament. For example: the Lord's appearance to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, God appears to Moses and the Israelites in a pillar of cloud, Jacob wrestling with a man who is God. However, these Theophanies differ from the Theophany or Epiphany in the New Testament, as they foreshadow the coming of Christ in the flesh - the incarnation of Christ is their fulfilment.

So why does the Eastern Church focus on Theophany and the Baptism of Christ at Epiphany? It is because Christ made himself known not

when he was born, but when he was baptised and until that time people knew little of him. As John the Baptist says: 'Among you stands He, Whom you do not know (John 1.26). The baptism then is the first revelation of Christ as divine and one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

Historically, the Feast of the Theophany originated in the East where it dates back to the early Church when on 6th January the Nativity, Visitation of the Magi, Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana were celebrated all in one feast. It was celebrated in honour of the Christ's Baptism from the 3rd century onwards and by the 4th century the feast ranked with Easter and Pentecost as one of the principal festivals of the church. In the 4th century it was also introduced into the Western Church but here it became a feast of the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles with the visit of the Magi - Epiphany.

Both Epiphany and Theophany, although having a different focus, are celebrations of the revelation of Christ as Son of God. So as we celebrate Epiphany, spare a thought for our Orthodox brothers and sisters as they keep Theophany as it is one of their holiest feast days.

Jane Laurence



As many of you recall Traidcraft sadly ceased trading in January 2023. Over past few weeks I've sold the remaining stock, mainly Christmas cards and a few small gift items. I have 2 items left a wash bag £6.00 and a silk scarf £6.00 (which if not sold will appear as raffle prizes). I'm pleased to say as a result I have passed £206 to the Treasurer.

Thank you for your support over the years.

Wendy Burge

**MAGAZINE DEADLINE:** Wednesday 13th January 2024





A huge thank you to all who took part in any way with the successful Christmas Fair on 2nd December, despite the freezing fog and icy temperature the event was well supported. Refreshments ran out of bacon and sausages!!!.

The total raised on the day was £2,202.00 with a further £12.00 from cakes sold the next day in the hall.

Winners of the various raffles were as follows:

*Grand Draw*

1st prize	Food & Drink hamper	Sarah Walton
2nd prize	Drink hamper	Sylvie Paul
3rd prize	£65 voucher Riverside Butchers	John Rudge
4th prize	Gin goodie bag	Julie Harland
5th prize	Champagne & 2 Crystal Flutes	John Godley
6th prize	Chocolate Treats basket	Jane Laurence

*Craft Group Knitted Blanket* Margaret Gibbons

*£50 a square £50 cash prize* Sylvie Paul

I really appreciate the time and effort put in before, during and afterwards, to make it such a worthwhile and hopefully enjoyable fundraising event.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for how we can make next year even more successful please do let me know. Thank you.

Wendy Burge

## PANTOMIME

If you are booked and paid for a ticket to see Dick Whittington on Wednesday 10th January at the Brewhouse Theatre 6pm performance I will be allocating tickets on 31st December 2023.

Wendy Burge

## CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATIONS

Members of the craft group plus one or two others including me, met in the hall on Thursday 7th December to make Christmas table decorations.



Following a demonstration by Lisa Petty on how to do it, we all then had the opportunity to make our own arrangement. As you can see from the above picture the resulting table decorations were all different but equally superb. Though I am not a flower arranger, with Lisa's guidance even I was able to produce something respectable!

Our thanks are due to Lisa not only for her guidance but also for kindly providing and preparing all the greenery, flowers, fir cones, bows and candles as well as the pots and oasis for arranging them in.

Tea and biscuits completed what was a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

Jane Laurence

### HOLY TRINITY <sup>200</sup> Club WINNERS

#### November 2023

1st	Wendy Burge	£54.50
2nd	Jason Stevens	£32.70
3rd	Ann Skenes	£21.80

## MY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and good wishes that I received on my special birthday on 10th December and also the Sunday lunch group for a lovely lunch time.

Jean Keitch

## ALL IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

*It was:*

- 700 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1324 that Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.
- 200 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1824 that Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.
- 150 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1874 that Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born.
- 125 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1899 that Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.
- 100 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1924 that Vladimir Lenin, Russian Communist leader, died. He was the architect and first head of the Soviet Union.
- Also 100 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1924 that Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.
- 80 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan to 18<sup>th</sup> May 1944 that the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war.
- 75 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1949 that RCA launched the 7-inch 45-rpm vinyl record, commonly known as the single.
- 65 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1959 that the Motown record label was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Berry Gordy.
- 60 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1964 that the US Surgeon General published a report which concluded that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer and chronic bronchitis.
- 50 years ago, from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.
- 40 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1984 that the first Apple Mackintosh computer went on sale.
- 25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1999 that the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.
- 15 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 that Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the USA.

# THIS WAS THE MOMENT

This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After...



When ... three Members of an obscure Persian sect  
Walked haphazard by starlight –

Straight into the kingdom of heaven.

From a poem by Ursula A Fanthorpe (1929 – 2009)



## THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

14 January	Rumwell Farm Shop
11 February	The Hankridge Arms
10 March	Oake Manor Golf Club
14 April	The Greyhound, Staple Fitzpaine
12 May	The Maypole, Thurloxtton
9 June	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15. Please let me know if you want to come along, on the previous Sunday. If you have booked a space but are unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible.

Wendy Burge

## NEW YEAR BLESSINGS by Joanna Fuchs

Here comes a brand new year,  
Lots of new things to explore,  
A clean, blank slate to write on,  
Fun happenings galore.

To you we wish the best of things,  
All the blessings a new year brings.

Contributed by Jane Laurence





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\*Price valid at time of publication but may be subject to change.

# PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Fr Julian Laurence	01823 337890
LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Mrs Jane Laurence Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	} 01823 354800 (Church Office)
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr John Godley Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	} 01823 354800 (Church Office)
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN	Mrs Liz Hathway	}
PARISH OFFICE	Administrator: Mrs Pauline Holt	354800
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Jo Bailey	
DEDICATED SAFEGUARDING LINE		07596 223932
PCC Vice-Chairman	Mr Geraint Jones	01823 284376
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Pauline Holt	(Church Office) 354800
PCC Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Richard Tomlinson	(Church Office) 354800
Data Protection Officer	Mr David Watkins	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mr Peter Deal	01823 278385
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	01823 289519
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvia Paul	01823 279436
Hall Booking Secretary	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Trinity Church School Head of School	Trinity School, South Street Ms Lisa Eadie	01823 284128

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