

trinity times
summer 2023



holy trinity church
maisons laffitte



3 euros
donation



Who Does What

Chaplain	Charlotte Sullivan 06 83 08 59 67
Reader	Richard Medcalf
Youth Worker	Joy Van Staalduinen

Church Wardens	Christine Salisbury David Bean
Church Council Secretary	Didier Trufanow
Chaplaincy Assistant	Jenni Gibson

Activity	Contact person
Address List	Jenni Gibson
Book Stall	Sarah Masset
Buildings/ Grounds	Adrian Parr
Charitable Giving	Hesry Marshall
Choir	Rachel Meuriot
Coffee Rota	tinyurl.com/ TeaCoffeeHTCML
Ecumenical Group	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	Elizabeth Bean
Lesson Readers	Elizabeth Bean
Little Fishes	office@htcml.com Coffee morning every Tuesday at 9.30 am for pre-school children.
Organist	Joan Bauman

Activity	Contact person
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Prayer Net	Edith Briard
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin
Scouting	contact@maisons- laffitte-scouts.fr
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier- Lynham
Sunday Groups	LJ Desmeulles
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity English School (TES)	trinityenglishml @gmail.com
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Web Site	office@htcml.com
Youth Group	Joy Van Staalduinen & Johanna Devlin
Bible Study	
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Wednesday evening by Zoom	8.00 pm: Bible study 9.15 pm: Compline.

Chaplain's Corner



Dear friends,

You may have read in the minutes of our last church council meeting, that I began a discussion about the importance of home groups in our church.

There are currently two groups, which meet fortnightly on a Tuesday morning and a Wednesday night (on zoom).

I know that both of these groups are great, they offer teaching, discussion, prayer and fellowship. However, I do believe we have the capacity and the need for more groups. I would love to offer more options on times, and locations, so that anyone who feels they would like to be in a home group can find something that fits their schedule.

Home groups are a great place for us to read, study, reflect and apply scripture to our lives. They provide a closeness, they offer the time, and the space that we don't always find when we meet together on a Sunday morning.

One of the reasons why I am so passionate about home groups is because they have played such an important part in my own journey of faith.

When I first came to faith, the church home group was the place where I asked all my questions, it was the place where I was nurtured and supported through prayer, generosity and hospitality. The group I attended met in different homes each week. One memorable week I turned up at the home of a local dog breeder. As I sat on her sofa concentrating on the study, this small smelly pig-like creature jumped on my lap, promptly fell asleep and started snoring. Well, it was love at first sight! Immediately I said where can I get one of these? French Bulldogs have been in my life from that moment on!

After a couple of years, I started running and leading a home group at my house. My church needed a new evening group, one specifically for parents, a place where they could also bring their children. I was not qualified in any capacity to lead but I was willing to have a go! It was a wonderfully chaotic group, the children all played together, the older ones looking after younger ones, whilst mums and dads and a few honorary grand parents studied the bible. This would be followed by an evening meal most often in the garden. Always a bring and share, never any coordination but it always worked out OK. I have so many wonderful memories of that group, and our discussions, many of which went on late into the summer evenings.

I started that group with people who were strangers but who then became some of my closest friends. It was also through the love and the friendship of that home group that my husband came to faith.

In the next few months you will read more about some of the home group opportunities that we are going to offer. How can you help?

If you feel called to lead a home group, please let me know, and we can discuss the best way for me to support you.

If you would like to offer your home as a venue for a home group, please could you contact me.

Finally if you are not currently in a home group, please please consider it, it really is the most wonderful opportunity, a chance to draw closer to God and His people. What's not to like! (The French bulldog is optional!)

Rev. Charlotte Sullivan



Our condolences to Charlotte, whose faithful companion Jaffa passed away this month.

Our Chaplaincy Council report with thanks to Didier Trufanow.

Highlights of Recent Council Meetings

Since the last issue of Trinity Times, the Chaplaincy Council met once via Zoom on 17 April 2023.

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

Various matters were raised during the last meeting, including the following:

The Chaplain confirmed that Vivian Sockett, our new Assistant Curate, will be formally ordained in Brussels on Saturday 1 July and will begin her mission at Holy Trinity on 3 July. Different formalities have been completed and she is very much looking forward to joining our church community.

