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## The weekly letter

HolyTrinity  
St Mary's

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22nd June 2022

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday, I attended a concert given by [Guildford Chamber Choir](#) in the United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road. The final piece that they sang was 'The fruit of silence' by [Peteris Vasks](#). This is a beautiful meditation on the words of a prayer written by Mother Theresa:

The fruit of silence is prayer.  
The fruit of prayer is faith.  
The fruit of faith is love.  
The fruit of love is service.

I was struck by the way in which each sentence could have been written the other way round. In my experience, my prayer often starts with words and then leads into silence. But perhaps rather we could sometimes begin in silence, being attentive to whatever is around us, and allow that to develop into prayer. Similarly, each of the other sentences could be reversed – or, indeed, the last three sentences could all be reversed. For that was a debate in the early church: does service lead to faith? Or vice versa? The Epistle of James suggests the former; Paul's letters describe the latter.

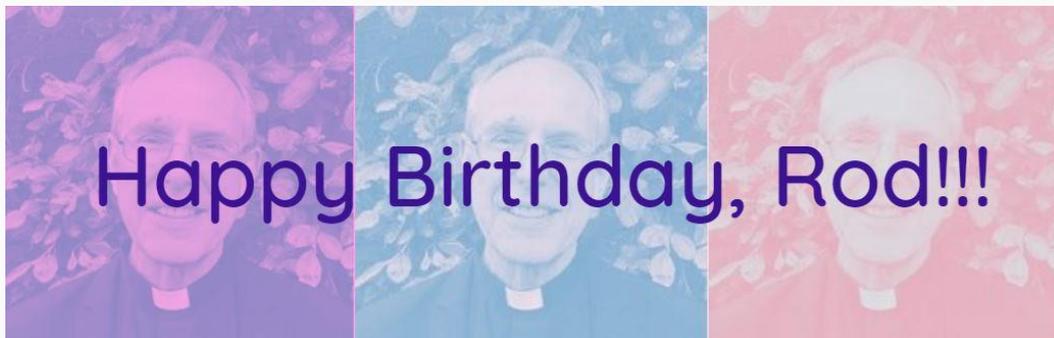
The composer Vasks perhaps had an alternate view in mind – that these attributes are linked in a circular fashion. The pattern of his composition is that it starts with a solo on the piano, after which the choir sings the poem; and the piece finishes by going beyond words, reverting to the solo piano. The piece is essentially cyclical – as is the life of faith.

David Beetge, who was the first Bishop of the Highveld (where Kwasa College is situated), often used this prayer before he preached:

O Holy Spirit of God,  
give us thoughts that turn into prayer,  
prayer that turns into action  
and action that leads us into enduring life with you.

Union with God is based on our action, according to this prayer, rather than our theology. 'Live well' and you will find yourself walking in the company of God. Charles Simeon, the most famous English preacher of the Victorian age, had carved on the inside of his pulpit "Sir, we would see Jesus" (a quotation from John 12.21). Simeon considered that the purpose of preaching was to show his listeners who Jesus was. But I value the Beetge approach. Effective preaching should lead people towards action – godly action that is both worthy of God and draws us close to God.

- *Robert*



In a few days' time, Rod Pierce marks his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I want to pay tribute to Rod as a man and a priest who exemplifies all parts of both of these prayers. Rod is gentle, sensitive and a listener. Rod has (with Ann) faithfully led Saturday Morning Prayer for many years, bringing the life of the whole parish (and beyond) into the presence of God. Rod has been diligent in service, kind in action, and always ready to assist others in contributing to worship through the work of the Altar Guild. Rod was part of an early visit to Kwasa by the parish, encouraging and teaching local clergy as well as helping at the school. In his 15 years as a priest, as well as serving here, he has always been ready to help other parishes in ways that they particularly value. The slightly odd regulations of the Church of England mean that, on reaching 70, Rod will no longer be licensed by the Bishop, but he will have "Permission to officiate". We will see no difference here – Rod will continue to be a faithful and supportive companion. So, no change – but I think that it is a good moment to say 'thank you'. Rod Pierce: good neighbour, faithful priest.

#### **Rector's Notes**

##### **After the Order of Melchizedek - Memoirs of an Anglican Priest**

On Wednesday in St Mary's this week, there will be a launch of the latest book by Adrian Leak. I have enjoyed all of Adrian's writing, as he is a great story teller, spiced

with wise insights. I can recommend this book also. Copies of *After the Order of Melchizedek - Memoirs of an Anglican Priest* can be obtained online for £14.99 from [Amazon](#), [The Church Bookshop](#), [Eden Books](#), [W H Smith](#) or ordered from any good bookshop. Previous books by Adrian Leak include *Nebuchadnezzar's Marmalade Pot*, *Archbishop Benson's Humming Top*, *The Golden Calves of Jeroboam*.

