



30 March 2022

Dear Friends,

One of the reasons why my family laughed at me as a child was when I tried to explain my actions. To my mind, it seemed obvious why I did what I had done. To their ears, the reasons I gave for my behaviour could be odd and implausible. It sounded that I was making up excuses, justifying myself after the event. They named it “rationalising” - when there seemed to be a large gap between the action and the reasons given. Say, I popped out to the library and was back late for family tea. In my mind, wasn't it obvious that I had to do that errand precisely at that time of day... and that I might be late for tea? To them, this sounded like an excuse. So, I have lived for many years with an understanding that the reasons given for behaviour may sound valid to one person, and totally spurious to another.

President Putin's language falls into this pattern now. The reasons he gives do not match the actions that are being taken. He speaks of wanting to protect ethnic Russians living in the east of Ukraine. But surely, you don't achieve that by bombing their neighbours?! Equally, the Patriarch of Moscow has claimed that this invasion is justified because, spiritually, all Russians are one people, united in a common history that began in Kiev in 988 with the conversion of all Russians. That may be an important historical moment, with great resonance for all Slavic people. But that motivation hardly justifies truly inappropriate and horrifying behaviour being undertaken now on the battlefield. I am musing about this as I am reflecting on what it means to be 'held to account'.

On Sunday 3rd April, after morning worship at Holy Trinity, we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting. This is the moment, each year, when Rector, church wardens and all parish officials are 'held to account' by you, the congregation and parishioners. That phrase can sound rather daunting: being 'held to account' can sound like being put on the spot, hauled in front of the headmaster, being ready to be told off. Yet, what will happen this Sunday is the opposite, I trust. The church wardens, for example, will give an account of their leadership and service in the parish. They will tell their story. We, I expect, will respond with gratitude and support. Moreover, since they will speak about the work of the parish in a way that we recognise and approve, we are keen to join in, to play our part. That is something that we all can do – to tell others about what happens here in a way that is encouraging, attractive and inviting.

“Always be ready always to give an account of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3.15). Our Christian vocation is not necessarily to persuade others to believe what we believe. Rather, it is to give an account of hope in a way that makes sense to others. When people see what you do is very closely aligned to the reasons you give for your actions, they are likely to appreciate, to approve – and may then wish to join in as well.

- Robert

JOIN US ONLINE FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, there will be the opportunity to log in and join in online.

The [Zoom](#) link for the meeting can be found by clicking [HERE](#), alternatively please use the meeting ID and password below.

Meeting ID: 829 1721 1206

Passcode: 401968

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

Rector's footnotes



Vigil for Ukraine

Around 110 people responded to an invitation to drop in to Friday night's latest Vigil for Ukraine at St Mary's. The offer of a candle to light in the church and a little packet of sunflower seeds to remember mothers of Russia and Ukraine appealed to many, including lots of young people. The Mayor of Guildford visited and spent around 40 minutes in reflection. She is keen to publicise future Vigils on the Borough Council media channels. Vigils are planned for the next 3 Friday evenings - times will vary according to what else is on at St Mary's. Next Friday's will run from 8 to 10pm.

To add to the collections for Ukraine a further £202 was collected at St Mary's last Sunday and £104 at the Lent Reflection and Lunch this week.

Keeping Connected

Traditionally Easter is a time in the year when we feel especially connected to our church family by receiving Holy Communion. If you're unable to come to church, please let us know if you'd like a visit from us over the next few weeks when we'll be visiting people in our community with an Easter treat. We love to hear from people who join us online for worship so please get in touch with us at office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

Stewart Lyon Memorial

Stuart Lyon died in 2021 and was, for many years, a faithful member of the congregation at Holy Trinity, and a dedicated supporter of this parish, even when he and Elizabeth went to live in Anglesey. We are truly grateful for his company and encouragement over the years. His family are holding a Memorial for him on Saturday 2nd April 2pm at Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge. If you would like a link to the live stream please contact the [office](#).

Candlelit Compline at Holy Trinity

This Sunday evening there will be a responsory compline held in the chancel of Holy Trinity. Women (higher voices) will sit on one side and men (lower voices) on the other, not because of some patriarchal conspiracy (!) but so that the contrast in voices will accentuate the atmosphere and the service will become a conversation of prayer.

