

# Trinity Voice

The Parish magazine for  
Holy Trinity, Weymouth  
*Diocese of Salisbury*  
*December 2024*

£1.00



## SUNDAY SERVICES

Weekly Services for December are detailed below.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP.** Coffee and tea are served after our 10am Sunday service. **IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH** please introduce yourself to Reverend Juliet Stephenson, Vicar, Trudi Shaw or Philippa Walker our Church Wardens

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** For any general information please contact the Parish Office on [enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org](mailto:enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org) or telephone 07554709236.

**FOR ALL MATTERS RELATING** to Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Confirmation and matters of pastoral care for the sick and dying as well as home visits, home communions and the Ministry of Reconciliation (Confession), please **telephone the Vicar on 01305 562766 or 07729 505924**

**Email:** [enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org](mailto:enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org)

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** is perpetually reserved for the sick and infirm.

**Holy Trinity Website:** [www.holytrinityweymouth.org](http://www.holytrinityweymouth.org)

**General enquiries:** [enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org](mailto:enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org)

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**PCC Secretary:** Angela Kerigan Email [angelakerigan@gmail.com](mailto:angelakerigan@gmail.com)

**Electoral Roll:** Philippa Walker: 07928 488993

**Safeguarding Officer:** Krys Fursman 07916 097606  
[emmaaleks04@gmail.com](mailto:emmaaleks04@gmail.com)

**Sunday pew sheet:** To be sent to Philippa Walker on [philippa@holytrinityweymouth.org](mailto:philippa@holytrinityweymouth.org) Wednesday 12 noon each week

# **SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY DURING DECEMBER**

**Morning Prayer is celebrated on most mornings in the Priest's Vestry.**

## **Sunday 1st December**

### **1st Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Open Table Eucharist for LGBTQLA+ Community and their friends and families.

## **Tuesday 3rd December**

6.45 pm - 8.30 pm Advent Course at the vicarage

## **Wednesday 4th December**

10.00 am Said Eucharist

## **Sunday 8th December**

### **2nd Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Memorial Service Evensong

## **Tuesday 10th December**

6.45 pm - 8.30 pm Advent Course at the vicarage

**Wednesday 11th December**

10.00 am          Midweek Eucharist

**Thursday 12th December**

6.30 pm          Community Carol Service with Salvation Army

**Sunday 15th December**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am          Said Eucharist

10.00 am        Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday 18th December**

9.00 am          Morning Prayer

**Friday 20th December**

6.00 pm          Lifeboat Carol Service and Blessing of the Boat

**Sunday 22nd December**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am          Said Eucharist

10.00 am        Sung Eucharist

4.00 pm          Christingle

6.30 pm          Service of 9 lessons and carols

**Monday 24th December**

4.00 pm          Pyjama Service

11.30 pm        Midnight Mass

**Tuesday 25th December**

**Christmas Day**

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday 26th December**

10.00 am Mass for St Stephen's Day

**Thursday 27th December**

10.00 am Mass for St John's Day

**Sunday 29th December**

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

## From the Vicar ...

### How long?

Our dog, Chief Brody, arrived at the Stephenson's house over a year ago. A small bundle of fun, with teeth like a shark. He's grown accustomed to many things in his short time with us.

He enjoys the King's Arms and the Tavern, he's adept at being polite in church, listening to the sermons, enjoying Gary's playing of the organ, and the kindness he shows by giving you a wash if you get a little too close to his enormous labrador tongue!

One thing he hasn't quite mastered is being brave. He's still a little shy when he meets other dogs on the beach, and wary of visitors to the vicarage – UNTIL – he decides that your personal space is HIS personal space also! So many apologies if you have ever been 'BRODYed' !!!

We all know that owning a dog, or any pet for that matter, is a blessing and a responsibility. No one should ever enter into dog ownership lightly, or selfishly – it's a commitment. You may be fortunate enough to share your dog's life for 10-14 years, and that's going to see your kids into their teenage years, or you into retirement – there's a lot to get right.

As the old saying goes 'A DOG IS FOR LIFE – NOT JUST CHRISTMAS'!



At this time of year, there are 2 sorts of people.

