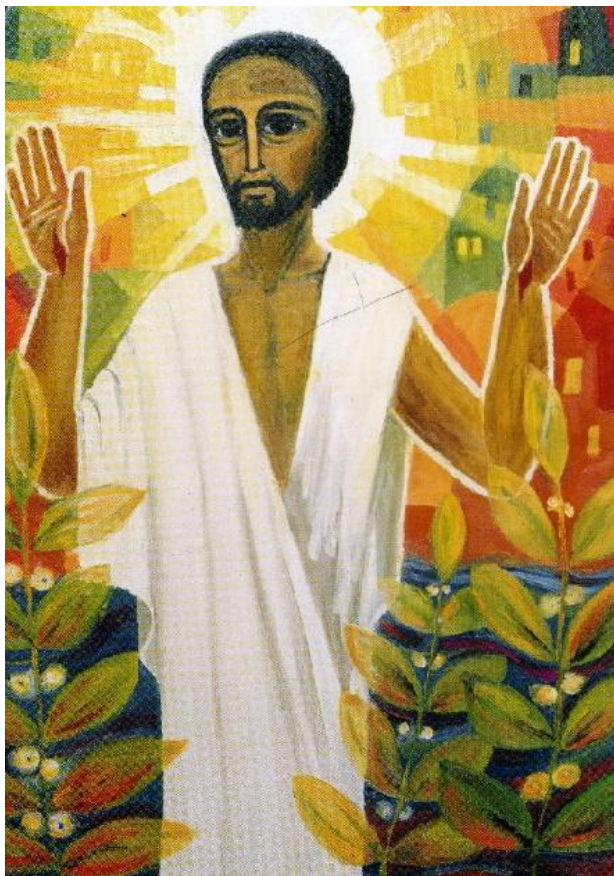


HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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Christ is risen
allelujah!

May 2025

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.

*** Streamed on YouTube * Streamed on Facebook**

To access streamed services:



www.youtube.com/@holytrinitytaunton



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Holy Trinity Taunton

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



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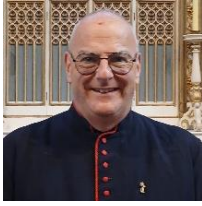
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FR JULIAN WRITES...



May 2025

There is a sort of strapline for the C of E, but I guess not many have heard of it: Holier, humbler, bolder. Like many well-intentioned initiatives, it hasn't really renewed the life of our Church. It's clear aim is to rejuvenate a Church which has lurched from one crisis to another, is confused about what the gospel means, and is anxious not to offend any or any group. As we celebrate Easter, in what ways could we as a parish, and we as individuals, be holier, humbler and bolder?

I think that we need to start off by being holier. That is not say we become sickeningly pious and go around with inane grins on our faces. Nor does it mean that we have a right to criticise others' behaviour or belief. Holier is a gift of God, and in a way it is rubbed off on us the closer we get to God. We are celebrating Easter, when we recognise the gift of God in Christ's rising from the dead, but how has that affected the way we live? As we have journeyed with Christ through his passion and death, so we also share with him in the resurrection, a new life given to all. A transformed life which reflects the holiness of God.

Sometimes when we think of being humble, we think of Dickens' Uriah Heep in David Copperfield. He was 'ever so 'umble' but a character known for his exaggerated and insincere humility, using it as a façade to manipulate and deceive others. Perhaps a good example of humility was displayed in the life of the late Pope, who eschewed the grand papal apartments to live in two rooms in a nearby pilgrim's hostel and has instructed that his funeral be as pared down as is possible: one coffin and burial at St Maria Maggiore, not St Peter's. His care and love for the underprivileged and God's creation was not an insincere humility, a façade. A good role model for us? That would be a wonderful legacy for him.

It is difficult to be bold, all the more so if we are uncertain. I cannot but return to the resurrection. It is this which defines the Christian faith. God's love for us is revealed in the human, yet divine, Christ who submits to the injustice carried out in his passion. Through his death and resurrection, he fulfils God's plan of salvation and through the overcoming of sin, gives us hope.

We need to experience Christ's risen life in order to become more certain in our faith, and bolder in its living. Actions speak louder than words, and none of us is fully confident in preaching, explaining with words what we feel in our hearts. But we can live hope-filled, faithful lives, by becoming holier and humbler. That way we can become bolder as exemplars of Christ's risen life.

