



Trinity Times Easter 2025

Holy Trinity Church, Maisons-Laffitte.
Donation 3 Euros

Who Does What

Chaplain	Rev'd. Charlotte Sullivan 06 83 08 59 67
Assistant	Rev'd. Vivian Sockett
Reader	Richard Medcalf

Church Wardens	David Bean and Angela Labaisse- Brodie
Church Council Secretary	Rachel Meuriot
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	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	
Lesson Readers	
Little Fishes	office@htcml.com Coffee morning every Tuesday at 9.30 am for
Organist	Joan Bauman

Activity	Contact person
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin
Scouting	contact@maisons-
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier-
Sunday Groups	LJ Desmeulles
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity English	trinityenglishml
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Web Site	office@htcml.com
Youth Group	Jo Devlin
Bible Study	
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Wednesday evening	by Zoom

Chaplain's Corner



There's something special about Easter morning, isn't there? Even if it's still a bit chilly, there's this feeling in the air—like the world itself is stretching, waking up, and getting ready to celebrate the best news ever: He is risen!

But if we're honest, we don't always arrive at Easter feeling particularly joyful or faith-filled. Maybe life's been a bit much lately. Maybe you're just tired. Or maybe you gave up chocolate for Lent and now all you can think about is how soon you can get your hands on an Easter egg. We know Easter is about Jesus' victory over death, but sometimes that hope feels a bit distant—like something we nod along

to rather than something that actually changes our day-to-day lives.

But here's the thing: Easter comes anyway.

And that's good news—because the first Easter was an absolute mess.

No one was ready for it. No one had planned a celebration. The disciples weren't outside the tomb at sunrise singing hymns, waiting for Jesus to step out in victory. No, they were hiding—afraid, grieving, convinced that everything had gone horribly wrong.

The women at the tomb? Confused and devastated. The guys on the road to Emmaus? So caught up in their own disappointment that they didn't even recognise Jesus Himself walking beside them. Imagine that—having a deep discussion about how all your hopes have been crushed, and the person you're talking about is literally right there, alive and well.

And yet, Jesus showed up anyway.

That's what He does. He meets people in their doubt, their fear, their exhaustion. He doesn't wait for them to get their act together or to understand what's going on. He simply comes to them.

And He does the same with us today.

Because Easter isn't just about what happened back then—it's about what's happening now. The resurrection isn't just a story from 2,000 years ago; it's a reality we're invited to live in. It means that no matter how broken things feel, God is still at work bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, and second chances where we thought all hope was lost.

And let's be honest—sometimes life feels a bit like Good Friday. Sometimes we sit in the waiting of Holy Saturday, unsure if things will ever get better. But Easter still comes.

So, if you're feeling full of Easter joy this year—fantastic! Sing the hymns, eat the chocolate, celebrate! But if you're struggling, if life feels heavy—that's okay too. Jesus meets us exactly where we are, no fanfare required.

And the good news? The tomb is still empty. Hope is still rising. And whatever happens next, we don't face it alone.

Christ is risen. And that changes everything.

Rev'd. Charlotte Sullivan



Church Chaplaincy Council

Update March 2025

Your Chaplaincy Council has been kept very busy since the previous update last September. Here are some of the issues which have come under discussion at Council meetings:

Rev'd Vivian's departure

As you will know, Rev'd Vivian Sockett will be leaving us shortly to take up a new and exciting opportunity at St Michael's Church in Paris. This has required us at Holy Trinity to engage in a considerable number of administrative processes and many hours of discussion have been necessary on the part of Council in order to ensure that the decisions made are beneficial to all. Council is extremely grateful to Vivian for all she has helped us achieve during her time at Holy Trinity and we wish her every success in the future.

Strategy

One of Vivian's major contributions to our church has been to accompany us on our strategy journey. Since coming up with our church's vision statement last year, Council has devoted a significant amount of time and energy to ensuring that new proposals being tabled and decisions being made are all in line with our strategic goals.