- Those who are enthusiastic – and want a tree in the middle of November!
- And those who say ‘let's just wait till the last moment possible’

No prizes for guessing where the Stephenson's stand!!

Well, there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> point of view also (one which as a Priest I ought to hold fast to, but I think I'd prefer to hold the tension of the options)

ADVENT begins this year on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Handy as we align with our advent calendars this year, which doesn't often happen, and for me, this is a great opportunity to link all the options together.

Traditionally, and still in some churches, nothing ‘Christmassy’ is allowed before the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.

- No carols, decorations, cards, flowers, trees, weddings, alleluias – and definitely No Santa!

Here at Holy Trinity, we do some Christmassy things, not because we don't respect the season of Advent, but because we want to join in with the excitement, the anticipation and the joy that comes as the lead up to Christmas begins.

Perhaps it's because I believe that –

**JESUS IS FOR LIFE – NOT JUST CHRISTMAS.**

And yes, I get that we shouldn't rush past the season of Advent, for fear that we may miss opportunities of silence, peace and reflection – but we have 4 Sundays to help with that. Our readings and prayers and sermons all enhance the reason for Advent, the forthcoming child, the



prophecies and the promises, the annunciations and the fears, the rejoicing and the utter joy that God came to be with us! It's all there, week by week, as we light the candles that take us on the journey together.

BUT – let's also respond to the world we live in, and join in the JOY that's already here, with the trees, the lights, the nativities, the music and the tinsel.

Jesus doesn't expect us to celebrate only for 1 day, but to take that celebration throughout the year. As we watch him grow from a child to an adult. From a preacher to a saviour. From death to life.

So, try not to get too prickly about the Christmas enthusiasts – there is a place for us! A place for all of us (even those who refuse a tree till the bitter end!)

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## Focus on .....

### Nicky Footer



I was born in Canterbury in Kent and grew up on a mixed farm - originally when I was little, we really had every kind of animal: sheep, pigs, a dairy herd and hens, along with crops to grow and harvest. Later my dad decided to focus on cattle for beef, hens (of which there were 14,000) and the crops grown on the arable land - mostly wheat, barley, oilseed rape and maize. My mum, who sang in a choir, encouraged me to sing and learn to play the recorder and the piano.

My first memory of singing a solo was when I was four: I sang "Away in a Manger" to Father Christmas. Also early on in my life, aged 5, my dad sat me in his sailing boat, an Enterprise and this was the beginning of that part of my life. My grandma, who was a teacher, taught me how to write my name when I was four and she also taught me how to knit (you will see in a while how all these things became quite important in my later life).

Mum took us to church - she would drop us off to go to sing in the Church Choir and on some Sundays we had Sunday School. Our very elderly vicar was Dr Canon Braid Berks and I remember once that the two hot water bottles that were suspended around his neck, under his cassock, suddenly fell to the floor - those of us children thought that this was hilarious! The best thing at church was being able to pump the bellows up and down so that the organ had enough air to sound and of course, our Sunday School outing to the beach (Margate)!

Much to my father's dismay, music was my thing and I went on to get a solo part in a Children's Opera called Angelo by Alan Ridout - this was performed by the company of Kent Opera and conducted by none other than (nowadays Sir) Roger Norrington. As we grew up, we discovered that the next village had a bigger church, a bigger choir, a bell-tower and a church youth group - much more fun than my own village! So, suddenly, my teenage years took off, cycling 3 miles on my bike to join in with all of this. It wasn't until I was a teenager that I took up the clarinet. This is my favourite instrument and the natural continuation from the recorder.

In the meantime, I learnt how to sail off the Kent coast at Hythe in a Mirror Dinghy and later on bigger boats around the Channel Islands. My father had a very good friend who was a pilot and Yacht Master Instructor and they decided to buy a boat on show at the

Southampton boat show, and to avoid paying the VAT, we had to sail it straight to Guernsey! This was a deep-keeled sloop, a "Voyager" designed by Angus Primrose and the reason why they wanted it was they were going to sail across the Atlantic and back! My dad's friend not only taught me about sailing a big yacht, but he also drilled me through my Yachtmaster until he was satisfied that I could skipper the boat - which I did! In the meantime, desperate to learn how to make my own clothes, I saved up my baby-sitting earnings to buy myself a Singer treadle sewing machine, as mum said that her sewing machine was way too precious for me to use. So, I kept my eye on the small ads in the local newspaper, as soon, I had my own machine - the beginning of a big textiles habit that I have yet to kick!