Council welcomed 2 new Lay members elected at the AGM – Jackie Gale (who had previously been a member) and Martin Wickenden. Thank you for accepting to serve on our Council!

Council members reflected on the spiritual development and learning of our congregation members. It was agreed that home groups can very strongly contribute to Christian growth. As there are only two active Bible Study/Home groups in our church at present, much more thought will be given to this important point in the coming months.

Following the Chaplain's announcement at the AGM that Holy Trinity would be setting up a "*Community Fridge*" or "*Frigo Solidaire*" at Holy Trinity three congregation members have kindly offered to lead this Outreach initiative. As you may remember, the purpose of a Community Fridge is to help the needy in our local community. General information about this type of initiative can be found in the Wikipedia articles about *Community Fridge* and *Frigo Solidaire*. A meeting will soon be held to discuss the practical organisation of this project.

Christine Salisbury and David Bean were re-admitted as Church Wardens following their re-election at the AGM on 16 April.

The following church members were elected as officers for 2023-2024:
Vice Chair – Robbie Gibson
Treasurer – Bob Hughes
Secretary - Didier Trufanow.

Alice Aupérin was re-appointed as the Church Safeguarding Officer for 2023-2024. The Chaplaincy Safeguarding Policy was read aloud to Council members and was unanimously re-affirmed.

The position of Environmental Link Officer is unfortunately **still vacant** for 2023-2024. Concretely, the Environmental Officer is involved in the following matters:

- (i) leads the Holy Trinity environmental group, which works on reducing our carbon footprint and informing/giving ideas to congregation members,
- (ii) reports to the Church Council (but does not need to be a member) and
- (iii) is in contact with the Diocese.

This role may be taken on by a single individual or perhaps even by a small group of persons. If you would like to help our church contribute to protecting God's creation and improving our practices regarding the environment, please speak to the Chaplain or to a Council member. Thank you!

Joy Van Staalduinen (our virtual Youth Worker) was re-appointed as the Youth Officer. The role of the Youth Officer is to liaise with the Diocese about matters related to youth and children.

Members of the Chaplaincy Council for 2023-2024 :

Revd. Charlotte Sullivan, Alice Aupérin, David Bean, Johanna Devlin, Anna-Danute Dobrovolskis, Jackie Gale, Jenni Gibson, Robbie Gibson, Sylvaine Hughes, Bob Hughes, Beth Jusseume, Angela Labaisse-Brodie, Henry Marshall, Hesry Marshall, Richard Medcalf, Rachel Meuriot, Adrian Parr, Christine Salisbury, Didier Trufanow, Martin Wickenden.

Date of next Chaplaincy Council meeting:

Monday 5 June

The climate crisis can seem overwhelming, but don't despair. Nigel Bartram gives us some basic actions to take some first steps to change. See the 5Rs.

Climageddon



Do you really care for God's creation? If you have children and maybe grandchildren, aren't you bothered about the world **YOU** are bequeathing them? Despite the COP pledges to cut CO₂ emissions, we're on track to 2.7°C above pre-industrial temperatures by 2100. Catastrophically above the +1.5°C Paris ambition. To put +2.7°C in perspective, whilst it's taken centuries for temperatures to increase by just 1.1°C, **us lot are set to cause them to rise by another 1.6°C in less than 80 years!** Don't we have to do all we can to avoid the coming catastrophe? Do please read on.

'Just' +2°C warming would begat **ginormous negatives**, just a few are:

120,000 years ago, it was 2 degrees warmer and sea levels were 5 metres higher than today. **Nearly 500 million people currently live below 5m elevation.** According to the World Bank, **migration would be in the hundreds of millions.** To give some perspective on that, 5 million fled Ukraine and 5½ million the Syrian civil war. So we're looking at **chaos, loss and tragedy some 50 times greater!**

The IPCC* says that at present, 1.8 billion people—just under one-quarter of the world population—live in water-stressed areas, and **this number is expected to grow to about half of the world population by 2030.** This will propel growing and very serious conflicts over access to water.