Council continues to analyse the decision-making process to ensure that the organisation of events in all areas of our church life remains in line with our vision. This has enabled us to draw up a calendar of events for the 2024-2025 year which is far more intentional than it has been in previous years. As a result of lengthy Council discussion, existing events such as the "Bring and Share" lunches are becoming more focussed and new events have been instigated such as "Blue Christmas" and "Carols by Candlelight" for Christmas 2024 and also the "Iron and Fire" men's group or the "Parenting Teenagers" course.

Council has also “debriefed” after many of these new events in order to assess their effectiveness in helping us achieve the goals arising from our vision statement.

Children’s ministry

One specific goal which came out of last year’s strategy process was the intentional growing of our children’s Sunday groups with a quantified goal for increasing the number of children attending. Much discussion has been devoted to ways of potentially achieving this goal and this has led Council to rethink the role and organisation of the service on the first Sunday of each month. Previously known as the “All Age service” this has now become “Discover Church” and the format has been modified in a way which it is hoped will help us attract more families with younger children. Growth is already being seen, and we pray this will continue.

Council is acutely aware that this reworking of our Children’s ministry will necessarily require resourcing, particularly in terms of people, and this is an issue which continues to be discussed regularly and for which solutions are actively being researched.

Safeguarding

This highly important issue figures on the agenda of every Council meeting and remains central to every decision made. A great deal of time is devoted to ensuring that our church remains a place where everyone feels safe at all times. Council is extremely grateful for all the work done by our Safeguarding Officer, Alice Aupérin, to make sure that everything we do is undertaken in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding policy and practices.

Finance

Of course, no Council meeting would be complete without a mention of our finances! Our church’s financial situation is constantly being

monitored by our Treasurer Bob Hughes, in order to ensure that we are making the best use of the resources we have been granted and maximising their potential to help us move toward the strategic goals arising out of our vision statement.

Future topics

Lastly, the Council is already looking ahead to future discussions, and upcoming meetings will include an in-depth look at the best way to move forward on the subject of fabric and grounds. Many of you will have noticed that the upkeep and maintenance of our church and its lovely garden is a vast undertaking requiring many hours of work. Council is therefore going to be looking at ways to ensure that this work is done efficiently and equitably in order to preserve our place of worship for many years to come.

Rachel M.

*"Ladder to Heaven" sculpture
in the forêt domaniale de Roumare
near Rouen.*



Whom Do You Seek?

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” – Saint Augustine

“I have climbed highest mountains, I have run through the fields. Only to be with you. I have run, I have crawled. I have scaled these city walls. Only to be with you. But I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.” – U2

To be human is to yearn. Deep down, we all sense there is something missing; we are not whole, and we know it. Perhaps that is why great epics like *The Odyssey*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, or *The Lord of the Rings* enjoy such enduring success. We love stories about quests because we are all on one of our own, even if we struggle to name precisely that which we seek. Love? Fame? Fortune? For a time perhaps, but these things cannot satisfy us for long. And so, we go looking for other solutions. We travel; we change jobs; we add a diploma or two; we move someplace else; we try the latest trend; we buy the hottest gadget; we master a new skill; we join a new club; we give self-improvement a whirl.... Alas, none of these does the trick, either; that gnawing, existential hunger remains as ravenous as ever. What could possibly satiate it?

The answer lies in the question. It’s not *what* but rather *who*? God has set nothing less than eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Therefore, who can suffice save God Himself? In the words of the 14th century mystic Richard Rolle, “Since the human soul is capable of receiving God alone, nothing less than God can fill it; which explains why lovers of earthly things are never satisfied.”

Lest we be deterred by God’s physical hiddenness, He makes it clear that He *wants* to be found by all those who truly desire to do so: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you” (Jeremiah 29:13-14). It is hardly any wonder, then, that the Gospels are filled with examples of people fervently searching for—and finding—Jesus. And without exception, they come away changed.