After school I left Kent and our beautiful farm for student digs at Middlesex Polytechnic to study a Performing Arts degree in North London; whilst music was my main subject we were expected to do dance and drama as well as all sorts of stage crafts, lighting, publicity, costumes, film-making as well as the history of the stage and considering all things to do with performing. My final year was spent composing and learning to conduct: and at the time I was very proud to be the conductor of the North London Guitar, Banjo and Mandolin Ensemble! This really helped me cut my teeth as far as conducting was concerned, coupled with part of a course where I learnt to conduct the Rite of Spring by Stravinsky (that is one very difficult piece of music!).

I left college not really sure what I should do: my first job was admin work for a Guitar Duo called Acoustic Alchemy, followed by a brief spell at Sadlers' Wells Theatre until I got a job as Assistant Editor on Guitarist Magazine, based in Cambridge - here I was writing, typesetting, interviewing, reporting, researching on all things guitar. After a while, I moved to PA Technology - a consulting company and started to teach the clarinet and piano in the evenings, and began to

run children's composing workshops. Suddenly the penny dropped and I enrolled at the Institute of Education in London on a post-graduate teacher training course to teach music in Secondary Schools. At last I had found my niche and then began my career working for Hertfordshire County Council teaching music. This was the most rewarding job for me - meeting the musical needs of children; especially teaching in Stevenage, a new town in Hertfordshire, where there was plenty of scope to make a musical difference! We had choirs, all kinds of musical ensembles, 20% of the school learned to play an instrument and the highlight of every year was a show with the drama and dance departments - the shows included Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Sweet Charity, Little Shop of Horrors, Oliver! and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (which we wrote our own music for!). By this time I was married and eventually my family came along and I found being the Head of a Music Department and looking after a small child wasn't a great mix; so I opted for part-time work and eventually transferred to teaching in Primary Schools - suddenly the age-range of children altered from 11-18 to 3-11 - quite a difference!

The new job in Primary Schools meant that I would have to travel all over the county of Hertfordshire - I cannot tell you how many children I will have taught altogether - literally 1,000's! Part of this was developing a programme of teaching music using unusual instruments such as basketballs or hockey sticks (in a similar vein to the work of Stomp). We found that this engaged and inspired particularly the boys who were too cool for school. Soon I was running training sessions for other teachers, and writing music for the children I taught.

I was expecting my second child and we were at a Country Fair when we came across a lady spinning on a spinning wheel: so I asked her "how does one learn to spin?" She explained that there is a network

of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers throughout the Country and that there would probably be a local one to us in Hertfordshire, which indeed there was. I joined the North Herts Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers two weeks before Nicholas was born and attended as much as I could. It took me a whole year to learn how to spin as I only did it when I went to the Guild meetings. Therein after, I was hooked into all three crafts. Most recently, one of my hand-spun, hand-dyed, hand-knitted cushions, won a place in the National Exhibition for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers at Hay Castle, Hay-on-Wye.

My first marriage had disintegrated but somehow, I stumbled on with my two gorgeous little boys. A little while on, a friend of mine encouraged me to do some internet dating - I was very sceptical - I said "OK, I'll give it a month". This is how and when I met my next husband Bob and the main thing we had in common was sailing. He owned a very old wooden boat (a Cheverton Crusader which needed a lot of maintenance). She was a great sailing boat though, but a lot of work, so eventually we looked for a newer boat and we found our existing 32' Beneteau - we named her BONI - do look out for us on the water!