Holier, humbler, bolder. Sentiments with which I believe we would all sign up to, but might find it hard to display in our lives. The qualities are expressed in an order which is significant. Our first challenge is to become holier. And that means drawing closer to God, through prayer, through Scripture and worship. They are opportunities for these regularly at Holy Trinity, but not always taken up as a matter of course. Perhaps there is a feeling that we are doing God a favour by participating, not him doing one for us?

By drawing closer to God, we can recognise the humility he displayed in being born and dying as one of us. Still God, Jesus lived a human life and died a human death. He put himself at the service of others. At the Last Supper, he commanded us to love one another, as he loved us. That calls for humility, which again is a gift of God.

With the gifts of holiness and humility, how can we not be bold? Being bold doesn't mean being aggressive or antagonistic, but being faithful and trusting in God, not our own selves. And living Christ's risen life in humility and holiness, we can be a Church which is once again bold, not apologetic.

With my prayers and all good wishes for the continuing Eastertide

Fr Julian

WHY AND WHAT...?

President Trump appeared with his wife to deliver an Easter message. Its sincerity was somewhat marred by the fact that there was someone dressed in a rabbit costume flanking him. Too often today, Easter is portrayed as a chocolate-fest, with cuddly bunnies, chicks and eggs. These are actually images which can help us to express Easter, but rather than illustrating, they have become, the reality.



Chocolate, along with sugar, is probably the thing that people give up for Lent. It is a luxury, a sign of pleasure, and above all it is (supposedly) bad for us! So it is sign of self-indulgence and celebration, showing our appreciation that Christ died for us as individuals, as well as for all.

Bunnies abound at Easter, too. As is not uncommon, Christianity took on some pagan traditions as a means of absorbing different beliefs. Rabbits are symbols of fertility and a sign of Spring, so they are well-suited to illustrate the new life of Christ. Their prolific breeding also makes them a good image of Spring and rebirth. The Easter Bunny is a different beast. In Germany, it was a tradition that children would put out nests for them to be filled with Easter eggs. This has spread and 'developed' to what we know today.



Likewise, chicks. Little, fluffy, innocent things, they emerge from the darkness into the light, and again are a symbol of new life. The egg itself represents the tomb, with the chicks emerging from the darkness of the inside of the shell into the light of life. Blown and decorated eggs are not so common these days, but 3D eggs appear on Easter decorations (I have some on a wreath on my front door), BUT in the centre is a small palm cross. There can be no symbol of the resurrection that is more powerful than the cross, which gives true meaning and purpose to Easter.

GEORGE COLES, RIP

It was with sadness that we heard of George's death, peacefully at home, on 28th March. He was 92.

He had been a member of Holy Trinity's family for more than 60 years, during which he lived at the same address in Church Street. When he purchased it from his former landlady, he was only the third owner of the property. He was a Reader, and after 50 years of ministering at Holy Trinity, he became Reader Emeritus. He also edited the magazine for many years, until ill-health caused him to give it up. However, he maintained an archive of all the church magazines spanning over 100 years!



He retired from the Civil Service more than 30 years ago, and was then able to pursue his hobbies of genealogy and music more fully. Although content with his own company, he enjoyed church 'do's', behind the book stall at fairs, and social events. He was an active participant in the parish discussion group, and served on the PCC. He enjoyed a drink, and always brought a bottle of champagne to the Sharing Together Christmas party and would entertain those present with a reading from a book, usually including a hilarious country accent.

His younger brother Ron (who lived in Canada) predeceased him. George would enjoy going out to see him, and welcoming him to Taunton. Apart from Ron and Ron's children, George had no family, but looked on Holy Trinity as his 'family'. I'm sure you will all have remembrances and anecdotes, but one sticks in my mind. I asked him why he was called 'George' and not 'Robert', his first name. Oh, he replied, the dog was called Robert...

Fr Julian

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, at which the Wardens are elected, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where reports are given about 2024's activities will both be held on Sunday 4th May at 11.30am in the Church Hall.