First, the Magi. Seeking the King of the Jews, they travel from the east all the way to Bethlehem. After coming face to face with God in the flesh, they cannot simply resume their former lives. Thus, when Matthew the Evangelist tells us that the Magi return to their country “by another route,” he is surely referring both to a change of heart as well as to a change of road.

Second, Mother Mary. Having lost sight of 12-year-old Jesus in the commotion of a Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph spend three panic-stricken days searching high and low for their son—only to find Him discussing theology with the rabbis in the temple courts. “Why were you searching for me?” He asks. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” Mary must surely have realized in that moment the bittersweet truth that Jesus was no longer her little boy, but had stepped across a threshold from which there would be no going back.

Third, Mary of Magdala. After remaining by the cross until the last agonizing moment, Mary wants nothing more than to anoint Jesus’ body at the crack of dawn on Sunday. Finding the tomb open and its inner chamber empty, she alerts John and Peter, follows them back to the site, and stays behind to mourn after they have left. Through her tears, she hears footsteps behind her. Then, a warm and familiar voice asks, “Woman, why do you weep? Whom do you seek?” What inexpressible joy to recognize Jesus, no longer dead but brimming with life. Commissioned as the first to share the Good News, Mary is a new woman.

Whom do *you* seek? Jesus is always eager to be found, yet is seldom what anyone expects. The Wise Men went looking for a child dressed in the trappings of an earthly king and found instead the King of heaven, wrapped in humble swaddling clothes. Mary and Joseph went looking for their son and found instead the Son of the Father, perfectly at home in the temple. Mary Magdalene went looking for the body of her beloved rabbi and found instead the risen Savior of the world.

King. Servant. Son. Rabbi. Savior. Jesus is all of these titles and infinitely more. He is the One our souls crave; He is the One we come to church thirsting for; and He is the One who fixes His divine eyes upon each of us and asks the same question He once asked His followers: “But who do *you* say that I am?”

How shall we answer? Is Jesus a great moral teacher? A miracle-worker? A prophet? A holy man? Or does He transcend all of these things? Can we be courageous enough to admit that, to paraphrase the Indigo Girls, we’ve gone to the doctor; we’ve gone to the mountains; we’ve looked to the children; we’ve drunk from the fountains ... all in a vain attempt to satisfy our desires with earthly things while ignoring the pursuit of the One?

If we have ever shared the doubts of Apostle Thomas, then let us also share his ultimate faith. Let us meet Jesus' loving gaze with our own and profess like Peter, like Martha, like Thomas, like Mary, that He is the one and only Messiah, our Lord and our God—the true object of our yearning, the true goal of our life-long quest, the true key that unlocks the meaning of our story. The Alpha and the Omega. Jesus is the One we seek. And Jesus is the One who has been seeking us all along.

Katrin D.



Rev'd Vivian's Farewell

It feels like I've only just started to get to know the wonderful group of God's people at Holy Trinity and already I have to say good-bye. But what memories I will take with me – so much to be thankful for!

Friendship and growing together

I've loved getting to know so many of you – thank you for opening your hearts and lives to welcome me into your very special community. It's been an immense privilege to walk with you in growth steps, both yours and mine, as we've gotten to know each other.



Thank you for bearing with me as I've taken up new roles in church life, first as deacon and then priest. It's funny to still be learning so much at my late stage of life... but I think it probably also helps keep me younger in my head and heart! My thanks especially to Revd Charlotte for your patience and fine example of service, love and leadership.

One of my great joys lately has been seeing new people coming into the church. But if you ever feel stuck on the fringes, I understand some of your challenges trying to find a place in an established community. Sometimes it takes an 'insider' giving us a helping hand with some of the implicit or seemingly 'secret' practices, doesn't it?

