

Trinity Times

Easter Edition 2022



Holy Trinity Church
Maisons-Laffitte

3 EUROS DONATION

Who Does What

Chaplain	Charlotte Sullivan 06 83 08 59 67
Reader	Richard Medcalf

Church Wardens	Christine Salisbury David Bean
Church Council Secretary	Didier Trufanow
Chaplain's Assistant	Jenni Gibson

Activity	Contact person
Address List	Jenni Gibson
Book Stall	Sarah Masset
Buildings/Grounds	Adrian Parr
Charitable Giving	Rachel Ischoffen
Choir	Rachel Meuriot
Coffee Rota	office@html.com
Crèche Rota	Jenni Gibson
Ecumenical Group	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	Elizabeth Bean
Lesson Readers	Elizabeth Bean
Little Fishes	Jessamy Dinet
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Organist	Joan Bauman
Outreach Group	Eric Peyrard Chris Parr

Activity	Contact person
Pathfinders	Chaplain
Pew Sheet	office@html.com
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Prayer Net	Edith Briard
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin
Scouting	Gillian Barratt
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier-Lynham
Sunday Groups	Chaplain
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity Tots	Jenni Gibson
Web Site	Richard Medcalf
Welcomers	Jane Gorini
Youth Worker	Chaplain
Home Groups	
Monday p.m.	Richard Medcalf
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Thursday a.m.	Hesry Marshall

Chaplain's Corner

Dear friends,



At the time of writing, the war in Ukraine continues to dominate the news. We see and we hear daily stories which tell of the horrific cost of war as innocents lose their homes and their lives, and over 10 million people are displaced, a third of whom have fled into other European countries.

I feel that as a church community we have only just left behind one extended period of Lent during which the Covid pandemic dominated our lives and worship. Now we have been catapulted into another period of Lenten darkness which also requires our fervent prayers as we witness and now live alongside many Ukrainians experiencing personal Good Fridays.

When the crisis in Ukraine first came onto our screens, I am sure that we all wanted to know what we could do to help relieve people's suffering. I know we were all moved by the overwhelming generosity offered by the people of Poland. However, it soon became apparent that the crisis was going to be much more than one country could handle. Of course our first instinct is always to pray, pray for an end to conflict, for a deescalation in the horror and for peace to reign. In a crisis such as this one, my personal view is that the church is called to be both Martha and Mary. We are called to be people of prayer and also people of action.

When planning where and how to focus our efforts, it's often wise to look around, and to try to discern where God is already at work, where He has set up his "mission tent" and then we join in with Him! Several of us at the church became aware of a local English-speaking WhatsApp group, who were getting ready to welcome refugees to Maisons-Laffitte by hosting, collecting clothes and toiletries. We joined this group and offered to set up a Pop-up coffee room, opening two mornings a week. In addition to this, the church standing committee agreed with me that we had both the room, the support and the resources to be able to host a family at the vicarage.

The Pop-up coffee room is already working really well and is a great place for our Ukrainian guests to meet, chat and also to receive help and support. It is a great blessing to all who come to volunteer or to receive a welcome. I have welcomed Oleana, Nikita (16) and Sasha (17) into the vicarage. They are settling in well, and although they do not speak English or French we are getting to know each other slowly through the miracle of Google translate!

I just want to thank everyone who has been involved in helping to get these projects up and running so quickly and so successfully. As usual, I am overwhelmed by your generosity, hospitality and general "yes we can do it"

“let’s just do it” attitude. I thank God for your servant hearts and I really hope that you feel God’s blessing on this project as do I.

We are of course continuing to help other humanitarian aid agencies which support refugees from other countries, through our charitable giving and through the support that we give to Pierre and BunCoeur Damoclès. I know that you will continue to keep all of the above in your prayers.

On a completely different subject, I have some personal news to share! Bishop Robert has appointed me Area Dean to the North West of France.

I will conduct my Area Dean duties alongside those of being your Chaplain here at Holy Trinity. There will be a special commissioning service in the coming weeks when Archdeacon Peter Hooper will come and license me for this role. This will be a day of celebration but also an opportunity for many of you to meet our new Archdeacon. I would really welcome your prayers as I take on this new role in my ministry.

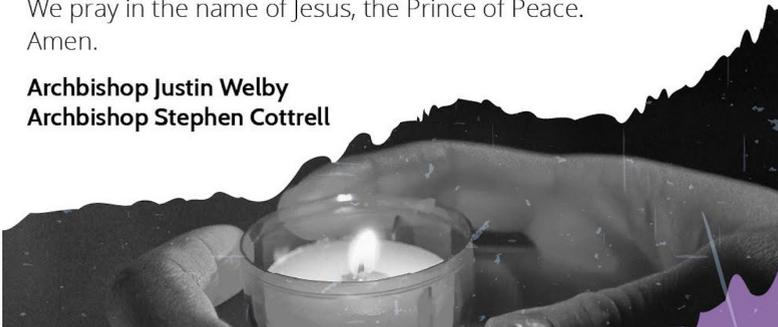
With my love and prayers,

Charlotte

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



*Our Chaplaincy Council report with thanks to
Didier Trufanow.*

Chaplaincy Council – Highlights of Last Three Meetings

The Chaplaincy Council met via Zoom on 15 November 2021, 17 January and 15 February 2022.

All Council meetings have regular updates about spiritual development matters, Eco-Church initiatives, safeguarding and our financial situation.

During the last three meetings, the Chaplaincy Council dealt with the following matters:

Eco-church – following a request from Bishops Robert and David that chaplaincies take concrete actions to help the world's environment, which has been gifted to us by God, Council members have discussed practical actions in considerable detail. Since the Council meeting in September 2021, Nigel Bartram, our Environmental Link Officer, has attended the environmental portion of the Chaplaincy Council meetings. The following items were discussed:

Holy Trinity has offset its carbon emissions by making a contribution to the 'Solar Cooking for Refugee Families in Chad' programme.