CALENDAR FOR MAY

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

1 Thu S. Joseph the Worker

2 Fri S. Athanasius, Bishop, Teacher (373)

3 Sat SS. Philip & James, Apostles

4 EASTER 3 *Theme: It is the Lord*

Readings: Acts 9.1-6; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19

7 Wed S. John of Beverley, Bishop of York (721)

8 Thu Mother Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer (1416)

10 Sat S. John of Avila, Priest, Doctor (1569)

11 EASTER 4 *Theme: The Good Shepherd*

Readings: Acts 9.36-43; Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

12 Mon S. Pancras, Martyr (4th C)

SS. Nereus & Achilleus, Roman Soldiers, Martyrs (2nd C)

14 Wed S. Matthias the Apostle

18 EASTER 5 *Theme: The New Creation*

Readings: Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

19 Mon S. Dunstan, Monk, Reformer, Archbp of Canterbury (988)

20 Tue S. Alcuin of York, Deacon (804)

21 Wed S. Helena, Empress, Protector of the Holy Places (330)

24 Sat John & Charles Wesley, Evangelists (1791/1788)

25 EASTER 6 *Theme: The Glory of God*

Readings: Acts 16.9-15; Revelation 21.10 & 22 – 22.5; John 14.23-29

27 Mon S. Augustine, 1st Archbishop of Canterbury (604)

28 Tue Lanfranc, Monk & Archbishop of Canterbury (1086)

29 ASCENSION DAY *Theme: Going to the Father*

Readings: Acts 1.1-11; Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53

31 Sat Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth



*Ascension Day 29th May
Mass at 7.30pm*

1700TH ANNIVERSARY

This month, 1700 years ago, in May 325, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. This Council has gone down in history primarily on account of the Creed which it adopted, which brings together, defines, and proclaims the faith in salvation in Jesus Christ and in the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the Nicene Creed which we say every Sunday.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, the first emperor to convert to Christianity, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ, in order to address theological disputes and establish a unified Christian doctrine.



Constantine had good reason to do this as he wanted to resolve the Arian controversy which threatened to destabilise the entire empire. The leader of Arianism was a clergyman called Arius of Alexandria and he spread the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed. Following the formulation of the Creed, Arius' teachings were henceforth marked as heresy.

The Nicene Creed has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since its formulation and is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

Jane Laurence

Spotlight on...



Liz Clarke

I was recently invited to the home of Liz Clarke. It is absolutely true to say we spent most of our time laughing – which is just what you would expect spending time in Liz's company!



Liz 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?

I was born in South Cheshire and all my family were either farming or involved in businesses associated with farming. We lived with our grandparents on a dairy and mixed farm and we had cows, lots of chickens and pigs. I went to the village school and am still very best friends with two girls I met when I was 4 or 5! Sadly, my father passed away when I was 10 so my mother, my sister and I moved to Shropshire where I went to the local grammar school. I still have friends from those days too.

As a teenager I attended a first aid course and was praised for my bandaging. A bit later I volunteered at a local cottage hospital and because I had a lovely time and especially a lovely lunch, I went home and told my mother that I was going to train as a nurse. The prospect of nice lunches clinched the deal! Obtaining a place at QEH Birmingham I chose instead, Oxford Radcliffe which was a fabulous place to be a student nurse and I had a great social life going everywhere by bicycle. We had a reunion last September and I remembered and recognised everyone there.

I had been in Oxford four years when my cousin Jo suddenly and unexpectedly, announced that she was going to New Zealand and asked me if I would go with her. So, I did! Arriving in North Island we earned our keep, milking cows, working on a farm growing seed crops, working in shops, sorting walnuts and even, right at the top of the island, cleaned a boat. Here, we also secured jobs as chef and breakfast waitress. I got the breakfast waitress role and Jo the chef role, (it was

a miserable job - no one was happy in the mornings). Everywhere we went we were given the names of people we could stay with; each family welcomed us with open arms and we got to Bluff and over to Stewart Island. The hospitality and friendliness we met with, was incredible. A couple of memorable stories are, when we were staying somewhere remote and all we had was one book, we took it in turns to read a page out aloud, this was our only entertainment! Another adventure happened when thumbing lifts, we were picked up by a mad vicar who drove like the wind, pointing things out to left and right but not looking at the road!

Over the next few years, I worked in Harrogate, Chester and Herefordshire – completing my District Nurse training in Wrexham.

In 1985, I met John and we were married two years later. John had been offered a teaching post at Holy Trinity Primary School and on getting back from our honeymoon (cycling in France), I had an interview for a District Nurse post in Taunton. A job I did until the year 2000.

