



10 August 2022

Dear Friends,

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12.12

We belong to each other. We thrive together; we fall together. This truth is captured, in an example from youth, in the saying ‘It takes a village to raise a child’. In old age, John Donne expresses this as ‘No man is an island’. The poem goes on to say ‘anyone’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.’ Sylvia Plath wrote a poem, ‘Morning song’, on the birth of her daughter Frieda in 1961, which begins:

Love set you going like a fat gold watch.
The midwife slapped your footsoles, and your bald cry
Took its place among the elements.

In many ways, Plath is identifying how we need each other. The birth has happened – but it takes the slap of a midwife to bring the baby fully alive, uttering its first cry. But the story begins even before the first line – the hint is that love was present at conception; love brought the foetus through the pregnancy and now love launches the baby into the world. The image of the ‘fat gold watch’ reminds us of William Paley’s teaching from the 17th century. Paley suggested that God made the universe, winding it up like a watch and set it going on its course – without any need for further intervention. Theologians have often criticised this image, making the point that God’s relationship with the universe cannot be limited to the initial act of creation alone. “Set going” can sound like being abandoned. No, love sets us going, and then continues to accompany us all along the way.

Plath’s poem goes on to describe how any new birth affects all those around the new infant. Amid the joy and delight, there is also the puzzlement of how we are changed by being in close relationship with a new human. My life is affected by each new birth. I feel this truth each time we baptise someone. That service is not merely about welcoming them into the community; it also involves the community making space, getting itself ready to be different. Being inclusive requires hospitality and a readiness to change.

- Robert

WORSHIP SUNDAY 14th August 2022

HOLY TRINITY

10am Summer Worship - Sermon by Robert Cotton

ST MARY'S

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Robert Cotton

10.30am Morning Worship - Led by Nigel Campion-Smith

GUILDFORD YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Matthew Lloyd-Wilson : Conductor



Suk
 Serenade for Strings

Elgar
 Introduction and Allegro

Strauss
 Metamorphosen

Sat 13 Aug 19:30
Holy Trinity Church
 High Street, Guildford, GU1 3RR

Scan QR code for your free ticket:
<https://guildforyouthsymphonyorchestra.co.uk/concerts>
 Retiring collection



What's On at Holy Trinity & St Mary's

Please do check out the What's On for an up to date list of services, activities and events that take place in Holy Trinity, St Mary's and the Trinity Centre.

You will also find dates of when the office will be closed over the summer.

Contact us:

Rev Robert Cotton
 rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 575489

Corinne Jones - Operations Manager
 office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

Chloe Benson - Communications Manager
 comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

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