The FAO** says the number of extreme climate disasters e.g., heat-waves, droughts, floods and storms, has doubled since the early 1990s, causing ever more serious and widespread hunger and famine. It projects that nearly 670 million people, **8% of the world population, will be facing hunger in 2030.**

The EU Commission projects that without a lot more action on climate change, **in the lifetime of our children the EU is very likely to see:**

400,000 premature deaths per year due to air pollution

90,000 annual deaths as a result of heatwaves

40% less available water in southern regions, **including the South of France**, as the Sahara spreads north to encompass Southern Europe. There'll be no more ice in the Arctic

2.2 million people exposed to coastal inundation each year

€190 billion in annual economic losses.

Averting the worst of the climate crisis requires colossal changes, particularly for us in rich countries who've done most to create the impending catastrophe. **Why bother?** Aren't we mere drops in the ocean and it's going to happen anyway?

Three incontestable reasons:

- What will you say come judgement day and God asks what you did to try and save his creation?
- Don't you think our children and grandchildren deserve better?
- It's not a binary thing, disaster or no disaster. The more I, you and everybody else does the less will be the damage.

What can I do?

A great deal! Below you'll find a few key suggestions, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. If you want to do more, I'd love to hear from you. Call me on 06 64 18 32 34 or mail nigel.bartram@varley-bartram.net.

If you haven't done so already, the first step is to measure your carbon footprint (and do so annually). Until we know what our household emissions are, and how they come about, we're in no position to be able to reduce them. There are plenty of online measurement tools to measure and then offset your total carbon footprint annually, whilst working to reduce emissions.

Offset with a reputable organisation (see below). Offsetting the emissions of the average French household costs from €75 p.a. As well as immediately getting to net zero, you can support programmes which improve lives of underprivileged people around the world.

Two websites with great expertise and who operate to very good ethical standards are:

- Offset 'Gold Standard' is run by the WWF and other NGOs:

<https://marketplace.goldstandard.org/collections/projects>

- Carbon Footprint Ltd has the UN, the UK government, many municipalities, and big, socially responsible companies as clients:
<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/carbonoffset.html>

Flying is the most damaging thing you can do to the environment. A person on a Paris-LA return trip, flying direct (stop-overs are worse) will emit 3 tonnes of CO₂ in economy and 5.7 tonnes in business class. That's 55% and 111% respectively of what a single person and French household emits in a year and **over 5 times (10 times) those of the average Senegalese, for example!!!** To stand a chance of being sustainable means a maximum of one short-haul flight every three years and one long-haul return flight every seven.

After the home and transport, consuming meat and animal products is the biggest source of household carbon emissions in rich countries, not least highly damaging methane from cattle. Going vegan could reduce your carbon emissions by 20%. If that's too drastic for you, start by having one or two meat-free days then add more, yummy, preferably plant-based meals. At a time of record high food prices, vegan dishes can save your family many €€€. I'd be delighted to share plenty more recipes.

At the moment we're overusing the Earth's resources at about 180%, meaning that we need 1.8 planets to support our consumption of natural resources. Europe needs 2.8 planets to support current consumption and the US 4 planets. What can we do about it?

To save the earth's natural resources, your money and reduce CO₂ emissions, we need to adopt the 5 Rs of a sustainable lifestyle:

Repair wherever possible. In December 2023, the government is launching a scheme offering from €10-45 towards the repair of electrical goods. A list of approved repairers will be published soon. For more information see Google MaPrimeRénov' and go to the gouv.fr website.

Refurbished phones and computers in place of buying new. You'll save €€€s and precious, irreplaceable natural resources. I'd highly recommend <https://www.backmarket.fr>. The appliances are sold with a guarantee.

Recycling of all paper, plastic etc. is doubtless already in your DNA, but recycling consumes energy and emits carbon, so if you buy bottled water why not just drink tap water, maybe filtered, and for sparkling, invest in a Soda Stream? Compost if you can. Sell, or give to charity all your useable, but unwanted clothes. The supplier of a new electrical good you've bought must take away your old one for recycling.