We are still investigating the possibility of switching to a green electricity supplier. It has been agreed that a firm decision to switch (or not to switch) would be made by 1 June 2022.

It was decided to replace our fluorescent tube lights with LEDs.

Clear and simple explanations have been provided to congregation members for composting on church premises.

Plans to re-design the garden are still in a nascent stage. More specific proposals will be made in the future.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, please do contact Nigel Bartram or the Chaplain if you have any thoughts or suggestions about environmentally-friendly actions we can take. Your ideas are more than welcome! If you are interested in joining Holy Trinity's environmental group ('Green Lantern'), please do let us know. The more fresh ideas we have, the better!

Worship services – it was decided to change Sunday morning service times. Since 2 January the early service still takes place at 9.15 am, while the second service is held at 11:00 am (instead of 10.30). There are two coffee times for fellowship: between the two services as well as after the 11.00 am service. There were two main reasons for changing the time of the second service: create an opportunity for better fellowship with 9.15 am service attendees and provide extra time for both practical and spiritual preparation for the second service.

Sunday morning groups for children – Sunday morning children's groups have been reduced from three to two. Twenty-six children are registered and weekly attendance averages about twelve.

Youth Group – Following a recommendation by Joy Van Staalduinen, our Youth Worker, it was decided that the Thursday evening Youth Group would be split into two separate groups, one for *college* and the other one for *lycée*. This would enable our young people to do spiritual activities more in line with their respective age group. A practical consequence of this action is that there are now two groups on Thursday evenings, rather than just one. Both groups are doing well and are regularly attended.

Infrastructure & Grounds – the large (diseased) oak tree has been felled and the downstairs rooms have been re-done (carpet, painting and new radiators). A report about the church porch leak was discussed by Council members and it was agreed to wait and observe (as recommended in the report) to see whether or not the damp / infiltration continues.

Diocesan Safeguarding policy – Alice Aupérin, our Safeguarding Officer, explained that current safeguarding work is focused on the Safeguarding Dashboard. There are 3 levels and our church is at present working on compliance with level 2.

Level 1 - Safer Foundations

Level 2 - Safer Activities

Level 3 - Safer Practices

In addition, and in compliance with Safeguarding requirements, the Chaplaincy Council formally approved all uses of Holy Trinity social media for its activities. Jenni Gibson was formally appointed as the responsible person regarding the use of our social media.

Confirmation programme – Several Youth Group members and some adult congregation members have expressed an interest in being confirmed. An 8 to 10 week Confirmation programme will be offered for those seeking to be confirmed. The Confirmation service will probably be held between September and November 2022.

A First Communion programme will be held on Sunday mornings from September 2022. This programme will be designed for approximately 8 to 11 year olds who have expressed an interest in First Communion.

Chaplaincy Weekend Away – Council members agreed with the Chaplain's proposal to organise a Chaplaincy weekend away during the Pentecost weekend (3 to 5 June 2022). This gathering will take place at the Sanctuaire de Nevers (Ste. Bernadette) (<https://www.sainte-bernadette-soubirous-nevers.com/en/>) and will provide congregation members of all ages with an opportunity for spiritual reflection and fellowship. The practical aspects of this event were discussed in detail.

Summer Fête – the organisation of the Summer Fête was discussed. As the Town Hall of Maisons-Laffitte will not be able to lend us any tents this year, various alternatives were discussed.

D.T.

A variation on the traditional flapjack recipe which some of you may have tasted one Sunday by Anne Titley.

Ginger flapjacks

Ingredients:

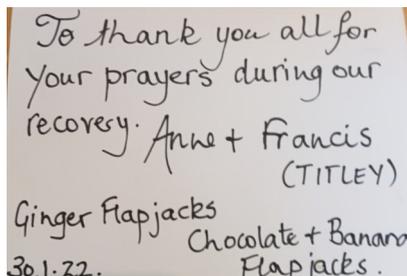
200 g unsalted butter
100 g pure maple syrup
100 g brown sugar
325 g oats
75 g flour
2 tablespoons dried ginger (can increase or decrease)

1. Melt butter, maple syrup and sugar in a large saucepan
2. Weigh out the oats, flour and ginger powder
3. Line a small rectangular biscuit tin with grease proof paper (they will be thicker and more moist)
4. Once the butter mixture has melted, add the dry ingredients and stir until the oats are covered with syrup
5. Tip into the baking tray, squash down with a fork and then place in the oven at 180°C for 25 mins or until golden brown
6. Remove from oven and allow to cool. After 10 mins, cut into biscuits any size you wish!

(I find they never come out the same twice and have tried making them without flour but then they were too hard and crunchy – teeth breaking crunchy thinks Francis!)

These were made to thank everybody for their prayers and kind messages after our head on collision accident on 11th December 2021.

A.T.



To thank you all for
your prayers during our
recovery. Anne + Francis
(TITLEY)
Ginger Flapjacks
Chocolate + Banana
Flapjacks.
30.1.22.

Should you be looking for a garden visit on a day outing, look no further. Sarah Masset and Angela Labaisse-Brodie have some recommendations.

A Reflection on Gardens

These two beautiful small gardens in the Seine Maritime about 20 kms to the west of Rouen, are hidden away deep in the Normandy countryside and well worth a visit.

Les Jardins d'Angélique, 2692 Route de Lyons, 76320 Montmain

This lovely garden was created in memory of Angélique who died at the very young age of 19 . The garden is built round a beautiful 18th century manor house. At the back of the house is a formal garden with statues and clipped box hedges which enclose beds of mostly white flowers. In the front there is lawn and then you enter a small gate into a “secret” garden where you follow little paths that meander among rose bushes, flowering shrubs, hydrangeas and many other lovely scented plants accompanied by the trickling sound of a small stream.