In 2009 I became the Head of North Herts Music School and no sooner had I started the job, I discovered a lump. This was swiftly investigated and I was diagnosed with breast cancer.... so not the greatest start to a new job. By Christmas I was under the knife, followed by 18 weeks of Chemotherapy and a further 18 sessions of Radiotherapy: my song track became "I Will Survive" and I went through some very dark and difficult times. Not being able to sleep at

night was part of the problem. What could I do? I decided to pray. I begged God to give me something to do. He didn't disappoint. He helped me to write a musical, a Nativity called The King of Kings. On the first night I wrote the first song in the show - this was all going on inside my head. First thing in the morning, I came downstairs and wrote the whole song down - music, words and all. This happened again every night until 8 songs were complete, and then a ninth song followed about a week after that. Then I wrote a script and put it all together in time for the following Christmas. All 6 of my primary schools embraced the show and we trialled and tweaked it. If you would like to hear a snippet of each of the songs, it is discoverable on YouTube - just put in King of Kings and Nicky Footer or follow this link: <https://youtu.be/QyhrbmNdf4o?si=qGtm4cTdEep2uqE->

Life was good and very busy. I wrote more songs and even had three published by Boosey and Hawkes. Our holidays were either sailing or camping. Bob proposed to me at the Southampton boat show(!) and we married in our local church 3 months later just after Christmas. I continued to teach and run the music school, but eventually it was time to move. We had found Castle Cove Sailing Club and decided it was a great base for our boat, having previously kept our boat at Felixstowe on the East Coast. Boni was now based at Castle Cove and we were still in North Hertfordshire (all I can say is what a pain the M25 is!) Spring 2020 and Covid struck. Teaching via recorded Videos was just the pits, but luckily I had already stopped heading up the Music School. Rishi Sunak announced that he was cutting Stamp Duty; this was our chance to sell our Hertfordshire property and buy something in Dorset, which is exactly what happened. We moved here in December 2020 - a very difficult time to move house as you couldn't get to know anyone! I had recovered from the Cancer and was given the all clear soon after I came to Dorset and bit by bit life picked up.

Nowadays, I work for a charity which is organising two International Viola Competitions, coming up in January 2025 in the North East at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Gateshead. I found the local Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and I joined a local community orchestra where I could play my viola - an instrument I always wanted to learn from my school days and I attend my local Parish Church - Holy Trinity - mostly I come to the 8am service, but occasionally I can be seen playing the piano in the 10am service (if the Vicar is desperate!). Every Christmas I produce and sell a Christmas quiz - this is the 27th year I've done it - so If you have read this far in this article, I hope that you will buy one? This year the quiz will be in aid of The Trussell Trust - a minimum donation of £2.00 for hours of fun with your family and it will be available at church. The last three years it has raised around £1,000 each time and people say it's not Christmas without Nicky's Quiz.



# Thoughts and Prayers for December

Christine Buffrey

I was fascinated in recent years to have a Christian explanation for the parts of the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. Here is one – but there may be others:

A Partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ

Two Turtle Doves – The Old and New Testaments

Three French Hens – Faith, hope and charity and/or The Holy Trinity

Four Calling Birds – The Four Gospels

Five Gold Rings – The Pentateuch or Torah – The first five books of the Bible

Six Geese a-laying – The six days of Creation

Seven Swans a-swimming – The seven gifts of the Spirit

Eight Maid a-milking – The eight Beatitudes

Nine Ladies dancing – The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten Lords a-leaping – The Ten Commandments

Eleven Pipers piping – The eleven faithful apostles

Twelve Drummers drumming – Twelve points of doctrine of the Apostles Creed

AS with all things, and having said the Apostles Creed many, many times at Morning Prayer (Matins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong), I was intrigued by splitting into twelve points so I investigated that too and here it is:

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and life everlasting.

So now you know what the song means and a bit about its possible origins, so sing it with gusto this Christmas, along with all our favourite and well-known Carols!

An amusing Christmas story: Frankincensed!

Three children, as wise men, presented their gifts to the baby Jesus.

The first said: Here's a parcel of gold.

The second said: Here's some myrrh for you.

The third said: Frank sent this!

May your Christmastide be full of fun, love, joy and some peace!

# November at Holy Trinity

## Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was a very special occasion this year. The church was exquisitely decorated by Jane Hall and Jenny Keates, a wonderful tribute to those who have given up their lives in the sadly too many wars since the first world war.



Our 10 am service on Sunday 10th November included an Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph just outside the church with a number of local people gathering to join us.

In the evening the church was the venue for the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance, including a poignant performance of The Last Post and Reveille. The choir sang the beautiful Irish Blessing to end the service.