Reduce the waste you produce by repurposing all you can. Avoid excess packaging wherever you can. Every time you want to buy a consumer product first ask yourself is this absolutely essential? Can I buy second hand or repair it? Do I need to buy yet more stuff! Is there another way?

Reuse shopping bags. A bag for life means just that. Any plastic bags you must use, reuse. Ditto packaging and containers, in order to minimise recycling and purchases. Always use a refillable water bottle in order to avoid single use ones when you're out and about.

See Joan Bauman's article on page 12 for ways of buying clothes and things for the home in ways which are not only kinder to the planet, but your pocket also.

* The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

** United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization

N.B.



Recipes that are good for you and good for the planet by Nigel Bartram. Please share your meatless recipes.

You don't have to eat meat for delicious family meals. Try these and be kind to the planet!

Aubergine vegetable casserole (for 3-4)

Ingredients

1 aubergine, 1 red pepper, 1 onion, 1 courgette, 1 tin of chopped tomatoes, 1 dessert spoon brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of chilli sauce, a few drops of tabasco sauce (if you like it hot), olive oil, breadcrumbs, grated cheese if wanted

Preparation

1. Cut all the vegetables into thin slices.
2. Line a deep (lasagne style) dish with a few drops of olive oil.
3. Layer the vegetables in the dish (as for a lasagne).
4. Pour over the tomatoes, sugar, and (if you want it spicy) add the tabasco and chilli sauce.
5. Bake in the oven 180° for 30-40 mins.
6. Check halfway through and stir, check the seasoning, and add a little water if getting dry.
7. 5 mins before the end, remove from the oven and sprinkle liberally with breadcrumbs and grated cheese. Add salt/pepper to taste.

Serve with baguette to mop up the juices.



Pea and new potato curried casserole (for 3- 4)



Ingredients

2 finely chopped onions, 2cm finely chopped fresh ginger, 2 teaspoons cumin, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 1 teaspoon curry powder, juice of 1 lime, 500 gm very small new potatoes, 300 gm peas, 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh coriander, half a mug of vegetable stock, 1 small pot of natural yoghurt.

Preparation

1. Cook the peas and set aside
2. In a wok or large, deep-frying pan, seise the onions and spices
3. Add the potatoes, lime juice and stock, simmer for 20 mins
4. Add the peas, simmer another 10 mins
5. If necessary adjust the seasoning and check that the potatoes are cooked, if not continue cooking for while longer
6. Stir in the yoghurt and coriander, and serve.

Smoked haddock chowder (for 4)



Ingredients

1 large leek, 1 large onion, 400ml almond milk, 200ml fish stock, 400g potatoes sliced very thinly, 150g tin sweetcorn, 500g smoked haddock fillets. Fresh parsley for decoration.

Preparation

1. Cook potatoes in pan of boiling water for six minutes and drain in colander - leave to steam dry for a few minutes
2. Pre-cook haddock in microwave and remove skin. Chop fish into bite sized pieces
3. Layer ingredients in large oven casserole (lasagna type dish)
4. Cover with foil and cook for about an hour in pre-heated oven at 180°C
5. Turn mixture over, check that it doesn't dry out.

N.B.

*How can we become informed consumers that help our planet?
Joan Bauman gives her viewpoint.*

Another way to help the planet!

There are many places online where one can purchase 'vintage' clothing. It's not always secondhand, either. Sometimes it's just unused, or even simply unsold. Think, for example, of something given to you that is beautiful and expensive, maybe even rare or one-of-a-kind. But when you try it on, it's too tight, too short, too long, too small, too large, too scratchy, too thin, or just not the right colour. You put it in your closet, where it disappears. Next time you have a clear-out, you put it up for sale on ebay or etsy or le bon coin, and sooner or later someone sees it and snatches it up, delighted! "Just what I've always wanted!" says the buyer! Everyone is pleased!

Or think of a shop that has years of stock from when it went out of business. Or that gaudy cardigan your mother-in-law gave to your husband that he never wore past the day he received it.

Online buying is fairly well protected. Sellers that don't send the merchandise are not paid until the buyer has received it. Buyers that don't pay on time lose out on their purchase, unless they have contacted the seller to explain that there will be a delay.