The stables have been converted into a café which serves delicious coffee and light lunches.

I visited the garden in early August and was fortunate to have the first half an hour completely on my own. The owner and staff are charming.

Le Jardin Plume, 790 Rue de la Plaine, 76116 Auzouville-sur-Ry

This garden was created by the owners about 20 years ago. It consists of several small garden “rooms” – the spring garden , the summer garden, the autumn garden, the “feather” garden and the fern garden. Each one has its own character and its own seasonal flowers . I have visited in both summer and autumn and each time there was a riot of colour and many butterflies and bees feeding on the flowers . There is also an orchard, a small pond and many other features that appear as you wander from one part of the garden to the next.

There is also a very interesting nursery garden where you can buy some of the plants you have admired in the garden!

Again the owners are friendly and pleased to chat and answer questions.

For opening times and more details:

www.lesjardinsdangelique.com

<https://lejardinplume.com>

S.M.

My Easter Garden



It is a characteristic British pastime to garden, to swap gardening tips and to visit gardens. March and April are certainly fantastic months in which to indulge these passions as we emerge from winter into full-blown spring. Already many of the flowering trees are delighting us with their gentle white and pink blossoms. The yellow Forsythia and the warm colours of Japanese quince are already with us, as are the magnificent

Magnolias. The lawns are already carpeted with daisies and the daffodils are ready to herald the Spring Equinox.

When discussing gardens recently with Nikki Thomas, she told Nancy and me that roses are her favourite flower, naturally, as it is also her birthday flower (21st June). She recounted how in her garden in Beecham she had a beautiful, deep-red rose that was trained up against the fence, thanks to Roger who was the one with green fingers.

As hydrangeas are one of my favourite flowers, Nikki shared her tips for bringing out their profound blue colour: she advocates burying nails around the base of the plant to improve the iron content of the soil.

Although I do not have a garden of my own, I benefit from the beauty of Parc Monceau every day of the working week. Situated on the edge of Boulevard de Courcelles, it is a delight in the morning as the sun comes up over the city; its lawns an ideal place for relaxation with a picnic lunch in the summer. When the weather is cooler, the meandering paths welcome you to walk and wander – to think things through, or not to think at all, just reconnect with nature, the change of seasons and the wonders of God's creation. The past two Covid years, it has been my refuge: an outside place to meet with colleagues at a time when socialising indoors was not permitted. It was incongruous to be there, it was daring to be there in the company of another person, one either end of a bench, with the police reminding you to wear a mask, and yet the park provided normality and stability.

Parc Monceau was originally created as a private playground for the Duc de Chartres, Philippe Egalité, the father of Louis-Philippe I in 1769 at a time when Paris stretched no further than the Faubourg St Honoré. But during the French Revolution, the Duc was executed and his lands confiscated by the State. The public park we know today was remodelled by Napoléon III and the Baron Haussmann in the 1860s. It remains principally a garden “à l’anglaise” with the wide lawns, noble trees, and vibrant herbaceous borders. It is scattered with various curiosities from the original park: a fake Egyptian pyramid, an Italian-style bridge and around the duck pond a line of Corinthian columns to represent a

Naumachia (where the Ancient Roman world would stage naval battles as mass entertainment).

But “O, to be in England, Now that April 's there”.

April and the Easter school holidays are strongly reminiscent of trips in the UK, which would invariably include a visit to Pashley Manor in East Sussex. It is the epitome of an English country garden and a place where I would love to take my parents. Daffodils in vibrant and varying shades of yellow: the woods carpeted with bluebells.

Through its 11 acres, Pashley has everything: the sweeping herbaceous borders in vivid hues that change with every season, the well-maintained lawns, an historic walled garden and kitchen garden, a large duck pond and a woodland haven for wildlife. The grounds are used to exhibit intriguing and unusual sculptures that lure you into hidden corners of the garden.

Like any estate needing to make money Pashley has created various festivals to encourage visitors to keep coming back. In April their annual Tulip Festival features more than 48,000 varieties on show in the gardens or to be bought as bulbs -think “Tulip Fever” . They also have a Special Rose Week and Dahlia Days.

The other great money-making enterprise of any garden worth visiting must be the proverbial tearoom. I can see us now, sitting outside on the walled terrace with tea and cakes, wrapped up in winter coats.

My mother was a talented amateur artist and one of our favourite paintings is a view looking toward the Walled Garden, where my younger son would love to play hide and seek. As travel restrictions ease up, I very much hope to visit Pashley Manor again this Eastertide and enjoy walking through its beautiful canvas of colour. And I am also impatient to see what further secrets Parc Monceau will reveal to me through the rest of this year.

A.L.B.



On 27 March the Youth Group made an Easter garden in the Church grounds.

Thank you Jo and Hesry for your help.



“The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there.”
George Bernard Shaw

Do you struggle to find something that you can do over Lent? An idea for a Lent challenge that was taken up by the whole family, by Anna Dobrovolskis.

Walk Against Hunger

‘Our daily walk with Christ provides peace and purpose in this life’ (Dieter Uchtdorf)



Often at the time of lent, I find it difficult to find something to commit to for forty days. For me, gone are the days of giving up sweets and putting them in a jar to enjoy on Easter Sunday!

Luckily, this year while in England I happened upon details of the CAFOD lent walking challenge on a pew sheet in my local church.

The challenge is to walk 5km every day for the duration of lent. You can do this either as a team or solo. My

brother in Toronto, my dad and partner in Aldershot and our family in Le Pecq decided to go for it. My sister hasn't signed up as her dogs are so very old now she can hardly get them around the block!