In 1990 John was accepted on a commonwealth teacher exchange for twelve months, so I took a year out and we went to live in Vancouver Island, Canada. The Canadians came to live in our 'cottage' (as they called it) whilst we lived in their palatial spread on ten acres of mostly woodland, where we had bears roaming across the garden (makes a change from our current offering of foxes and badgers)! I worked as an unpaid classroom assistant for John and volunteered at an old person's home where I was involved in entertainment activities around music, such as tea dances and singing. We had a good time but still took time out to cycle down the west coast of the USA, through Washington state and Oregon, from Seattle to North California.

Rosie was born in 1991, she was baptised, confirmed and married at Holy Trinity. I spent the last seventeen years of my working life at Holy Trinity School, initially working with children with special needs and latterly as a classroom assistant. It never felt odd working with my husband as I'd been his unpaid assistant in Canada!

In 2019, we took time to revisit New Zealand but I found it very changed. Most of the farms and woodland had gone, only to be replaced by miles and miles of wine estates.

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

I love gardening, keep fit, socialising with friends and I belong to a book club and craft group at church which has rekindled my skills with things like knitting and tapestry. I am a member of Holy Trinity Church choir and love singing. I have been part of choral groups in the past, and have belonged to an acapella group. Recently I have joined a modern singing group called Magic Voices and there we sing songs from the shows, Abba and the Carpenters. They are all extremely welcoming and fun to be with.

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

Church was very important to my father, who had been a prisoner of war in Germany and Poland. When he came home in 1945 he resumed attendance at the local village church and was a PCC member and a school governor. As a family we all went to evensong every week. After he had died my mother and us two girls attended morning service in Whitchurch Parish Church, so I suppose you could say that my faith is ingrained. When John and I first came to Taunton, John suggested that we attend Holy Trinity as it was attached to the school. At first I wasn't too sure of high church, it was all so very different from everything I had been brought up with. John suggested we give it six months but I grew to love it and to feel like I belong. Now I know this place is for me, it is where I belong.

Thank you Liz, you have done some amazing things and I had a lot of fun drinking your tea and hearing all about your adventures.

Pauline Holt

HOLY TRINITY ²⁰⁰ Club WINNERS

March 2025

1st	Jenni Llewellyn	£55.00
2nd	Cheryl Grindle	£33.00
3rd	Jean Dalzell	£22.00

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 21st May 2025

A RECIPE FOR MAY

RED LENTIL & GARLIC SOUP

Lentil soup is an eastern Mediterranean classic and varies in its spiciness according to each region. Lentils are a popular choice as, unlike many pulses, they do not require soaking before being cooked. Red lentils contribute a real splash of colour to soups such as this.

Ingredients (Serves 6)

225g/8oz Red lentils, rinsed and drained
2 Onions, finely chopped
2 Large garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 Carrot, finely chopped
30 ml/2 tbsp Olive oil
2 Bay leaves
A generous pinch of dried marjoram or oregano
1.5 litres/ 2½ pints Vegetable stock
30 ml/2 tbsp Red wine vinegar
Salt and ground black pepper
Celery leaves to garnish

Method

- Put all the ingredients except for the vinegar, seasoning and garnish in a large, heavy-based pan.
- Bring to the boil over a medium heat, then lower the heat and simmer for 1½ hours, stirring the soup occasionally to prevent the lentils from sticking to the bottom of the pan.
- Remove the bay leaves and add the red wine vinegar, with salt and pepper to taste.
- If the soup is too thick, thin it with a little extra vegetable stock or water.
- Serve the soup in heated bowls, garnished with celery leaves and accompanied by warm crusty rolls.

The soup freezes well, especially pureed until smooth.

Contributed by Jenni Llewellyn

SLIMY BEASTS

This time of year slugs are particularly active when there's plenty of young growth for them to eat. Here are some alternative ways of controlling those slimy beasts.



Slugs are attracted to beer and so if you make pitfall traps, ie a small open container such as a jam jar or plastic cup, half filled with beer then the slugs will seek out the beer, fall in and drown. This can however attract and kill other, more beneficial ground dwelling invertebrates.

Seaweed is a slug deterrent due to its salt content. Use plenty of dried seaweed around the base of your plants, being careful for it not to touch the plant stems. The sharp texture will also make it difficult for slugs to move over.