For clothing, usually sellers will post many different photos, as well as a detailed description and the exact measurements. This takes most of the guesswork out of purchasing. And sellers are generally quite happy to answer any questions. In fact, one can encounter some delightful people in the world at large, for sales are made from all around the globe. And not just clothing, but nearly anything! Watches and clocks, dishes, automotive parts, books, vitamins, ancient artefacts, jewelry, knick-knacks, cosmetic items, perfumes, and even food items. The only thing that is not sold on ebay and etsy is live plants and animals. But on Craig's list and Le Bon Coin, even plants and animals are sold.

One can often find identical items for very different prices, as private sellers and business sellers may all propose their wares. And there are many charities and thrift shops which offer their items online.

Some sellers offer only a few items. Professional brocanteurs often have a few hundred items. In Germany, where reusing clothing is very popular, there are several gigantic sites with up to 30,000 articles of clothing. In the UK, the Cancer Research online shop offers around 30,000 articles, too, though these include anything that has been donated and can be sold, as well as clothing.

The seller may choose to list his items at a flat fee - "Buy Now", or as an auction with an ending date, hour, minute and second. Often, if an article doesn't sell quickly enough, the seller might add the option "Make Offer". Some sellers have built up quite a following of online viewers, making the bidding very fierce for certain articles. When I first discovered ebay many years ago, I saw a beautiful sky blue ceramic object starting off the 2 weeks of bidding at 1€. I put in a bid of 2€, and watched with interest as more and more people discovered the listing and joined in the bidding. At one point, when the bidding passed 500€, I realized that it was a very rare item. It sold for over 3200,00€, with some very stiff competitive bidding in the final 2 minutes. Very elucidating for a newcomer!

Once you are used to the process of buying and selling, you can ferret out some really good deals, and come up with some excellent buys for a tiny fraction of retail prices.

Many of the available items are in vogue, not necessarily 'vintage' or out of date. But if you know what types of garments tend to look good on you, then you can find lovely classic designer clothing that is always in style. Or, if you like to innovate and to try out new things, you can indulge your whims and enjoy things that are new to you while giving a helping hand to the planet!

One delightful aspect of buying online using ebay and etsy is that sellers may offer their items worldwide, and one can meet some lovely people that way!

Worldwide shipping costs may be a bit high and duty fees are sometimes added on, but this is not always the case. Strangely, items from Canada cost a fraction of the price to ship to France as compared with US postal charges, and with no additional duty fees, whereas US and now UK purchases have a hefty percentage tacked on. Shipping from Japan to France is often free!

J.B.

If you have any old, worn out pens
you can put them in a collection box in the Sunday school rooms
and we will donate them to the charity www.soligalgos.org
who can recycle them
and give abandoned Spanish greyhounds
new lives as therapy dogs.

Thank you!

An up-date about our Youth Group by Jo Devlin

Sunday Youth Group

Sunday Youth group usually attracts between 14 and 18 teens who seem very happy to meet and share their faith face to face. In order for the church to grow, Youth Group on Sundays is a real investment for the Church and it comes to me as no surprise that youth ministry is such a priority for the future of Holy Trinity Church.

I believe my role as a youth leader is to develop the kids' relationship with the Lord and prepare them to serve Christ in all they do in a fun way. Taking my role very seriously, I believe my three main missions during Youth on Sundays are discipleship, spiritual instruction and last but not least, relationships . As a result, I really think that, if done well, these missions nurture the congregation and allow the church to flourish.

I have been very lucky to have Gillian's help on most Sundays which is great! The kids love her and we usually have a lot of fun all together.

For the rest of the school year, I will be focusing on the Gospels with the help of a great game that was kindly offered to us by Chamberlain, Emma Lunn's husband, called "*Bible in a box*". It is fun, engaging, memorable and accessible for everyone.

The end of 2022 was marked by the confirmation of a great group of teens, including me. I feel so privileged to have shared the preparation course with them and to see my faith grow with theirs. I think this was one of the best moments we shared this school year which definitely contributed to strengthen our group's dynamic.

J.D.





Max Desmeulles and Zoë Lucas share their experience of First Communion. Their personal accounts reinforce how important it is to spiritually nourish our young people & to support their teachers.