Everyday a different member of the family does their walk and logs it onto our FAM web page. It is fun and a wonderful way to stay fit, keep the family together however far away we are from each other and also to commit ourselves to holding lent as a particularly holy and important time in the church year.

If you would like to see our page and donate, please click on the link below. Whatever your personal challenge this lent, may all our community feel God's presence as we journey in our faith!

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fam2022>

A.D.

Easter will bring us into the fourth month of reading through the Bible as a church. Sylvaine Hughes and Beth Jusseume explain how enriching they have found this practice. Never too late to join.

What the Bible in a Year Programme means to me

Each and every one of us who joined this year's Bible in a Year Programme has brought with them their own past, diversity of experience and faith. For my humble part, I had never read nor tried to read the whole of the Bible. In my youth, this was not something that was encouraged in the Catholic faith, as it seemed that we always had to go through the medium of priests to know which passages to read and how to interpret them. I never found it really satisfactory as by profession I tend to do research on the topics that interest me, and never had the time nor the incentive to tackle such a daunting task the way I felt I wanted to do it.

But, being retired now, and with Charlotte as a leader, I felt it was worth trying. So, we decided to do the programme as a family, but it is interesting to see that we each have our own way to read the Bible and though it is equally rewarding, we have very different approaches.

Instead of reading a piece every day, I need to sit down for a whole morning or afternoon, and read bigger chunks than those suggested as I need to have an overview of what is happening. Then I sum up those passages on my computer (in black: for those having a visual memory like me, colours play their part). Then I listen to Tara Leigh Cobble's podcasts and add the relevant comments to my text in red. I also use Charlotte's recommended book: *The Bible Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. I have also added another book to my external sources: *The Bible as History: Digging up the Bible* by Werner Keller, a recognised archaeologist. I had read the French version entitled: *La Bible Arrachée aux Sables* some 40 years ago and was pleasantly surprised to find it has been updated since, with the most recent archaeological findings. I take some notes as I go along and add them to my text in blue. Now and then the Internet and the Whatsapp group come in handy when there are questions that need answering such as: What is a wave offering? Or Why did the Israelites flee Egypt using the longest route? Why is this repeated over and over again? My own comments and questions are added in violet and often find answers in the Zoom meetings that we share every other Wednesday under the expert guidance of Charlotte. So far, I have just about managed to finish each book in time for the Zoom debriefs and I hope to continue until the end!

What will I get from this Bible reading experience? Well first an in-depth knowledge of the Bible which I had only read partially, and also a valuable personal condensed version of it (10 pages already From Genesis to Numbers) enriched by comments coming from historical and religious sources... and then most of all a better understanding of all the events, poems, affirmations of faith that made the Bible the literary expression of our Faith and a path towards God.

S.H.

My Bible In A Year experience has been a changing one over the past three months. I was in awe of the idea. The first time I had ever opened a Bible was when I was 10 years old around my First Communion. I unzipped the beautiful white leather case that my Aunt had given me as a Baptism gift. I remember paging through and noticing red and black print. I realised that when Jesus spoke, it was written in red. There were loads of “thees and thous”. It was a short-lived endeavor seeing the complexity.

The second time I opened a Bible was at the insistence of Pamela Igwe at Holy Trinity Church over 15 years ago, who said, “make an effort to open it this week”. Me, being me, I started at the end and allowed the pages to fan by my thumb. Realizing that I was almost to the cover, I forced myself to open it and read the entire book of wherever it fell. That was my first introduction to Leviticus.... I simply took away, ‘if you sinned in this way, then pay your way by offering this animal sacrifice.’ I complained to Pamela who suggested that I try again. So this time, I started in the front and fanned almost to the end again and fell into Romans. I remember telling Ben that I heard, ‘if you fall down, stand up, wipe off your knees and try again’. His face contorted, as he nodded supportively....

My Mother was over 80 when she read the Bible in a year. When Charlotte spoke to us about it, I had no more excuses. Despite my resistance saying there was no way I was ever going to find 10 extra minutes a day. Despite the fact that Tara Leigh’s excessive enthusiasm on the podcasts and rapid-fire speech irritate me no end, and despite the immensity of the feat, I’m really glad that I’m in!

At the end of January I physically gave myself a pat on the back. I didn’t think I would keep it up. I LOVED the book of Job! I see it as the cheering section. With all that man went through, I refuse to complain. If he can consistently rely on the Lord despite ALL the adversity he came through, and he continues to put God first and foremost, well then, I have a lesson to learn. I know that getting through the whole Bible will be a huge challenge, but Job taught me well. I can.

I like our Wednesday night Zooms with Charlotte. She always gives us ‘inside information’. It’s like discovering a whole other level. At one point I was listening to the Bible during my bath. Then I felt guilty when I didn’t keep up with the daily calendar. Once I finished off the last 12 chapters of Genesis in one sitting, because I was caught up in the story and wanted to know the ending. Somewhere in February I became philosophical. Obviously there are moments when I read the words, with near zero comprehension. I continue to read. The way I see it, there are Bible Scholars who spend their lifetime studying the word. Tara Leigh Cobble starts the Bible over and over every year! I’m not going to pretend to understand everything I read. I’m not going to become any kind of an expert. God will give me what He wants me to understand. I spend more time with God daily through His word than I ever have in my life. I notice things more. I realise how some verses make reference to others.

I’m on a path. I’m a Christian following Christ. Luckily on my path there are people and signposts to lead me. I am totally indebted to Charlotte for opening this road.

B.J.

The current situation in Ukraine reminds us that war is not only in the past, but very present today. Ann Thakur shares a recent experience by her and her family that reminds us to be grateful to those that have fought in the past for the freedom we enjoy today.