Keys and how to use them

Back on one early autumn day in my first year at Holy Trinity, as I struggled to use my key in the side door of the church, I thought how ironic it was that, although I'd been given the key to the church, I still couldn't get in. My discouragement, as I looked at that solid, unmoving wooden door, felt like a metaphor for my struggle to integrate.

And then someone took pity on me. Taking the key from my hand, she showed me that it took two hands: "press here, pull here, gently rock the key until it turns...". Oh, right.

Courage and trust

It's tough to hand over keys, but it's even tougher to pass on the inside knowledge and 'family' history that lets someone fully in. I'm grateful to Rev'd Charlotte and the Standing Committee for taking a deep breath and doing exactly that, by inviting me to lead the Vision & Strategy process on behalf of the Ministry Team. Scary, with lots of unknowns, and requiring quite an investment of time by Council.

Thank you, Council members, for your trust, your patience and, most importantly, your collaboration. As you shared stories from the past and hopes for the future, I began to love Holy Trinity in a new way. As I heard from you, we thought together about how to make those dreams for the church a reality, strategically adapted to and reflecting this decade.

Something old, something new

Living with the realities of being an Anglican church in a post-Brexit, digital age isn't the most obvious thing but it is doable and it's been exciting to see Holy Trinity doing it. The world has changed and yet, there is such history to cherish. There is also such talent and gifting coming through the door every Sunday morning.

Melding the old and the new takes a willingness to try new things, to adapt, and then to try again without recriminations, and without losing a core identity. I hope and pray that we've been managing to do that, and that the current sense of energy continues to grow.

There really is no limit to how much we might grow in wisdom and in understanding of everything to do with God and this life He's given us, is there? Yet within all that growing, there are things which don't change: the most essential, immutable blocks are God Himself and our need for Him as Lord and Saviour of our lives, as tender and loving Father, shepherd and friend of our souls.

Hope and a final blessing

Perhaps a final word. Dear friends, I believe that God works powerfully when we embrace the hard work of learning how to function as one body, learning and listening to Him (at least in part) by learning to listen to one another. The temptations to self-isolate or attack are great, but God calls us to allow the 'iron sharpens iron' (Proverbs 27:17) moments to shape us and remove our rough edges, in spite of how uncomfortable that refining is.

I'm incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities to experience with so many of you this meshing and refining of our lives before God. We've laughed, occasionally cried, had sparks of inspiration, and survived our few frustrations. Whether on a Sunday morning, a mid-week Bible Study or one of the many ministry or church management meetings, it's these deeper shared moments which I will take away as my fondest memories. Thank you for enriching my life with your own.

As we go our separate ways, a final blessing: May the God of all eternity continue to guide and strengthen you, may He make you attentive to His voice, and keep you in His ways, so that together, in all that you say and do, you may reflect Him both within and without. In the name of Christ and for His glory, Amen.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26.

First Communion

Since November 2024 ten children aged 8 to 11 have been preparing to take Holy Communion for the first time. They will be doing this during the Palm Sunday service at Holy Trinity on 13 April.

Using a 12 unit programme ("Welcome to the Lord's Table" by Margaret Withers), a team of teachers and helpers have been taking it in turns to lead them. At the time of writing we have learned about Baptism, God's family, God's storybook, Jesus' friends and there are several more fun topics to come - no spoilers ;) !

The children are interested and attentive in class and enjoy learning and sharing the basic elements of the Christian faith together. They have an activity book to complete at the end of every lesson which will be a personal record of their time preparing to take Holy Communion.

