



14 September 2022

Dear Friends,

Wittgenstein would have loved the Choir Tour! Wittgenstein was the philosopher who, in the middle of the last century, explained more clearly the links between language and behaviour. At the time, philosophers thought that each word simply had its own meaning, and that these meanings were linked in logical ways by the sentence that contained them. Such an analysis may be a useful basis for programming computers, turning ordinary sentences into repeatable machine codes. But it misses out on so much that is precious: poetry, metaphors, and half-formed intuitions. Ethics, under the scrutiny of logical analysis, was reduced to a set of rules. I might have a clear description of what is good. Key questions remain unanswered: *why* should I do what is good? *How* do I learn to behave well?

Wittgenstein provided a richer description of what is happening when we learn language. I may understand that cooking involves preparation, heat and food. But as I watch someone cook, as I give time to understanding how ingredients react to each other, I learn more fully what it is to cook. I learn the meaning of the word 'cook'. The same is true of learning to live well, to live as a moral and spiritual human being. We do this by observing others, seeing how behaviours have consequences, both for the person who is behaving well/badly and for those on the receiving end of their good/bad behaviour.

On the recent Choir Tour, in one of my Thoughts-for-the-day, I explored a bit of what is involved in being a humble person. The Rule of Saint Benedict is 73 chapters long, each containing not much more than a few sentences – except the chapter on Humility. This is by far the longest chapter in his Rule, involving 12 steps and a rich portrayal of how we slowly and gradually can become humble. It is not an easy virtue to sell to others, as we so often associate humility with putting ourselves down, and behaving as a doormat for others. Benedict sees it in a much more positive light. To be humble, we need to be honest: honest about ourselves, our mistakes as well as our gifts; honest with each other, not hiding our mistakes but being prepared to acknowledge them to a trusted friend. Humility also involves paying patient attention so that we see the good in others. It does not mean that we have to judge others to be better than ourselves, because humility is also found in talented people who have the confidence to be aware of their own gifts, in those who no longer feel the need to be competitive, and in those who are not always comparing themselves with others.

That's some of what I was trying to convey on the Tour. I am sure Wittgenstein and Benedict would have approved. Virtue takes time. We can look up in a dictionary the meaning of the word 'humility' in seconds. To practise it takes years. Virtue is not a solo activity. Surround yourself with good people and you will find others want you close too. Humility is a key virtue for community living; it provides a backdrop for other virtues to come to light. Virtue is not a matter of cloning; it is not a pattern of behaviour that we can simply replicate. As we learn to be virtuous, we have to learn to do it in ways that are fresh, personal and appropriate to our own context. Benedict only ever saw his Rule as a start. The title of the final chapter: "This rule is only a beginning of perfection". However long it takes, it's still worth starting the journey towards humility.

- Robert

Rector's Notes

Helping the parish stay afloat financially

The Planned Giving Scheme enables a participant to make a regular financial donation, and ensures that the parish remains solvent even in difficult times. Times are difficult now! If you can help, please be in touch with Alan

Brown plannedgiving@holytrinityguildford.org.uk For those already in the Planned Giving Scheme, there is a personally addressed letter for you, for collection at the back of Holy Trinity.

The PCC

The PCC met on Monday 11th, during which:

- There was a long discussion on how we can best balance the parish's budget; suggestions were made about how we can control expenditure (especially in a context of massively rising energy bills) and encourage people to join Planned Giving and/or increase our income
- 10 letters from local charities have been received, in gratitude for our financial and practical support for them, during these difficult times
- Mari Gardner told us about best practice with Safeguarding, and how we can keep up to date with training, including promoting useful resources for parents and grandparents, as they seek to protect and guide their children
- Nick Graham spoke about the Choir Tour and other developments with the Choral Foundation

National Moment of Reflection

The Prime Minister has asked for there to be a National Moment of Reflection at 2000 on Sunday evening, the night before Her Majesty's funeral. This will happen at the top of the steps outside Holy Trinity, with the Mayor and Rector in attendance.

Proclamation

On Sunday we welcomed Councillor Dennis Booth, Mayor of Guildford and other dignitaries to the steps of Holy Trinity Church for the formal Proclamation to the people of the Borough of Guildford of the beginning of King Charles III reign, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The full video is available to watch on Guildford Borough Council's YouTube page.