Lest We Forget



Growing up, I always heard my dad talking about his younger brother Tim, who had been a navigator in a Lancaster Bomber in World War 2 and who, unfortunately, had been killed returning from a bombing raid on Stuttgart in October 1943. He was just 20.

At the end of August this year, my husband rang me from work to say that he had just had a phone call from a first cousin of my father's, (my father had unfortunately passed away in 2012). Although I had met this cousin, we were not close, and a phone call was a complete surprise. He had been contacted by a member of the 49 squadron, the squadron my uncle had been attached to, to say that the mayor of Commercy - the town near where my uncle's plane has crashed - was going to erect a memorial to the airmen in my uncle's plane and were hoping to find some family members to attend.

The ceremony was due to take place on Friday 7th October, the plane having crashed on the night of the 6th - 7th October.

On the morning of the 7th, we met Jon-Pol, the man who was the main force behind erecting the memorial. Accompanying him was the grandson of the pilot, Don Wares, who had managed to escape with another airman and make his way to Switzerland, and eventually back to the UK.

Having visited the grave, Jon-Pol took us to the crash site. It was a very emotional experience as, as well as the new plaque outlining what had happened, there was a large piece of the framework of the plane, and at the actual crash site itself, we found some debris - still there after nearly 80 years, and some of which now has pride of place in our lounge. It was strange and moving to think that my uncle had died in that place.



The ceremony was to take place at 5pm. We had been told that there was to be a fly-past by a French fighter



plane, but I was still expecting there to just be a few dignitaries from the town. When we arrived, we were astounded by the attendance. There were generals and officers from all the armed forces, the police and the gendarmes. The député of the Meuse was there, as was a representative of the Canadian embassy as one of the airmen killed was Canadian.

The ceremony itself was like a mini-Remembrance Day parade. There were flags of Britain, Canada and France and a trumpeter to play the last post. Both the British and French national anthems were played. There were speeches from the Canadian representative and the Préfet of the Meuse. However, one of the most honoured guests was a 105-year-old woman, who had helped two of the airmen who had escaped, injured, from the plane. Unfortunately, someone denounced them to the Germans, and they were captured and sent to a Prisoner-of-War camp. The woman herself had been arrested and questioned by the Germans, but luckily did not get treated too badly.

The whole weekend was a very moving experience. Seeing where my uncle had died was just part of what made the event very special. Even more so, was that France had decided that it was important to recognise my uncle and his comrades in such an impressive way. The fact that so many important men, who did not know my uncle or my family, gave up their time to attend the ceremony was very meaningful to me. My one regret was that neither my dad nor my brother could have been there.

I believe it is very important that, especially in the light of what has happened in the last few weeks, we still remember the men and women who gave up their lives for our freedom in the two world wars. We must continue to teach our children what happened.

We will remember them.

A.T.



*Happy memories of Ben Eaton, chaplain at HTC 1988-2002.
May he rest in peace*

Reverend Canon Ben Eaton

Ben passed away after a short illness.

He was Chaplain of Holy Trinity Church from 1988 to 2002.

During his ministry here, he endeared himself to our hearts by his warmth and understanding.

We also owe him the building of our church halls, and the fact that our parish was very implicated with the celebrations of "Pentecôte 2000" which took place on the Ile de la Commune, with the whole town taking part in glorious sunshine. A tree was planted on the occasion by the mayor Jacques Myard who planted it in the presence of a member of the Jewish Community.

It was a very happy occasion and we are grateful to Ben for having allowed it.

We present to Anne, Benji and Victoria our warmest condolences.

The beautiful funeral service was led by Father Simon Cutmore, who was a youth leader at Holy Trinity for two years under Ben. The service was also attended by George and Christine Hart, longstanding members of our church, now living in England.

Marguerite Flavigny



Happy memories of Ben and Anne Eaton

Tony's Christening, Easter 1990



Ben and Anne came to Holy Trinity Maisons-Laffitte about a year after we joined the congregation here and they were both instrumental in helping us settle definitely in our parish. They both had warm personalities and charisma and a very encouraging way of making sure you were wanted in various ways. This is how I started helping with the Sunday School alongside Didier, and with the Cake stall at the Church Fetes with

Rachel and Fiona, whereas everyone who knows me can testify I do NOT like baking and that I am not a cake person.... and yet 30 odd years later, I am still helping ... Bob also first became treasurer thanks to Ben's gentle but very firm encouragements...

Anne was in charge of Sunday school and our children also benefitted from her enthusiasm and great ideas. So, they both really helped making Holy Trinity Church a real family for us, which it still is today. Tony was baptised by Ben and both Tony and David had their first communion and confirmation with him. When we came back from Indonesia and from New York in 1996, we were so pleased to see them still at Holy Trinity, it really meant coming home for us even though 5 years had passed since we had left.

Three years later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and this is perhaps my strongest memory of Ben... I must say I had never been used to pastoral visits... But to this day, I can still hear him ringing our bell vigorously, and see his tall silhouette framed in the entrance of the door. He made me feel as if he was coming to my rescue, and in his own unmistakable way, he did. So, when Ben and Anne decided it was time for them to move on, we went to see them several times in their new parish in St Raphaël, where we still go today when we are down in the South of France. After they moved to England, we kept in touch through Jayne and were always happy to hear from them. Ben will always remain part of our family's history, may his family find comfort now he has gone and may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Hughes family

A final good-bye to Ben

Sadly, Ben Eaton, who was our chaplain at Holy Trinity from 1988 to 2002, died on January 18th in Ilkey after a very short stay in hospital. He was surrounded by the love and prayers of all who knew him. The funeral was relayed by zoom and Jenni set up television and chairs (in the hall, where the reception is best) so that we could follow the service live. Very wisely she joined the link long before the start of the ceremony, for the maximum capacity available on zoom was soon reached, to the disappointment of many who could not join in our final good-bye. It is now twelve years since Ben moved to St Raphaël, and the spontaneous tributes of all who knew him say what a lasting impact he made on so many.