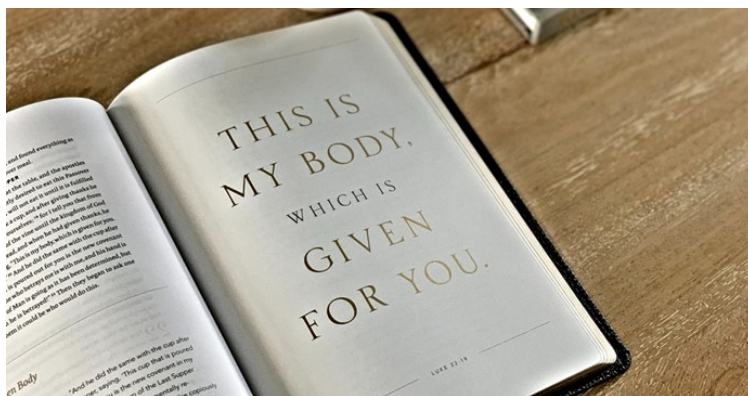
There is a notice board in their classroom which you are welcome to come and look at if you would like to see what we have been doing.

If you would like to pray for the children by name, please speak to one of the staff involved (Beth, Carolyn, Fiona D., Hesry, Jackie and Rachel I).

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Angela for organising the rota and teaching material for this course, and also to Alice for all her hard work behind the scenes to make events such as this possible.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Carolyn F.



More News from Sunday School

Our Epiphany Discovery Club began under a starry sky where we heard the story of the Wise men who travelled from afar. Many were surprised to learn that they took nearly two years to arrive, and that the visit to the stable didn't happen as told in the Nativity. We discovered what the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh symbolised, and Reverend Vivian invited us to smell the different incense. We were unsure of myrrh, but we all agreed that the gold incense was pleasant to smell. After a good dance, we then returned to the light and the children had the opportunity to complete a variety of activities. They enjoyed planting a bulb, making bookmarks, creating a candle holder, designing crowns, decorating and eating the biscuits (of course), and finally writing a thank you note to someone special. Everyone had a busy time and there was a buzz of excitement throughout the morning. It was a real team effort, and we felt that we were all rewarded by the smiles on the children's faces and the happy parents who collected them at the end of the morning. We were delighted to see many familiar faces alongside some unfamiliar ones, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to **our next Discovery club on 11 May**.



Other Sunday School news: our new-look family service seems to be a popular addition to the church calendar. The Sunday School children and Youth have been responsible for readings, playing musical instruments and demonstrating action songs. We are hoping that their participation in the first of the month services will grow.

L.J.D.

Adrian's Memories of Rockets and Explosions

As I walked from Kingsway to Waterloo, on 7 July 2005, with police sirens wailing all around - the 20th anniversary will soon be upon us - I reflected that it was probably the worst malevolent act visited on London since the final V2 rockets fell, in March 1945. March 2025 is thus the 80th anniversary of those earlier events.

Let us take a step back in the chronology: 8 September 2024 was the 80th anniversary of the *first* V2 rocket falling on Chiswick, London, in the early evening.

My late father told a story of one of his mother's sisters, Rose Fuller, who was employed by the Post Office somewhere in that part of London. The V2 (unlike the V1 flying bomb, known as the "doodlebug" or DIVER), was supersonic, which meant that you heard or felt the effects of its explosion on impact - if you were still alive - BEFORE you actually heard the sound of the approaching rocket itself. It seems that on one occasion there was a BIG BEN incident, as they were called, when a V2 impacted somewhere near where great-aunt Rose was working, and all the customers immediately ran out of the Post Office. Dad said she was more worried about being left alone with a large sum of money behind the counter, than from the actual rocket explosion! (I remember a 1970s TV series set in London which portrayed an incident exactly like this: I'd *love* to know now what the programme was called).

My parents both saw the consequences of the V1s and V2s. My dad described all the leaves blown off the trees when a V2 had impacted close to the BELLS OF OUSELEY pub nearly Windsor. On a clear day, my mum actually *saw* a V2 fly overhead. As the daughter of a Post Office telephones engineer, she described, not unreasonably, that she had seen "a flying telegraph pole". I believe her mother roundly admonished her for telling fibs, but the truth later became clear. (Indeed, I have read the same description in one of Lewis Blake's books, below). On another occasion, she was somewhere near a factory where, she said, one had impacted. Some men rode out on bicycles, one-handed, steering the *empty* bicycles of dead or injured colleagues with their other hand. A dreadful spectacle.