Sunday Worship • 11th September 2022

HOLY TRINITY

[10am Sung Eucharist](#)
[Sermon by Rod Pierce](#)

Exodus 32.7-14; 1 Timothy 1.12-17
Luke 15.1-10

[Choral Evensong](#)
[Led by Robert Cotton](#)

Isaiah 60.1 – 11; John 6.51 - 59

[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](#)
[Led by Paul Glass](#)

Exodus 32.7-14 1; Timothy 1.12-17
Luke 15.1-10

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

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

A graphic with a dark red border. On the left is a circular wreath of various autumn vegetables and fruits, with the text 'Holy Trinity Church' in the center. To the right of the wreath, the text reads: 'Our Harvest Festival will take place next week, on Sunday 25th September. All donations brought in that day will be going to North Guildford Food Bank.' The bottom of the graphic is decorated with illustrations of pumpkins, gourds, and autumn leaves.

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News from Holy Trinity Choir

As we start the first academic year without Martin Holford in three decades, things are looking a little different with our choir at Holy Trinity this September. Nick Graham, formerly in charge of the girl choristers, has taken over as Director of Music, while Robert Patterson (a former organist here and at Canterbury Cathedral) has taken up the post of Assistant Choral Director. We are also delighted to welcome Ruth Munro as our first vocal coach. She will support the development of our choristers' singing voices, and work particularly with those boys whose voices are changing.

Nick and Robert will both work with all the choristers and adult singers at Holy Trinity, and you will see Nick conducting the choirs at Sunday services and Robert playing the organ at evensong. Our choristers will continue to

sing alternate services most Sundays, but you may also see some new groups appearing occasionally, including the re-establishment of a youth choir of older boys and girls, the introduction of an adult choir including adult sopranos.

We're always keen to welcome more singers, young and old. If you want to find out more about the choir, please do speak to Nick on a Sunday morning, or send him an email a music@holytrinityguildford.org.uk.

Trinity Club

Tuesday 27 September 2022 from 10.30am - 12 noon at St Mary's Church

Diane Peters, Refugee Support Adviser, Guildford Diocese

Welcoming the stranger and the alien to England in 2022. How parishes can support refugees.

The United Kingdom has a long and well-earned reputation for welcoming those facing discrimination and persecution abroad. The current response by ordinary citizens to refugees from the Russian invasion of Ukraine is the most recent example, but follows on from recent refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and Hong Kong. Church groups have played an important role in helping those navigate the chaotic visa system, and then providing a home and support. Rev. Diane Peters, the Refugee Support Advisor for Guildford Diocese, will talk about the work she and parishes in the Diocese are and can do to support some of the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Please do come to the first meeting of 2022/23 and be stimulated by an important and interesting talk and discussion. As usual, we will begin at 10.30 to give people time to arrive, collect a cup of coffee and have a brief chat, before we begin the discussion at 10.45. The meeting will finish at 12.00.

Explore
'Mountain Paths'
*Stunning images
of the Swiss Alps*
by Alpine photographer
Fiona Bunn

An exhibition at
St. Mary's
Quarry St. GU1 3UP



Weisshorn Twilight 4,506 metres

from
8 – 11 September

Thursday
11.00 – 14.00

Friday & Saturday
11.00 – 15.00

Sunday
12.00 – 14.00

and

13 September – 1 October

Tuesdays
13.00 – 15.00

Thursdays
11.00 – 15.00

Fridays
11.00 – 13.00

REMINDERS!!

Friday 16th September: The Vigil for Ukraine continues to happen every Friday evening at St Mary's from 9pm. -11pm. Please do come along and show your support, light a candle and reflect.

Saturday 17th September - The Hear Here clinic will run throughout Morning Coffee at Holy Trinity. Please don't forget your brown NHS books if you are attending.

Monday 19th September: The Parish Office will be closed for the Bank Holiday.

Wednesday 21st September: Chit Chat 9.30-11am at St Mary's

Saturday 24th September - Parish Walk in the Selborne area. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join us so that I can give you more details.

Saturday 24th September - Practical Aspects of Spirituality at St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford.

Contact us:

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Please make sure we have your current

contact details.