As Ben had wanted, Simon Cutmore led the service. Simon had been recruited by Ben as our youth worker and worked with him for two years until he left to become an ordinand. He is now the priest of the church attended by Christine and George Hart, and I felt that Ben's ministry to us was fulfilled when the Harts received communion from Simon at Ben's funeral.

The church and the coffin were decorated with mimosa, which he loved so much, and the hills covered in mimosa were for him one of the joys of living in the Var. Ben Junior said in his eulogy: "I think one of the things he disliked the most about moving back to England was that he could no longer express himself in that unique way that he did in France, not so much using words but relying almost entirely on hand gestures, noises, grunts and a lot of eyebrow work to do the heavy lifting. He insisted on a small sweet treat of chocolate with an espresso, so whenever we would go to a cafe he would descend into this pantomime of *est ce que*" .

That was so right. It made me realise that it was in the fusion of his Americanness and the French way of life that Ben could best express his larger-than-life personality. He was a superb storyteller and had a great sense of humour – often at his own expense. During a retreat in a monastery, one evening after a long walk he arrived back to find the gate locked. Always resourceful, he managed to climb over the high wall – to find out later that the monks, somewhat bemused, were watching his progress from their cells. Say "Ben" to me and at once my eyes will light up and I'll break into a smile...

Ben's christianity combined his enthusiasm and spontaneity with his love of art and the inner quiet he discovered in yoga while he was at University in Lebanon. He practised yoga all his life. In a sermon he could carry us from joyous celebration to that deep stillness which the bible tells us is the knowledge of God. How often I've taken visitors to church and they've said on the way home : "If I had a church like that I'd go more often!" . Looking back, I can see that in the

fourteen years he spent with us Ben moulded and enlarged my spirituality. Like so many others, I'm privileged to have known him.

Organisation was not one of Ben's gifts. But it was definitely one of Anne's. And it is impossible to speak of Ben and his ministry without including Anne. Theirs was a double ministry, one balanced the other, complemented the other.

Dear Ben and Anne : Thank you for everything.

Edith Briard

Ben Eaton put the "emotion" into church for me. Until then, perhaps I was just "going through the motions" of going to church, genuflecting and making the sign of the cross across my body as I had been taught in my First Communion Class and subsequent Confirmation as a young teenager. Ben's message from the pulpit always spoke directly to my heart.

One Christmas Ben invited me to read about the rod of Jesse in the *Nine Lessons and Carols Service*. At that time I had just started working in Playgroup with Anne Eaton and Jane Cadman. We were practising in the church one day after Playgroup when Ben sharply said, "Beth, can't you take this seriously?" To which I burst into tears and responded that I had never been so honoured in my life to be reading at the Carol Service and that I was beside myself with stress to try and do it right!

Anne Eaton took me under her wing at Playgroup. She gave me the courage and gentle nudging to become an English teacher. Her organisation and passion when working with children taught me some very valuable lessons.

I am forever indebted to both Ben and Anne for bringing me closer to God.

Beth Jusseaume

Memories of Ben

What a task! And where to start? Perhaps with some adjectives: enthusiastic, smiling, affable, inspired and inspiring, welcoming, warm, energetic, larger-than-life at times, joyful, optimistic, idealistic, sympathetic Shall I go on or do you have something of a picture?

You had to keep up with Ben! He would be inspired by a project or in a sermon, would surge forward energetically and would be convinced that God would provide, materially or spiritually – and He did. Ben had a knack of coming over, putting his arm around your shoulder and pulling you in: “I know you’re looking for something to do...” or “You are just the person we need for ...”. He would forget or mix up names sometimes, but not faces, and would remember other details about people’s lives. He never forgot that my husband spoke Spanish and would always greet him in Spanish and have a few words! In such a way Ben built relationships and friendships and we all contributed something to the life of the community: satellite coffee hosts in the further corners of the parish, inviting new arrivals to join us at home, cooks for the monthly congregation casserole lunches, or bonfire night organisers, barbecue chefs, fête stallholders, Christingle readers, stage managers, actors in the Easter Walk, Sunday group leaders, - you name it! Ben enjoyed people and loved life. Benjie put it so well in his eulogy.

It was a team effort, and any memory of Ben is inevitably linked in my mind with Anne, who I am convinced would spot us, test the ground a little, then send Ben in to work his magic (or the other way around!). Ben and Anne were so complementary and well matched. Ben was our spiritual shepherd and would prompt us back into line or through narrow gateways when necessary and Anne, along with an impressive calm and solid faith, had the most amazing sense of creativity, practicality and organisation where events, community building and young people were concerned. It was under Ben and Anne that the basement was decorated, the New Hall was built and the new kitchen installed. It was the ‘belle époque’ of dozens of expat families passing through for anything from 2-4 years, and large Sunday groups of up to 20 per age group thrived. Our children would be in church at the beginning and end of services every Sunday to be blessed, which took some organising but it happened!

Ben was something of an enigma to our young people and they remember him fondly as a real character. Our own three girls grew up at Holy Trinity with him and were sad to hear of his passing. Florence was baptised here with one of her cousins in a memorable and very moving joint service with an elderly catholic priest who was a lifelong friend of our French family. We were thrilled to be able to share our faith across churches and generations thanks to these two forward-looking priests. It wasn’t necessarily an easy thing to do back then.