In 1994, I spent a frantic summer exploring the London area before my then job relocated to Yorkshire. The great city had featured at different moments in all four of my grandparents' lives. Searching a south-east London street for where my mum's father had lived his first years, I was disappointed to find that the final houses of a long Victorian terrace, where Grandad had spent his boyhood, had been replaced by a utilitarian block of flats. A subsequent visit to a local history library revealed that the immediate neighbourhood had been violently demolished by a V2 in February 1945. Fortunately for my grandad's family at

least, they had moved out in the 1920s. Granddad had already seen Gotha bombers fly over south-east London in about 1917.

London and Antwerp are remembered as the principal targets of the V2, with thousands of casualties in both cases. In 2009, I visited Antwerp and explored one of the outlying 19th-century forts. (We may recall here that Winston Churchill went to help with the defence of Antwerp in 1914). In this old fort, extant V-weapon damage could still be seen.

It is possibly not widely realised, but the first *operational* V2 actually fell near Paris. If the Space Age began in Britain at Chiswick, in France it began at Maisons-Alfort, and several hours *earlier*. The incident that morning, with several fatalities, many injuries, and localised destruction, is described at 8 septembre 1944, Paris cible du V2 – A la découverte des vestiges des Armes allemandes (armes-v.com). I took a photo of the neighbourhood as it is today; I have worked in the town for many years (see next page).

In September 2024 we also remembered the 80th anniversary of Operation MARKET GARDEN, the attempt to seize river bridges in the Netherlands and thus to foreshorten World War II in western Europe. Over the preceding summer, I had read Anthony Beevor's book, ARNHEM: THE BATTLE FOR THE BRIDGES, 1944. The author makes clear that the overall plan was flawed, and no amount of individual tenacity and heroism could compensate.

As an 18-year-old, I had been a member of a group of Air Training Corps cadets on a summer camp at Royal Air Force Station Laarbruch, then in West Germany. We were taken by RAF bus over the nearby Dutch border to see the districts where the fighting took place - the Hartenstein hotel and (the now CWGC cemetery) at Oosterbeek. At the latter, we were disturbed to see graves of British soldiers of the same age as some of us. We also visited Nijmegen; many years later, I returned there. Standing on an eminence on the south bank of the river Waal, it is possible to see Arnhem with the naked eye. Any Allied soldier in September 1944 who had managed to do the same, without getting shot, would presumably have been close enough to have seen the smoke rising from the battle.

In the same way as Maisons-Alfort is a little-known but important footnote in the history of the V2, so is MARKET GARDEN. In BOLTS FROM THE BLUE, Lewis Blake makes the following important points (pp 8-9):

"[...] MARKET GARDEN ... brought an immediate, albeit temporary, relief to London. Fearing that they would be cut off, the German rocket units withdrew hastily from their positions and for about a week firings ceased completely. [...] by delaying the build-up of the V2 bombardment, the sacrifices of the men of Arnhem saved hundreds of civilian lives and prevented thousands of injuries in London and south-east England."

Operation MARKET GARDEN visited death and injury on people of many nationalities, plus destruction and great suffering on the Dutch. We deduce though, thanks to Lewis Blake, that there are probably by now several thousand descendants of those 1940s Londoners and Kentish people who owe their lives to it.

Further information:

THEIRS IS THE GLORY, an immediately post-war film where some of the original soldiers re-enact their roles. It also features the real Kate ter Horst, MBE, a famous woman of faith.

Airborne Museum at Hartenstein | Museum/nl (Accessible by public transport)

Museum Peenemünde - The Peenemünde Historical Technical Museum (museum-peenemuende.de), where the V-weapons were developed, on an island in the Baltic. (Also accessible by public transport. Usedom island is a popular holiday destination in its own right, with Europe's longest beach).