Sunday Worship • 3rd April 2022

HOLY TRINITY

[10am Lent Eucharist](#)
[Sermon by Robert Cotton](#)

Isaiah 43.16-21; John 12.1-8

[6pm Evening Compline](#)

Led by Anne and Stephen Marriott

[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 Tom Pote](#)

[10:30am Morning Worship](#)
[Led by Adam Payne](#)

Mark 1:9-15; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

[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

Families Anonymous Guildford Group, Lower Trinity Hall, Wednesdays at 7pm till 8:30pm

Families Anonymous (FamAnon/FA) is a mutual aid fellowship for relatives and friends of people involved in the use of mind altering substances. It can be a huge relief to know that we're not alone, that others have done the crazy things we've done in an effort to "help" the addict.

Families Anonymous is independent, non-professional and non-affiliated. We do not seek outside funding, it is totally self-funded by members' voluntary contributions at meetings which pay for venue hire and literature.

All meetings follow the same format which is structured but friendly and informal. Between meetings we talk to each other via phone, WhatsApp or meeting up.

For further information please go to the website: <http://famanon.org.uk/>

Parish walk

The next Parish Walk will be on Saturday 23rd April in the Wotton area. It will start at 10.30 and is about 6 miles long. We will visit a church but the only pub is right at the end of the walk so we will need to take a packed lunch. Nicky Matthews and Bridget Jobson are leading this walk. Hopefully we will see lots of bluebells.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like more details

Yvonne Cameron

Hear Here Clinic

The Hear Here clinic will be running this Saturday coffee this week in Holy Trinity Church between 10 - 12pm.

If you would like to attend, please do remember your brown NHS book.

Thanks!

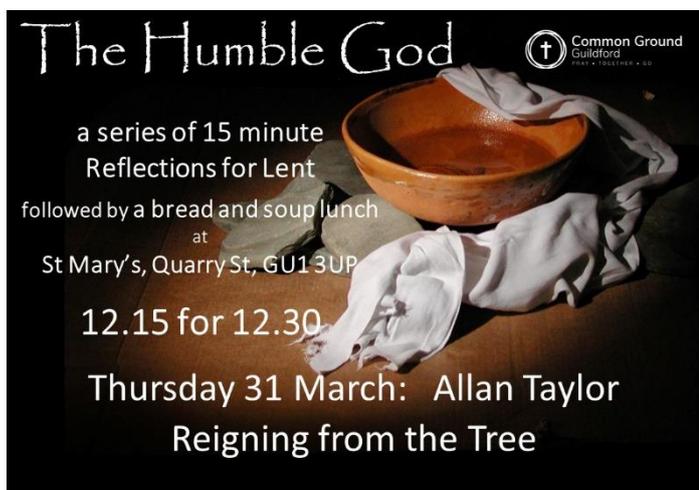
Guildford Youth Symphony Orchestra

Come to an uplifting evening of music exploring some of the best-known symphonic repertoire. Music's imperative to heal cultural divides is front and centre in this program. Rachmaninoff's glorious second symphony will be paired with renowned tone poems: Tchaikovsky's ravishing Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture, Mussorgsky's chilling 'Night on Bald Mountain', and Borodin's 'on the Steppes of Central Asia'

Details are below in the poster!

REMINDERS!!

Please remember that there will be Palestinian goods for sale at the back of church this week. Cash only! (more details in last weeks letter)



The Humble God

Common Ground Guildford

a series of 15 minute Reflections for Lent followed by a bread and soup lunch at St Mary's, Quarry St, GU13UP

12.15 for 12.30

Thursday 31 March: Allan Taylor
Reigning from the Tree



SHARE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

DROP INTO VIGIL FOR UKRAINE

ST.MARY'S
QUARRY STREET,
GUILDFORD
GU1 3UP

8 PM - 10 PM
FRIDAY 1 APRIL

Karl Jenkins

The Armed Man
A Mass for Peace

Saturday 2nd April 2022, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford



Epworth Choir
Michael Waldron conductor

Tickets: £5-20

www.epworthchoir.org



GUILDFORD YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Matthew Lloyd-Wilson : Conductor

Tchaikovsky

Romeo & Juliet fantasy overture

Borodin

In the Steppes of Central Asia

Mussorgsky

Night on Bald Mountain

Rachmaninoff

Symphony No. 2

Fri 8 April 19:30

Holy Trinity Church

High Street, Guildford, GU1 3RR

Scan QR code for your free ticket:

<https://guildforyouthsymphonyorchestra.co.uk/concerts>

Retiring collection



Contact us:

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Please make sure we have your current contact details.