One of my most clear images of Ben: arms spread open high above his head and voice booming in an enthusiastic blessing as the children bowed their heads before going out to groups, or before joining their families after a special service. That open-armed and open-hearted transmission of expansive, genuine, assured and joyful faith, and the wide, wide smile of welcome, greeting and genuine curiosity at every meeting are what remain. Not to be forgotten are the other

moments of quiet reassurance and comfort when, as happens inevitably in life, tears would come and Ben would find a moment to talk.

We were blessed with a very special chaplain and his marvellous family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Fiona Dubas

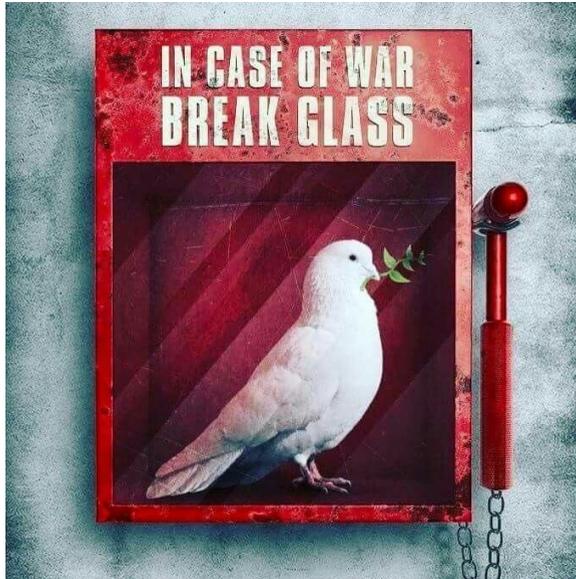
Vitello Tonnato -- a coincidence

During our stay in Italy, Jean learnt how to make Vitello Tonnato, a local specialty composed of thinly sliced cold roast veal covered with a mayonnaise and tunny fish sauce. We quite often served this to our dinner guests among whom were Ben and Anne.

When they moved to St Raphael (Frejus) they took bridge lessons with another couple Mary & Tony, who happened to be very good friends of ours from our days in Milan, and had retired to Les Issambres, just along the coast. One evening Mary served them Vitello Tonnato and Ben and Anne said “We know a couple who have already served us this : Jean and Max”. Coincidence!

The friendship developed and we were able to share some special moments together over the last 25 years.

Jean Genock



by the street artist Banksy

Some background to the unveiling of the plaque Place Vera Leigh in ML as recounted by Patrick Gauthier-Lynham

Inauguration of Vera Leigh square Maisons-Laffitte October 2021

First of all there is a Vera Leigh plaque in Holy Trinity Church Maisons-Laffitte, this church celebrated this year its 100th anniversary. It was built with the funds given by Frank Jay Gould an American billionaire (who inspired Scott Fitzgerald the character of the Great Gatsby) and racehorse owner, my grandfather Percy Lynham was his racehorse trainer. Frank Jay Gould and Percy Lynham laid the first stone of the church, Percy Lynham represented the Church of England and was the first churchwarden. The British and American racehorse families were very close in Maisons-Laffitte.

In a Christmas photograph taken at Frank Jay Gould's house in 1912 the Lynhams, Leighs, Duttons, Goulds were altogether. Later two of these children will be involved in the SOE, Vera Leigh and Barry Lynham (my uncle).

At the centenary event at HTCML, the mayor told us that the ML council intended to give the name of Vera Leigh to the roundabout in ML park close to the Leigh stables (below left).

A few months ago a Maisons-Laffitte historian on behalf of the mayor asked me, being a member of the Special Forces Club, if I could get a copy of a Vera Leigh picture (Stonehouse watercolour) and caption. I got a photograph of the picture (below right).



During my investigations concerning Vera Leigh I was also able to find two relatives in England—Anthony Clark a distant cousin and Jacqueline Bolton (nee Clark) who wrote to me:

'My connection to Vera Leigh is as follows - my father was Victor Alexander Dalzell Clark who was Vera's step-brother and it was he who was in close contact with her in London and was also her named next-of-kin. He was also involved in trying to discover the details of her disappearance and later death. My grandfather was Albert Victor Clark who lived in Avenue de Poissy in Maisons Laffitte until his death. He was married to Lucy Leigh (the widow of Eugene Leigh, Vera's adopted parents).

Anthony Clarke is a distant cousin who has become involved after researching our family tree.'

P.G.L.

Le Corps des volontaires de la Princesse Royale (FANY) continue à servir la nation comme nos ancêtres le firent pendant la 2^e guerre mondiale.

En effet les membres du corps des FANY sont actuellement impliqués dans l'assistance aux forces armées dans leur mission intergouvernementale d'appui dans l'accueil des Afghans qui arrivent au Royaume-Uni, ce qui explique l'absence de représentants des FANY à cette cérémonie.

Chaque année, à la date anniversaire de notre premier engagement le 27 octobre 1914, se déroule une cérémonie au mémorial de l'Eglise Saint Paul à Knightsbridge, on lit la liste de toutes les FANY qui ont perdu la vie pendant la 1^{ère} et 2^e guerre mondiale. Le nom de Vera Leigh est gravé sur ce monument. C'est un moment de mémoire et de réflexion sur le travail essentiel que ces femmes ont entrepris et nous permet de nous assurer que nous, en temps que membres actifs nous ne les oublions pas.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexandra MILNE, décoré de l'Ordre de l'Empire Britannique

The volunteers of the FANY continue to serve today, as our brave forebears did during World War II. Indeed, members of the Corps are currently committed to assisting the military for the cross-government effort to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, hence why the Corps is not represented here in person today.

Each year, on the anniversary of our first deployment which took place on 27th October 1914, we hold a ceremony at the FANY memorial, at which the names of all FANYs who died during WWI and WWII are read out. Vera Leigh is among these names. It is a time of remembrance and reflection of the vital work these ladies undertook and ensures that we, as active members of the Corps, never forget them.