St Vincent's church, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire, has an aisle dedicated to the Arnhem battle and other features relating to the airborne forces. (I only discovered this because a great-uncle is named on the World War I memorials there).

MOST SECRET WAR and REFLECTIONS ON INTELLIGENCE, by the late, great Professor R V Jones

DOODLEBUGS AND ROCKETS, by Bob Ogley

FLYING BOMBS OVER ENGLAND, by H E Bates (he became famous for some of his other work)

TS FROM THE BLUE S.E. LONDON AND KENT UNDER V2 ROCKET ATTACK, by Lewis Blake (RED ALERT, by the same author, covers the entire war)

MAISONS-ALFORT LE 8 SEPTEMBRE 1944, EXPLOSION DU PREMIER V2 OPERATIONNEL, DEBUT DE L'ERE SPATIALE, edited by AMAH, Maisons-Alfort.

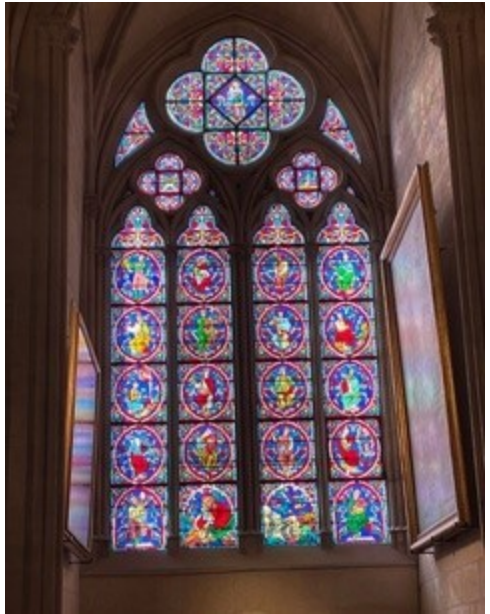


Adrian P.

Where the Space Age began in France .



**We encourage everyone to visit
the beautifully restored
Notre Dame de Paris.**



*Here is a quite spectacular visitor to the church garden last summer:
a scarce swallowtail. [Photo: AJWP].*



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.

Cantus — We Sing!

We might be forgiven for thinking that Gareth Malone OBE had single-handedly created the British choral tradition! But he would be among the first to accept that he is a torch-carrier for one of the richest and most influential traditions in the world, spanning the centuries and embracing a variety of styles, from sacred music through to community choirs, music hall and the stage. Beyond its cultural and historical significance, singing – particularly in a group – is a vital part of human expression.

Choral singing has deep roots in Britain, particularly within the Church, a tradition that can be traced back to early medieval times when choirs were primarily found within monastic communities and cathedrals. Gregorian chant and early polyphonic music formed the foundation of what would become a flourishing heritage, culminating in the works of composers such as Thomas Tallis and William Byrd in the 16th century. Inevitably it enfolded more secular, folk, sources associated with the Church festivals. The Anglican choral tradition, particularly through institutions such as the college choirs, St Paul's and Westminster Abbey, has played a crucial role in preserving and evolving this musical form.

Over time, choral music expanded beyond religious settings. The 19th century saw the rise of large choral societies, performing works by composers such as Handel, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Sir Arthur Sullivan. This era also saw a surge in amateur choirs, making choral singing an activity for the wider population rather than just professional chorists.

That's not to say that there are no such traditions elsewhere. Each continent has nurtured its own canon of music, and the repertoire now available to choirs includes contemporary works by our own John Rutter CBE, alongside Ola Gjeilo, Arvo Pärt, John Tavener, Karl Jenkins, Eric Whitacre and Caroline Shaw..., with themes of Love, Life and Loss reflecting the diversity of human experience.