My first Communion

We started the course in September. There were 6 of us: Zoë, Nnenna, Kwamea, Maria, Ellis and me (Max). I really liked doing my first communion as we talked a lot, played games, made things and heard many stories of Jesus and his life. Angela, Rachel and Jackie prepared many fun activities, so the classes were fun to do. My favourite part was being able to talk and share things with the group.

On the day, Charlotte made us all feel really special. We had to do a short drama and read in church. We got to stand around the alter while Charlotte prepared the table for communion. I loved the fact she had got real bread for our first communion. I preferred this bread to the normal communion bread.

It was a fantastic first communion as my Grandmother and both my God-parents were there to see it. We then went home and had a really lovely lunch with everyone.

Thank you to Angela, Rachel, Jackie and Charlotte for teaching us and telling us all about Jesus and why we take communion.

M.D.

“I liked learning more about Jesus and the Bible. I am happy I can eat the communion bread with my family.”

Z.L.



HTML was blessed to have the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, visit in March as related by Judy Allan Poggi.

Archbishop's visit to Holy Trinity Church



It was with much excitement and, indeed, some trepidation that Holy Trinity Church Maisons-Laffitte welcomed the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, his wife Rebecca and his team on Sunday 26th March as guest preacher at the Sung Eucharist service. Under the auspices of Charlotte Sullivan, Reverend and Area Dean for north-west France, all hands were willingly on deck for days before in preparation of his Grace's visit to this Anglican church 15 kms west of Paris where a very warm welcome was extended. All stops were pulled out (including those of the organ, also on best behaviour) for this joyous event and the formal hush and palpable expectancy quickly gave way to an informal communion of active participation and genuine interest. From the very start, the energetic,

highly charismatic and extremely communicative Archbishop of York set the tone by sitting and talking humbly with the children giving us a foretaste of his religious enlightenment punctuated with his infectious sense of humour.

Preaching on Passion Sunday, the congregation was mesmerised as Stephen talked about the cross representing Jesus' outstretched arms symbolizing his overwhelming love for us all as he embraces both our joys and our sorrows. We were reminded from the gospel reading about his dear friend Lazarus through whom Jesus identifies with our own personal tragedies as humans and his weeping both when he arrives in Jerusalem and in the garden of Gethsemane reflecting our own pain when we shed tears for the terrible injustices of the world and for our own struggle to be reconciled to the will of God. God's all-embracing love is our guide, our compass, our anchor when he reaches out and walks with us in our hopes and our dreams and holds our hand when we despair and weep. The service ended in the knowledge that we were privileged to have shared this profoundly spiritual moment in the company of such an inspirational and magnetic modern-day evangelist.



We were all welcome at the Lord's table afterwards when a bevy of church angels laid on a spread worthy of a King – and an Archbishop – and a delicious buffet of finger food was enjoyed by everyone as Stephen, Rebecca, Mark and Jenny mingled and chatted with the congregation. Fellowship, conviviality and warmth overflowed, typical of both Holy Trinity Maisons-Laffitte's reputation for hospitality and of our eminent guest who touched everyone by his word and his presence, this magnanimous messenger of God amongst our realms.

J.A.P.



Elizabeth Bean tells us "a small body of determined spirits can alter the course of history."

Talk by Christopher W. Robillard - author of "Captain and Mrs Jones"

The majority of the congregation of Holy Trinity Church will be aware that we have in our midst Noreen Riols, who worked with the Special Operations Executive, an initiative of Winston Churchill, during World War II. (A report of the presentation of an MBE to Noreen appeared in the Easter edition of Trinity Times.) The purpose of the SOE was to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe. Others who have worshipped at Holy Trinity were also involved in this organisation.

There is on the wall a plaque that commemorates the Jones family, two of whom, Sydney and his wife, Rose-Marie, also worked for the SOE during the War. Sydney's father, Charles, was a contemporary of Jay Gould, the benefactor who gave land and money for the building of our beautiful Church. Mr Jones Senior was Church Warden and Church Treasurer. Sydney Jones and his wife, Rose-Marie, are the subject of a book authored by Christopher W. Robillard and entitled "Captain and Mrs Jones".