Staff Commander Alexandra Milne MBE

Elles sont formées aux communications radio, aux métiers paramédicaux, à la lecture de cartes, à la navigation et à l'orientation, au tir, à l'auto-défense, aux techniques de survie, à la conduite avancée et à l'enregistrement documentaire des victimes.

A local detective story, or, some original historical research by Adrian Parr

In a previous edition of TRINITY TIMES, I reviewed the book *Captain & Mrs Jones* by Christopher Robillard (Publ. Marketing Solutions Devon. Second edition (2020), 186 pp. ISBN 978-0-9934451-1-8).

I remembered the Jones family plaque on the wall, from my first visit to Holy Trinity, as a bachelor, about 14 years ago. Little did I realise that I should tread in the protagonists' footsteps more than once.

In the recent book review, I remarked that Isabelle and I had our civil marriage ceremony in the same *Salle de mariages* at the *Mairie de Courbevoie* as Sydney Jones and Rose-Maria, née Braun, seventy-four years earlier (1937).

Having obtained a good-quality copy of their marriage certificate from the *Mairie*, a mystery then presented itself: where was allée du Midi? The plan of Courbevoie shows no such street name, save for some thoroughfare in the cemetery(!)

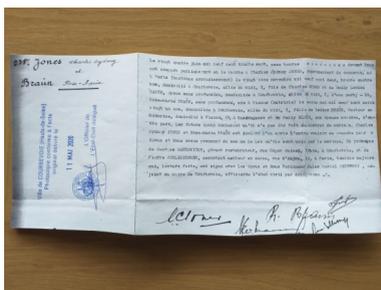
So I wrote to the *Mairie* to ask, explaining the context, and enquired whether a commemorative plaque remembering this war hero and heroine could be placed on the building, if identifiable and still extant.

The *Mairie* advised that allée du Midi was renamed after the *Libération*, to remember Pierre Brossolette, journalist, politician and *résistant*.

Propos a possible plaque, two key pre-conditions are the views of the *copropriété*, and a source of funding(!) I await a further response from the *Mairie*.

The 1930s block of flats must have been almost brand new when the Joneses lived there, and it is only a few metres from a stadium where Emma now plays football.

A.P.



Marriage certificate obtained from the Mairie de Courbevoie.



1 rue Pierre Brossolette Courbevoie (formerly allée du Midi).

Word from the Editor



If I have learned anything this Lenten season, it is that we are not in control. At this point, you are probably saying, “But Nancy, why did you think you might be in control? That was rather foolish of you.”

Despite trying our best to shape the world in which we live (usually just a very small radius around ourselves), thinking that life had returned to a semblance of normal after many many months of covid fatigue, we were all thrown into upheaval at the totally unexpected situation in Ukraine. We watched the news with growing horror, unable to believe

what was and is still happening on the screen.

And a few short weeks later, we see the results of the war in Ukraine in the form of fleeing Ukrainians arriving in and around Maisons-Laffitte. Charlotte has welcomed a Ukrainian family with open arms. I think we all feel concerned and involved, wanting desperately to help, but not always knowing how to do it. The outpouring of offers of help in many different ways, not least of which is prayer, has brought us together, as a church family, as a community, and hopefully wider afield as a country and as a block of countries uniting to support Ukraine.

At the moment of writing, I don't know what the outcome will be, nor when we will see an outcome. We pray that it will be soon, and that the destruction and killing will stop, that Ukraine can start to rebuild, and that the fleeing Ukrainians can rejoin their loved ones who remained behind.

I hope and pray for a peaceful solution as quickly as possible. And I also hope that we can remember how, for a short time, we put aside our insignificant daily concerns to become part of the larger family of humanity, and we tried to put into practice what we have read and heard so often, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. Putting our faith in the Risen Christ!

Nancy

Happy Easter from the TT committee!

Edith, Carolyn, Sarah, Nancy

* * *

Our thanks to Constance Déhé for her beautiful cover design for this issue.

Dates for your diary



Every Tuesday and Thursday morning we are holding a **Pop-up Coffee Room** from 9.30 am—12 pm in Holy Trinity church hall for anyone who wants to come along, especially for Ukrainian refugees.

From Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th June:

Booking is now open for our **Pentecost Chaplaincy Weekend Away** at the lovely Santuaire de Sainte Bernadette in Nevers from where we will be exploring more how to Build a Firm Foundation in God, individually and as a church community.

Please look at our website for more information / speak to Charlotte or Jenni.

* * *

On Friday 21 January there was a special ecumenical service at Holy Trinity Church celebrating a week of Christian Unity....



...and on 4 March World Day of Prayer.



The policy of this magazine is to publish articles of interest provided they are neither illegal nor immoral. The content of the magazine does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial committee.

Lent & Easter

Palm Sunday, Sunday 10th April

9h15 Morning Eucharist Service

11h00 - All Age Palm Sunday Service

12h00 - 16h00 - Messy Church (for 5 to 11's)

Maundy Thursday, 14th April

19h00 - Eucharist Service (with foot washing)

Good Friday, 15th April

6h00 - 7h00 - Nuit des Oliviers (*at Notre Dame de la Croix*)

19h00 - "Seven Moments"

(a Service of Prayer and Reflection)

EASTER SUNDAY, Sunday 17th April

9h15 and 11h00 - Easter Sunday Services

12h30 - Easter Sunday Lunch - all welcome!

HE HAS
RISEN
JUST AS
HE SAID.
in 2000 ... 2011

Sunday Services

Every Sunday	09:15	Holy Communion (said)
1st Sunday	11.00	All-Age Worship with Holy Communion
2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays	11.00	Holy Communion with Crèche and Sunday Groups
3rd Sunday	11.00	Informal Communion with Crèche and Sunday Groups