## Musical Recital



On 16th November we had the pleasure of hosting Johanna Wolfe and her very talented family who played an interesting mix of music ranging from Handel to Arvo Pärt, with Camille Saint-Saëns and George Gershwin in between. Jo played the violin, accompanied by her husband Stephen. She was joined by other members of her family to play some quartets and other ensemble pieces. The concert ended with the evocative Sun Over San Sofia, a beautiful traditional Turkish piece arranged by Polly Waterfield and Timothy Kraemer.

## Birthday Celebrations



A very special birthday was also celebrated this month on 24th November when Peter Poyser reached 90 years old!! Members of our 8 am congregation raised a glass of prosecco to Peter and enjoyed some cake. Peter's two sons, Chris and Martin also attended as did Jo, Peter's daughter-in-law. Peter shared some fascinating memories of his early days including his school days during the war, his time as a paperboy and his very happy 63 year marriage to Sylvia. His address will be published in full in next month's magazine.

# Holy Trinity and our Choral Tradition

Philippa Walker

## A Year in the life of Holy Trinity Church - Weymouth 1926

As you will recall, in October 1925, the church organist and choirmaster Mr R Thorne, became ill and unable to play the organ so, after 50 years, Holy Trinity Church found itself without an organist. This state of affairs greatly concerned Reverend Ricketts. At the suggestion of Sir (then Doctor) Sydney Nicholson who was the organist at Westminster Abbey and founder of the Royal School of Church Music, Rev Ricketts approached Mr Arthur Macshane.



Sir Sydney Nicholson

Mr Macshane had studied music at the Leipzig Conservatorium and had considerable experience in choir training and teaching at Sidcot Repton, Eastbourne College and St Peters Court in Broadstairs. He was considered to be the best choir 'trainer' in Dorset.

Arthur Macshane started work at the beginning of January 1926 and enhanced the music of the church immeasurably. During this year, Mr Macshane also founded the nucleus of a Choral Society in Weymouth.

In this year too, the choir moved for a short period to sing from the gallery. It was hoped that the organ would also be moved to the gallery and the consultant architect at the time ruled that it was strong enough, but as we know this project was never completed. Mr Thorne died on 31st March and his funeral was held on 6th April. Mr Stone of St John's church played for the service and all the members of the choir were present. Psalm 90 and Noble's 'Soul of the Righteous' were sung. Earlier in March, Mr Thorne had written 'No one can ever know how I miss the Sunday gatherings, and how I regret being no longer able to take my share of the work at Holy Trinity.' He was surely one of the most committed contributors to Holy Trinity in its long history.



# Christmas Tree Festival



Beginning on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dec** the church will be

open daily for visitors, to marvel at the displays of tinsel, decorations, imaginative interpretations and the like, all in festive tree form!

There will be crafts on sale, cake, coffee, refreshments, and entertainment to keep everyone happy throughout the week.

Including **SALVATION ARMY** carols (Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>) Lunchtime concerts, Musical Extravaganzas, Memorials, Choirs, Coffee and Cake!

You can help:

With preparations beforehand (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to assist with folk bringing trees in)

- 7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> making cakes, serving teas, guiding visitors etc
- And on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> helping pack everything away.

Trees will be on display throughout and there's an opportunity for you to vote for your favourite 'charity' tree. The most voted for tree will be given a share of the proceeds from the festival, so it's a worthwhile activity to try to get your favourite tree as the winner!

## Dates for your diary

Advent Course **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Saturday 7th December to Sunday 14th December. Christmas Tree Festival: trees will be decorated by local businesses and we will provide refreshments (tea, coffee and cake).

Sunday 8th December. Memorial Service at 6.30 pm.

Thursday 12th December - Salvation Army and Community Festival Carols at 6.30 pm.

Friday 20th. Lifeboat Station Carols

Sunday 22nd December. Christingle at 4.00 pm.

Sunday 22nd December. 9 lessons and Carols at 6.30 pm.

Sunday 24th December. Pyjama Service.

**Magazine Editor:** Philippa Walker -  
*Contributions to the January magazine will be gratefully  
received. Please let me have articles or ideas by  
December 15th*