On a recent Saturday afternoon, we had the pleasure of hearing Mr Robillard talk about his book. This visit had been organised by Adrian Parr who has been researching the names on the plaques and in the stained glass above the altar. Unfortunately Adrian fell ill with the Covid virus. Having entertained Mr and Mrs Robillard the day before the talk, he was unable to be present at the talk itself! David Bean acted as animator in his stead.

Those who were present learnt much from the talk and several copies of the book were sold. Mr Robillard was more than happy to sign and dedicate each copy, and he also left with David a signed copy for the Mayor of Maisons-Laffitte, Mr Myard, with whom the author had had contact.

The book is more than a biography of the Jones family inasmuch as in addition to accounts of the acts of espionage in which Captain Jones and his wife engaged, there are short biographies of other people who had links with Holy Trinity Church. One such was Vera Leigh. There is a plaque in the Church commemorating her. Vera's sister, Francis, worshipped at Holy Trinity Church until her death in the early years of this century. Members of the Leigh family still live in Maisons Laffitte. Recently a place (outside the restaurant La Forêt) on the road between the town and Le Mesnil le Roi, was named after her.

In his book Mr Robillard also included a short biography of Major Barry Lynham. Patrick Gautier-Lynham, who is responsible for organising the sides-people at the services in the Church, is related to him. Should anyone who wasn't present at the talk wish to purchase a copy of the book, the author assured us that he will happily sell the book by post. We have his email address if it is required.

E.B.

“Get used to different!” “Come & see!” Katrin Dubreuil testifies to the powerful impact of this series.

The Chosen



April, 2021 - seeking to find a way to celebrate Easter in the midst of another lockdown, I realised there was perhaps no better moment to watch a movie (or four) about the life of Jesus. I began with *The Gospel of John* (2003), which despite my low expectations actually turned out to be quite good! Henry Ian Cusick as Jesus had a joy in his voice and a sparkle in his eye that struck a chord. Next, I tried *Risen* (2016) starring Cliff Curtis

as Jesus, whose warmth and gentleness struck another chord. Hmm. I proceeded with *Mary Magdalene* (2018), featuring Joaquin Phoenix as Jesus. This one was ... different, but Joaquin’s pathos while carrying the cross was so powerful that I still remember it.

I threw in *Paul, Apostle of Christ* (2018) for good measure and thought, “WOW, if only there were an actor able to embody Jesus as well as James Faulkner embodies Paul.”

Full disclosure: up to that point in my life, Jesus had always seemed like a stained-glass window to me - distant, enigmatic, too perfect to approach (this stood in sharp contrast to God the Father, who felt delightfully close ever since my life-changing “reconversion” a year earlier). But that impression was about to change. Leading up to Easter of 2021, I became aware of a tremendous pull towards God the Son; my sudden “Jesus movie” impulse was no coincidence. In hindsight, I can only think of how perfectly John 6:44 captures what was going on: *no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.*

A few weeks later, I came across a review of *The Chosen*, the first-ever multi-season television series based on Jesus’ ministry from the perspective of His disciples. I’d pretty much exhausted the Jesus film genre, so I figured why not?

Well. One hour later, as the credits rolled after episode one, I found myself sobbing into the arm of the sofa. Bawling, actually. Making strange guttural sounds I never made before or since. This was no ordinary TV show. A ray of blinding light had broken through my mental fog and for the first time in my whole life, Jesus seemed to be standing in the room, looking straight at me with eyes full of love. And the rest is history.

Something about the approachability of *The Chosen's* Jesus as portrayed by actor Jonathan Roumie, himself a devout Christian, makes you want to *run*, not walk, towards the Lord. His pitch-perfect performance expresses a wondrous truth: Jesus wasn't cold and distant, He was warm and welcoming. He lived among us as a flesh-and-blood man who laughed and cried, who got tired and hungry, who sweated in the heat and shivered in the cold - yet who also healed the sick, purified lepers, cast out demons, and walked on water.

