



**4 May 2022**

**Dear Friends,**

On the first day of each term at my secondary school, the headmaster read the Parable of the Sower at the start of the school assembly. Hearing this story every term for five years made it so very familiar. Perhaps over-familiarity has made me not like the story very much; perhaps also, I have assumed that I know what it means. So, I find it hard to engage with the story with a freshness that may reveal more of its significance. I often wondered why the head read it each term. It may be that he thought that the types of soil into which the farmer sows the seeds related to the types of behaviour that he endorsed. The seed that fell on the path: "Concentrate on your work, boys" (for I went to a single-sex school). The seed that fell on the rock: "Keep trying unto the very end". The seed that fell among thistles: "Don't be distracted by worthless trifles". And the seed that fell on good ground – well, it was fairly obvious that that was what we were meant to be. Herein lies my main puzzle.

There is nothing in the parable that suggest that the soil can choose what sort of soil it is meant to be. There is no choosing. And yet, the interpretation that fitted a headmaster addressing hundreds of boys was: "If you concentrate, if you persevere, if you focus on what really matters, then a rich harvest will be yours". But there is no "if" in the parable.

Jesus was a prophet of the Kingdom of God. Many of his stories direct our attention to what God can do – indeed, what God will do in God's own time. And the harvest of God's work is likely to exceed and excel our wildest dreams. That, after all, is how this parable ends: one seed is planted, but the harvest is 30, 60 or even 100. If the parable is chiefly about what God can do, where do we fit in?

Perspective A: God is the Sower. We know – we experience within our own mediocre lives – how many ways there are that God's purposes can be thwarted. But look – the parable says – God will triumph; the harvest will be enormous. The response expected from those listening to the parable is to have confidence that 'God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year'.

Perspective B: we are the Sower. We are not to be miserly in our sowing. Just look at God's generosity, extravagance and readiness to have faith in us, even when all indicators are that we may fail. If that is God's attitude, then ours should be the same. Don't only sow on good soil – spread your seed far and wide. After all, the pattern of farming in Jesus's day was for the farmer to sow first, and then to plough. It may be that the plough turns the footpath into good soil – it may be that the plough uproots thistles and knocks away stones. We are not to judge in advance. Sow widely, work the soil – and let God produce the harvest.

On Wednesday this week, I will be telling (or, re-telling) this parable to Holy Trinity School in their assembly. My hope is that I can find a way so that they hear this story and are filled with confidence, hope and excitement about what is possible, with God in charge of the harvest.

**- Robert**

## Rector's footnotes



### Palestinian Goods and Olive Trees- an update

Thank you for your support and generosity towards the Palestinian farmers supported through the sale of Zaytoun products.

In the weeks before Easter £464.68 was spent on olive oil, maftoul and dates. An additional £61.32 was donated which has been used to purchase 4 more olive tree saplings in Palestine. HTSM now sponsor 8 saplings.

If you missed out on purchasing or donating it's not too late! Please contact Jan Hancock on Guildford 566479.

Jan has 6 pkts of maftoul (£2.10each) 1 bottle 750ml olive oil (£13.50) 4 bottles 500ml of olive oil ( £9.30 each)  
Thank you for supporting the farmers of Palestine.

## **Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. Choral Evensong for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 6.00pm Sunday 5th June**

Singers from choirs and churches in the area are warmly invited to make up a special choir to sing Choral Evensong to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on Sunday 5th June.



Music will include Handel's Coronation Anthem 'Zadok the Priest' and Stanford's setting of the canticles in Bb.

The choir will be rehearsed and conducted by the Holy Trinity's Director of Music, Martin Holford

If you would like to take part, please contact the office at [office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk).

There is NO charge for taking part. There is also no set dress code, but smart casual or smarter is preferred

Children/youth singers under 18 are welcome, but only with an accompanying parent/approved chaperone. They must be a member of an existing choir, able to behave appropriately and make a choral contribution.

### Timetable:

4.20pm Arrival, registration and seating at Holy Trinity

4.30-5.30pm Rehearsal

5.30pm Break for tea and refreshments

Thank you for your interest. We hope we will see you and that you will enjoy making joyful music together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

Martin Holford  
Director of Music, Holy Trinity

# Sunday Worship • 8th May 2022

## HOLY TRINITY

[10am Sung Eucharist](#)

[Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock](#)

Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-end

John 10:22-30

[6pm Choral Evensong for the  
Rotary Centenary](#)

Preacher Tom Pote

[CLICK ON THE TITLE OF THE  
SERVICE FOR LINKS TO ZOOM  
AND YOUTUBE](#)

[INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND  
HERE](#)

## ST MARY'S

[8am BCP Holy Communion](#)

[Led by Jonathan Hedgecock](#)

[10:30am Morning Worship](#)

[Led by Keith Beckingham](#)

[Midweek Holy Communion •](#)

[Wednesdays • 12 noon](#)

(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

[SERVICE SHEETS CAN BE  
FOUND ONLINE HERE](#)

[Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom 8.30am \(9.30 Saturday\)](#)

## Notice, events and reminders

### Hear here Clinic

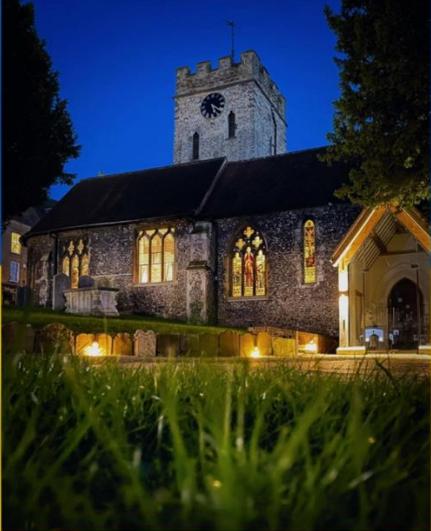
The Hear Here clinic will be held on Saturday 7th May at 10 - 12pm at Holy Trinity. If you are coming along please do remember to bring your brown NHS books. See you there!

### REMINDERS!!

The Plant and Book Sale will be on this **Saturday 7th May** between 10am - 3pm. Please do pop along and show your support! All proceeds from this event will go to Kwasa College in South Africa.

On **Wednesday 11th May** at 1.10pm we welcome Phoebe Chow to St. Mary's for our monthly organ recital. The recital is free of charge but there is a retiring collection that goes towards the running costs of the church.

Volunteers are still needed for Chit Chat! Please do click here for more information and contact Jane or Susan if you can volunteer some time.



**VIGIL FOR  
UKRAINE**

**DROP INTO  
ST. MARY'S  
QUARRY STREET  
GUILDFORD  
GU1 3UP  
THIS FRIDAY  
6TH MAY  
9 PM - 11 PM**



**vasari**  
singers

conducted by Jeremy Backhouse

Hennessey Brown Music Concert Series

**Songs &  
Sonnets**

The music of:  
Elgar, Delibes, Robert Schumann,  
Vaughan Williams and Shearing

Plus original poetry and readings from  
Shakespeare by Alwyn Marriage

*with retiring collection in aid of Oakleaf Enterprise*

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MAKING LIFE WORK WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

**moore  
barlow**  
lawyers

Friday 13 May 2022 at 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, GU1 3RR  
Tickets £20 (concessions available)

   [www.hennesseybrownmusic.com](http://www.hennesseybrownmusic.com)

Registered Charity No. 1071299 [www.vasarisingers.org](http://www.vasarisingers.org)



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