I recorded a conversation with Adrian, exploring the main themes of his reflections on his priestly ministry. This is available on our YouTube channel [HERE](#)

### **Sunday evening**

This Sunday we celebrate an Evening Eucharist in place of Choral Evensong at the 6pm service at Holy Trinity. The girls share with us some of the music they are going to be singing at Llandaff this summer so please do come along for this special service.

### **St Mary's Festival Afternoon**

Many thanks to all who supported last Sunday's Festival Afternoon at St Mary's, especially those from Holy Trinity who served the cream teas so St Mary's folk could engage freely with the 150 or so who came to the event. The weather was kind, the musicians excellent and there was a real buzz to the place, culminating in worship together. One highlight was a Ukrainian family, just arrived in the country, enjoying their first Cream Tea. Our links with the Orthodox congregation meant we had Father Constantine and his wife on hand to help ease language understanding. A great day - we were blessed in so many ways!

**Nigel Campion-Smith**

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## **Sunday Worship • 26th June 2022**

### **HOLY TRINITY**

#### **10am Sung Eucharist**

#### **Sermon by Robert Cotton**

1 Kings 19:15-16 19 - end

Galatians 5:1. 13-25

Luke 9:51-end

#### **6pm Evening Eucharist**

Acts 27.33-38

Mark 6.1-6

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 Robert Cotton**

**10.30am Morning Worship at St.  
Mary's**

II Kings 2: 1-14;

Galatians 3: 27-29 & 5: 13-25

Led by Andy Wheeler

**Midweek Holy  
Communion • Wednesdays • 12  
noon**

(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

**SERVICE SHEETS FOR ALL  
SERVICES CAN BE FOUND  
ONLINE HERE**

### **Visiting Clergy**

Jonathan Hedgecock - St Peter and St Paul, Godalming

Tom Pote - St Mark's, Wyke

**Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom 8.30am (9.30 Saturday)**

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## Notices, events and reminders

Holy Trinity  
St Mary's

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Join Guildford Choral Society on **Saturday 25th June** for an evening of stunning choral music at Holy Trinity Church as they perform a selection of well known sacred European works and "Unconditional Love" by up and coming composer Howard Goodall.

Ticket prices range from £10-£23.

Visit [guildfordchoral.org](http://guildfordchoral.org) for concert information and booking details.

# The Four Seasons

*Antonio Vivaldi*



## Keziah Thomas

Thursday 30th June 7pm

St Mary's Church Guildford

Tickets available on the door or in advance via  
[www.keziah.co.uk](http://www.keziah.co.uk)

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm:**

**Keziah Thomas performs The Four Seasons. A fresh take on Vivaldi's enduring classic in the beautiful setting of St Mary's, Guildford**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keziah-thomas-harp-the-four-seasons-tickets-311057400057?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Adults £10 and children £3. Concert lasts 1 hour with no interval.

## REMINDERS!!

Summer evenings on the Hilltop - **23rd June** 7.45pm at St Marth's Church. Please join Alwyn Marriage as she reads *Summer Fruit*. Admission is free. For more information [click here](#).

Coffee and Cake will be on at St Mary's this Thursday, **23rd June**, between 10.30 - 12.00, raising money for [Momentum](#).

Trinity Club - **Tuesday 28 June** 2022 from 10.30am - 12 noon at St Mary's Church  
Images of Sunlight - The Impressionist Painters Daphne Jefferis

**A reminder from Ben!** With its Covid restrictions now lifted, the Cathedral has been generous with ticket allowances for my ordination service on **Saturday 2nd July** and, as such, I have a number of tickets spare for the service! If you would like to be at the 3pm service that day, when I'll be ordained priest alongside several others from the Diocese, please drop me a line and I will put a ticket aside. Ben - [ben@holyltrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:ben@holyltrinityguildford.org.uk)

Greenbelt festival are looking for volunteers. Please visit [www.greenbelt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/volunteer) for more information.



OVER 1200 PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AT OUR WEEKLY VIGILS.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP INTO  
ST. MARY'S, QUARRY STREET, GU1 3UP  
THIS FRIDAY TO LIGHT A CANDLE, PRAY, AND REFLECT.  
9PM - 11PM

### Contact us:

Rev Robert Cotton [rector@holyltrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:rector@holyltrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 575489

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**Please make sure we have your current contact details.**

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