

27 April 2022

Dear Friends,

This weekend the people of France voted to give their president a second term in office. Actually, that statement isn't quite true. It would be more correct to say that more people voted to give him a second term in office than those who voted for his opponent or who didn't vote at all. The two things aren't quite the same. Journalists and commentators have been quick to point out that, although Monsieur Macron won the election, his victory came with little of the exuberant celebration we witnessed five years ago when he first came into office. In other words, his is a bittersweet win – yes, he will continue in power, but given the turnout in favour of Madame Le Pen, he knows that he has an even harder task ahead of him in the coming years. He has to unite a country with deep divisions in it (which leader doesn't face that task these days?!) and he has to gain the trust of those who feel he doesn't represent them or who think he's out of touch.

Watching the campaign in the last two weeks following the first round of voting, I found myself wondering if a system which pits two candidates against each other in a second round is fit for purpose. Yes, that way of doing things gives people a second chance to choose their leader if the first round vote didn't go their way, but doesn't it lead to a deepening of the already raw divisions in public opinion?

I remember my time in France as a student. In the staff room of the school I worked in, politics was often the topic of discussion over our morning coffee. Although it wasn't an election year, the memories of what had happened during previous campaigns were still very much alive. When it came to the second round, a group of teachers had taken to phoning their colleagues to ensure they voted the 'right' way to keep the other candidate out of the Elysée Palace. Much time has passed, and so I can't remember the names of the two candidates or what they stood for, but I do remember the feeling of anger which arose from this electioneering which was still present and felt by my colleagues a few years after the event.

There's a danger of high emotion and tension in a two-horse race. It's not the runners themselves who pile high the rhetoric against their opponent, often their supporters do that for them. But once the winner has been decided the real work begins and that is the work, first of all, of reconciliation. Whoever wins, has to face the fact that, especially where there the margin of victory is slim, that they don't enjoy the support of everyone and thus compromises must be made, plans redrawn, and tempers dampened. Olive branches may need to be offered, apologies made for past failings, recognition made of how people feel and commitments made to being better listeners.

Such moves could be interpreted as signs of weakness – surely a great leader would plough on with his or her legislative plan and use their support base to push through their ideas. As Christians, however, we know that true greatness in a leader can be shown in weakness. At his trial and crucifixion, Jesus showed what the world perceived to be weakness, failure even, but we see this humility and obedience to death itself as evidence of his love for humankind. True strength and courage can be shown when we admit our vulnerability and failings as we seek to narrow the gap between us and those whom we see as opposition.

Mr. Macron knows he has a huge task on his hands and the eyes of his fellow citizens are on him as he starts this process of reconciliation this week. As he works out how to go about it, he could do worse than to look to Christ for an example of leadership to characterise these next years of his presidency.

- Tom Pote

Rector's footnotes



You will remember that a few weeks ago, we had blue buckets in church to raise money for **Headway Surrey** via donations of unused foreign money.

I am delighted to report that we raised £340.13 for this wonderful charity. There was a wide mixture of currency from old Thai Baht to Czech Koruna.

Many thanks to everyone for your efforts!

Vacancies at Holy Trinity

Following the appointment of our new Director of Music, Nick Graham, we are seeking to appoint an Assistant Choral Director and an Organist to complete our music team from September. Depending on the candidates, these roles may be appointed separately or in combination.

Please help us to spread the word. What a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music, and to serve both the parish and the town in maintaining our fine choral tradition. Applications can be found [HERE](#).

The deadline for application is 6 May 2022. Please email nickgrahammusic@gmail.com with any questions.

This Newsletter

We have a very high open rate for our newsletter but we also know that, often, it can get scooped up into people's junk mail or lost in the ether of the every day traffic. We also know that there some parishioners who do not have access to a computer.

We hand deliver to some residents that we know of, but if you know of anyone who might be missing this weekly update could you please let me know at comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk.

In addition there are now a few printed copies left at the back of Holy Trinity & St Mary's each week for those who might benefit from picking this up. It is also on display on the noticeboards at the back of Holy Trinity.

Chloe

SAVE THE DATE - PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND

Holy Trinity Church will be hosting a special Jubilee Evensong on the 5th June 2022. More information will follow next week, but please put this date in your diary - we hope it will be a very special event.

St Mary's will also be open during the long weekend with some special events to celebrate the Jubilee and Pentecost. More details to follow soon.



Graham Gibson memorial

I am looking for volunteers to sing in an ad hoc choir for the Memorial Service at Holy Trinity for Graham Gibson. This will be at 14.30 on Monday 16th May. If singers can gather in HT at 13.45 to run through a few familiar pieces, that would be deeply appreciated.

Could you please email office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk if you would like to sing at this service.

This will help us to establish how many singers we have and, hence, what music is possible.