Use broken egg shells or coffee grounds on the top of your soil around the base of your plant as slugs struggle to cross the sharp, dry surface.

In the evening, hand pick the slugs off your plants or cover them in salt. If you scatter squeezed halves of oranges or grapefruits around your garden, these will attract the slugs and so collecting them just after dark is much quicker.

Copper barrier tape around the base or middle of plant pots will prevent slugs from crossing it to reach your plants as it gives them a slight electrical shock on contact.

Slugs thrive in damp conditions so change your watering schedule from the evening to the morning, that way the top layer of the soil will be dry when the slugs are most active therefore reducing their efficiency.

Plant garlic next to your most vulnerable crop as this is a repellent. If you don't have the space, or the inclination, then make a garlic spray: boil 2 bulbs of garlic crushed in 2 pints of water for 5 minutes; strain mixture and add more water to make it back up to 2 pints; cool the mixture then pour into a bottle; use 1 tablespoon of garlic mix to 1 gallon of water as needed. You will need to apply to plants regularly.

And, of course, encourage slug eaters such as hedgehogs into your garden.

Cheryl Grindle

AN AFTER-EASTER PRAYER

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in your churches
In Easter hymn and prayer...



Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell from the *Parish Pump*

SMILE LINES



Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: 'Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?'

Joseph: 'Well it's just for the weekend.'

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.

Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.

Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs.

Hmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.



THE BELLS RANG OUT IN ENGLAND



May sees the eightieth anniversary of VE Day – Tuesday, 8th May 1945. In my own family, a great uncle (Keith Emmerson) had died in Italy in March 1944, and my wife's uncle (Alexander Rae) had died in Belgium in October. These recent bereavements muted the celebrations, to say the least. This year, we have 80 years of peace in the UK to celebrate, though once again the shadows of war darken the sky...

The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England
And songs of heartfelt joy,
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting
Had such a dreadful cost
In blood and sweat and mortal threat
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended –
In Europe's shores at least;
Our people brave feared not the grave
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us
For eighty peaceful years.
Yet now, again, some brutal men
Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating
This coming VE Day;
Yet not at ease, but on our knees
For lasting peace, we pray.

By Nigel Beeton, from the *Parish Pump*

Somerset Sight is your local charity supporting over 3000 blind and partially sighted people with various services and resources.

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| 10 August | Oake Manor Golf Club |
| 14 September | The Royal Oak, Hillcommon |

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 MAY

It was:

- 1700 years ago, 20th May to August 325 that the First Council of Nicaea was held in what is now Iznik, Turkey. It was the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church.
- 1300 years ago, on 26th May 725 that the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, translator and teacher is known as 'the father of English history'. He helped popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini - AD)
- 200 years ago, on 7th May 1825, that Antonio Salieri died. An Italian composer, he helped to develop operas and taught composers including Liszt, Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart.
- 150 years ago, on 1st May 1875 that Alexandra Palace in London was officially opened. It became the home of BBC television in 1935.
- 90 years ago, on 19th May 1935 that T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) died in a motorcycle accident, aged 46.
- Also 90 years ago, on 25th May 1935 that Sir Frank Watson Dyson, British Astronomer Royal (1910-33) died. He introduced the Greenwich time signal (the 'pips').
- 80 years ago, on 8th May 1945 that VE Day took place - marking Victory in Europe at the end of WW2.
- 75 years ago, on 13th May 1950 that the first Formula One World Championship race was held, at Silverstone.
- 60 years ago, on 21st May 1965 that Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, British aircraft designer and engineer, died.
- 40 years ago, on 13th May 1985 that the pop album Brothers in Arms by Dire Straits was released. It became the world's most successful album released on CD.
- 30 years ago, on 1st May 1995 that the World Health Organisation (WHO) published its first annual survey of global health.
- 25 years ago, on 7th May 2000 that Vladimir Putin was inaugurated as President of Russia.
- 15 years ago, on 6th May 2010 that the British General Election resulted in a hung parliament. A coalition government was formed by the Conservative Party leader, David Cameron, and the Liberal Democrat party leader, Nick Clegg.

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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	Mr Keith Penny	(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	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	Trinity School, South Street	01823 284128
Head of School	Ms Lisa Eadie	

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