But Malone helped to break down stereotypes about choral music, making it more appealing to generation Z and those who may never have considered joining a choir at all. His efforts have contributed to a resurgence of interest in singing as a communal and therapeutic activity. Whether within a professional choir, a community group, or simply singing along to Spotify or YouTube, singing is a powerful and enriching experience. At the heart of this is a commitment to harmony, discipline and collective musical expression.



Singing is good for body and soul; with a range of mental, physical and social benefits:

Mental health and wellbeing: The act of singing releases endorphins and oxytocin - hormones that promote happiness and reduce stress. It has been shown to help counter symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Physical health benefits: Singing engages the lungs, improves posture, and strengthens the diaphragm. It has even been linked to improved cardiovascular health, by giving a light muscular work-out and improved circulation.

Social connection: Choral singing fosters a sense of community. The act of making music together creates and cements social bonds.

Cognitive benefits: Singing requires focus, memory, and coordination, which can help keep the brain active and engaged. Studies suggest that choral singing may contribute to cognitive resilience in older adults.

Self-confidence and emotional expression: Many people who join choirs experience a boost in confidence, particularly if they were initially hesitant about singing in front of others. The act of performing, whether in a small group or on a large stage, is an act of collective trust.

But under the bonnet of every Choir there's a hidden motor – someone with the determination, organization and musical skills to share and nurture their enthusiasm within a wider group.

Cantus was formed in 2017 by Susi Knight, an accomplished musician ('cello, piano and singing...) and teacher in her own right. She brought together a small group – which has ranged from 12 to 15 singers – some trained vocalists, others less so, with the aim of raising money through singing regularly throughout the Yvelines. Much of the repertoire is *a cappella*, but has also included works with instrumental ensembles, piano or full orchestra. The body of work covers many genres, from folk music to jazz, soul, blues and more traditional sacred music.

As the rapidly-evolving song-list requires some sight-reading, familiarity with musical notation is a major asset, but so is the ability to attend a weekly rehearsal in St Nom la Bretèche during the season, with a multi-national group of enthusiasts. Tenors (male or female) and sopranos (probably female!) are the rarest, and most sought-after asset to any amateur group!

All enquiries to susi.knight@gmail.com.

The chorale is self-funding, and all concerts raise money for a range of charities. Thanks to our generous audiences we have raised an aggregate of some €20K, an additional benefit to the excitement and enjoyment of making music together.

Alec E.

Planting Your Spring Garden for the Garden of Your Daily Living

Source unknown

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude our Garden we Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water Freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

**There is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because
You Reap What You Sow.**

Pass It On!

Dates for your Diary

Usual Sunday services: 9.15 am and 11.00 am
<https://htcml.com/>



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 13th April
9:15 Holy Communion Service
11:00 Palm Sunday Service

Maundy Thursday 17th April
19:00 Holy Communion Service
(with optional foot washing)

Good Friday 18th April
19:00 Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday 20th April
8:45 Renewal of Baptism Vows
9:30 Easter Breakfast
11:00 Easter Sunday Service

Holy Trinity Church
Maisons-Laffitte
htcml.com/easter-2025
info@htcml.com



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MAISONS-LAFFITTE
(avenue Edouard VII, near the Château)

Sunday 11th May 10:00-12:30

Discovery CLUB

for 3-11 year olds

Learning to look outwards and upwards

WHERE CURIOSITY
& CREATIVITY
COME TOGETHER!



Scan for more details
or to register

htcml.com - info@htcml.com

A special concert to kick off our HTC
Organ Centennial Celebrations 2025-26:
*"An Evening of Music for Trumpet and
Organ by Danish Composers"*

Felipe ENSELMANN, Trumpet
and
Jean NOUVEL-ALAU, Organ

Saturday 17 May at 8 p.m.



We wish Vivian all the best on the next step of her ministry.

Please join us after the service

on Sunday 27 April

for a *vin d'honneur* to say farewell and thank you

to Rev'd Vivian Sockett.



*The Trinity Times committee would like to thank Jane Drew
for the beautiful front cover design of this issue.*