Sunday Worship • 1st May 2022

HOLY TRINITY

[10am Sung Eucharist](#)

[Sermon by Tom Pote](#)

Acts 9.1-6; Revelation 5.11-14;

John 21.1-19

[6pm Choral Evensong](#)

Preacher Ben Cahill-Nicholls

[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 Ben Cahill-Nicholls](#)

Acts 9.1-11; John 21.1-19

[Midweek Holy Communion •](#)

[Wednesdays • 12 noon](#)

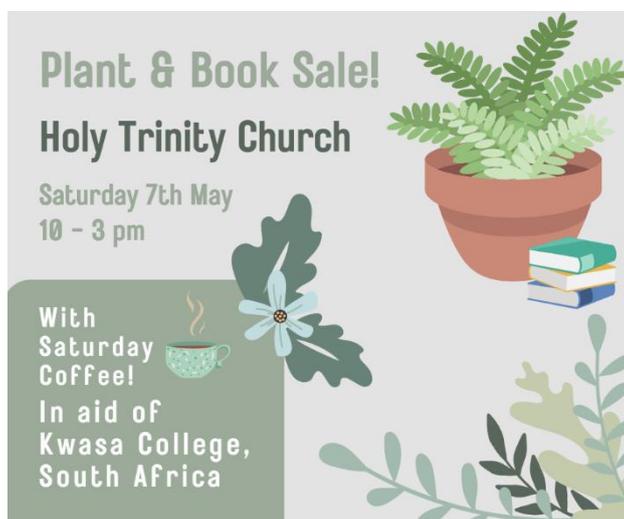
(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

[SERVICE SHEETS CAN BE](#)

[FOUND ONLINE HERE](#)

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

Notice, events and reminders



Plant & Book Sale!
Holy Trinity Church
Saturday 7th May
10 - 3 pm

With Saturday Coffee!
In aid of Kwasa College,
South Africa

Sign up sheets to volunteer at this event are now at the back of HT. All donations of plants, books, cds and DVDs will be welcome, as well as homemade cakes to serve with the refreshments.

The church will be open for setting up and dropping off items on **Friday 6th May 10am to 12 noon and 7pm - 8pm, and from 9am on the 7th**. Please contact Stephi Pratley on Stephi.pratley1@btinternet.com for more information.

Service at Addison Court

Those of you at the AGM in March may recall that mention was made of Addison Court as an example of the outreach work that is going on in the parish. Addison Court is a form of sheltered housing for those who have some connection with

Guildford and who are over the age of 55 and are able to live independently. It is run and managed by the Holy Trinity Housing Association and was established in 1967. It was built on the site of the original St Luke's Church Hall that served the Charlotteville community and was part of Holy Trinity Parish. Most of the trustees are members of our congregation. There are usually four short church services a year held at Addison Court, along with a Remembrance Day service at the war memorial situated outside the building.

The next service is a post-Easter service led by the Rev Brian Roberts It will be held on Thursday evening 5th May at 7pm at Addison Court. A very warm invitation is extended to all of you to join us there for this service.

Addison Court is at the Pewley Downs end of Addison Road. The address is: 18 Addison Road, GU1 3QD.

Songs and Sonnets

On May 13th at 7.30 pm Hennessey Brown Music, co-directed by choir parent and choir member Jonathan Hennessey-Brown, is delighted to present the latest two additions to our roster; The Vasari Singers, and conductor Jeremy Backhouse. The concert, entitled "Songs and Sonnets" will be a beautifully varied performance with music by composers such as Durufle, Elgar, Parry, Vaughan Williams and Ward Swingle.

Alwyn Marriage, also featured in our "Inspiring Women" concert at Guildford Cathedral, will be reciting some of her own work and Shakespeare's Sonnet number 116. There will be the chance to have an interval drink and mingle safely with friends.

This performance was planned to take place in Mental Health Awareness Week. There will be a collection for Oakleaf, Guildford's foremost mental health charity, and a brief interval talk from Jonny Hennessey Brown on the topic of "Making Life work with Mental Illness." The full programme and straightforward ticket purchase link can be found by clicking the blue writing here

If you have any issues purchasing your ticket then please write to jonathan@hennesseybrownmusic.com

REMINDERS!!

- There will be a Coffee and Cake morning this **Thursday 28th April** at 10.30-12pm at St Mary's where Keith Beckingham will be telling us about community projects in Rwanda.
- The next Churchyard gardening party will be on **Saturday 30th April** from 9.30 to midday. Please do come along. No gardening skills required, just a willing heart. Do bring gardening gloves.
- Blackheath and Bramley Choral Society will be performing Handel's Messiah this **Saturday 30th April** at Holy Trinity Church. More details are below and tickets can be purchased by visiting their website.
- Please do join us at 11.30am, after the morning service on **1st May**, for 'Bonny at Morn'. A short selection of songs performed by our girl choristers. Entry is free.
- 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
29 APRIL
9 PM - 11 PM



Matrix needs YOU!

The Hideaway Café is now 1 year old!

So we are looking for an experienced Café Manager or Hospitality Sector Business Manager to take the social enterprise to the next level.

If this is YOU, then call Misty for a chat on 01483 574900 or email hr@matrixtrust.com for an application pack

Contact us:

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

Rev Tom Pote curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 511725

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

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

Please make sure we have your current contact details.