As for my own walk with the Lord, it has been utterly transformed thanks in large part to this series. By helping to dissolve the distinction between seeking Jesus with my mind and seeking Him with my heart, *The Chosen* did for me what its creator Dallas Jenkins intends it to do for the whole world: encourage us to dig into Scripture and to reach for Jesus Himself.

Yes, *The Chosen* takes a fair amount of creative license, but its north star is always plausibility within the message of the Gospel. How is plausibility judged? The show's writers are assisted by a team of Biblical consultants composed of a Catholic priest, an Evangelical New Testament professor, and a Messianic rabbi. All of them love the Lord and want the show to be authentic while motivating people to pick up their Bibles.

As someone who was born on the Gen X-Millennial cusp, I can say with all confidence that *The Chosen* has come to the right place at the right time. Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Or as Dallas Jenkins has said, *Get used to different*. God knows how to reach each generation, and I believe with my whole heart that He is empowering *The Chosen's* team to work through today's preferred communication channel - i.e., visual and social media - to reach millions of people. This crowd-funded series is changing lives; it has changed mine.

If you haven't given *The Chosen* a chance, I cannot urge you strongly enough to do so. The Apostle Philip said it best: "COME AND SEE" (John 1:46).

K.D.

Look out for an account of the Coronation of King Charles III in the Autumn issue of Trinity Times...



If you are looking for a different holiday destination within France, look no further. Visit Marseille with Edith Briard.

If you are looking for a short tourist break why not head for Marseille?

A more relaxed tempo, friendly people, plenty to see and do, sunshine - Marseille has it all.

Because it is the focus of attention from land or sea , pride of place has to be given to “la bonne mère”. Notre Dame de la Garde stands alone above a belt of trees and dominates the Vieux Port. By day the golden Virgin reflects the sun, by night the hill and the basilica shine with illuminations. Built in 1864 on the site of earlier chapels and a fortress, the church is decorated with beautiful byzantine-style mosaics. From here you have a panoramic view of the city and coast.

Secondly you have a whole choice of museums! The two newest are a must: the Mucem (Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée) and the Grotte Cosquer, both situated inside the grounds of the Fort St Jean which once defended the entrance to the harbour. My favourite is the Grotte Cosquer: the replica of a chain of recently discovered underwater caves which will soon be totally submerged by the rising sea level. Because it has been left completely undisturbed the rock art, often much older than that of Lascaux, looks as though it has only recently been painted. As it dates from the end of the ice age and the cave was then near the sea, it depicts maritime life – and even a pair of penguins!



Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to do any shopping, but visited just two shops. One, the Maison Empereur is a very big 'quincaillerie', dating from 1824 with a range of goods which leaves you breathless. The second is also an institution in Marseille. In one of the old streets the picturesque Le Père Blaise, a 'herboristerie-pharmacie' founded in 1815, is now threatened with removal. Its stock of herbs is so complete and so well-known that it exports world-wide.

Last but definitely not least, Marseille is a port and the Marseillais are proud of their maritime heritage. You can go by ferry to the Calanques, to the Château d'If or the Frioule archipelago; ex voto models of ships are suspended in 'la bonne mère'; a bouillabaisse or a bourride are a tourist must (about 65€ for a genuine one, all the same) ... and with patriotic enthusiasm the Marseillais proudly claim ownership of the sardine that blocked the port of Marseille.

All this wrapped in sunshine, helpful friendliness and a general lack of stress.

E.B.



Deadline for Autumn issue of Trinity Times: 25 August

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.

Dates for your diary

15 May & every Monday evening. **NEW** — **Bible Study for Women** 8.15—9.30 pm

The format will be pretty simple: studying a book of the Bible or a Christian book, with willing volunteers taking it in turns to facilitate discussion based on the questions provided.

There's no obligation to come to the Zoom every week if you're not able to make it. We will also meet physically from time to time too for food and fellowship.

Contact: office@htcml.com for details.

27 May Church Summer Fête 10.30 am—3.30 pm

5 June Council Meeting

17 June Messy Church 2—5 pm

*Keep an eye on our website for service times and events:
<https://htcml.com/>*



*The Trinity Times committee would like to thank
Shantha Delaunay for the beautiful cover design of this issue*