



**21 September 2022**

Dear Friends,

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth”. These words of hope start the 21st chapter of the Book of Revelation, and are often used at funerals. They acknowledge that our world needs healing. They claim that, in due time, God will renew us and all creation. We will live afresh, under a refreshed heaven. The most comforting words come a bit later: “God will wipe every tear from our eyes; death will be no more”. The final promise is that we will be united with those we love, fully and finally in God’s presence. Yet, between the words of hope and promise, there is an almost-hidden sentence: “and the sea was no more”. For those of us who love the sea, who take comfort from its restless energy and its profound beauty – for those who make their livelihood on the sea, and for all of us who benefit from the food that comes from the sea – if taken literally, this phrase is puzzling and worrying. To understand these words, we need to enter into the mentality of the age of these writers. It all begins with Genesis chapter 1.

Before the very first act of God in this account of creation – before God even created the light on the first day – what existed was formless, dark and “a wind swept over the face of the waters”. In this picture, “the sea” represents everything that God has not yet touched. The sea is unruly, unkempt, disordered, chaotic. The sea is not fighting against God (for the Jewish people resisted any idea that creation was based on two opposing powers, for good/evil, of light/darkness). Rather, the sea is what is waiting for God’s creative ordering power. That, according to the claim in Revelation, is what will cease to exist eventually. God will be all in all; God will have touched everything. All will be in order.

But beware of contrasting order and chaos – as though order is good, and chaos is bad. Just consider an artist’s studio: it may look unruly and unkempt to you, but its messiness, with paints piled on top of each other, half-abandoned sketches tossed away in the corner, is precisely what provides a good context for the masterful work of art to emerge.

Consider graveyards (to use an image that is close to home). There are the graveyards overseen by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – each stone identical to the next, all grass neatly trimmed, everything in order. After the mess of the battlefield, such order in a graveyard is very reassuring. On the other hand, consider how many churchyards are now being curated: there are places for wild flowers, bug hotels, paths to walk through longer grass, and some ivy may start to colonise a large headstone. This is “re-wilding”. A CWGC cemetery offers one sort of comfort and beauty. A rewilding place points towards a different style of hope and new life emerging within a place of burial.

At both St Mary’s and Holy Trinity, we are finding our way towards curating two churchyards that are respectful, beautiful, managed, places of tranquillity and hope. Achieving that in one go is not proving easy. We are working alongside Guildford Borough Council, who are fully supportive of our aims – yet not fully sure how best to achieve this. We value so highly the volunteer labour provided by parishioners in our wild and beautiful spaces. We also want everyone who passes by to understand a new sort of beauty, and how long it may take to achieve this.

In her recent book *Wilding* by Isabella Tree, I was introduced to the saying “The thorn is the mother of the oak”. Acorns sprout quickly, but take at least five years to develop the natural toxins that protect themselves from grazing deer. Most acorns, even when sprouted, are fodder for wild animals – except those which start to grow in the middle of thorn bushes. For these, they grow up in a safe environment (the thorn bush) until they are ready to protect themselves. Looking at it in one way, the young oak could look like a weed in the middle of the thorn; in another way, the thorn is mothering the oak. Our churchyards aspire to be places of beauty and hope – a little piece of a new heaven on a new earth.

**- Robert**

## Rector's Notes

### Harvest Festival

Please don't forget to come along to our Harvest Festival this Sunday morning at Holy Trinity. All donations brought along that morning will be donated to North Guildford Food Bank.

### Help for the 29th September

Following on from lockdown when only 6 people were allowed to attend funerals, it was decided to hold a memorial service for all those police families who were unable to attend funerals. The Surrey Branch of NARPO (National Association of Retired Police Officers) is going to sponsor this event.

Working with NARPO Robert has devised an order of service to include remembrance and ceremonial for both police and local officials. We would like to provide refreshments after the service for relatives and allow time for conversation. I would be grateful for some help serving and clearing up afterward. We are expecting about 250 people.

The service will start at 2.30 pm, if you are able to help please let Chris Roberts or the Parish Office know.

**The Servant Queen** - a few copies of this book (published for the late Queen's 90th birthday) are at the back of Holy Trinity. Please feel free to borrow one, read it and return it for others to see. If you would like to buy one please put £5 in the donation box.

### National Moment of Reflection

The National Moment of Reflection, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II, was marked at Holy Trinity last Sunday at 8pm led by the Mayor of Guildford and Robert.



## Sunday Worship • 25th September 2022

### HOLY TRINITY

[10am Harvest Festival](#)  
[Sermon by Robert Cotton](#)

Gospel story told by Robert

[Choral Evensong](#)  
[Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock](#)  
Nehemiah 2  
John 8.31–38, 48–end

[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](#)

Amos 6.1a, 4–7

Luke 16.19–end

[10.30am Morning Worship](#)  
[Led by Peter Hills](#)

Amos 6.1a,4-7; Luke 16.19-31

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

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

## NOTICES

**Guildford High School - Music Award Holders - Free Lunchtime Concert**  
**Holy Trinity Church - Weds 28 September, 1:15pm**

Please do join us for what promises to be a superb concert, given by six highly talented GHS musicians (three of whom are choristers at Holy Trinity). These Grade 8+ players will each perform a solo piece with piano accompaniment. All welcome!

**Milk bottle lids** - just a reminder that these can be recycled, granulated and used to make playground equipment. As a bonus, a donation is made to Alzheimer's Research. So far from HTSM we have delivered about 40 kg, and I am planning another load in a few weeks' time. Please ask your friends and neighbours to collect, and contact me via the Parish Office if you have large quantities. Small amounts can be put in the HT kitchen - every little helps. ONLY lids from milk bottles please - (not juice, water or anything else!) Thank you - Vicky Barlow

**Saturday 24 September 2022, 7.30 pm - Holy Trinity Church, Guildford**  
**Surrey Mozart Players are celebrating the start of their 2022-23 season with an all-Mozart concert**  
Overture - La Clemenza di Tito  
Piano Concerto No. 18 K456 directed from the Piano  
Overture - The Marriage of Figaro  
A selection of opera arias and duets

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE

## FIVE TALENTS

You are invited to an evening reception to learn more about Five Talents' inspiring and effective microfinance projects in rural communities in eastern Africa. Guest speaker, John Eckbert, CEO of the popular and rapidly expanding restaurant chain Five Guys UK, will be sharing about his journey from banking to burgers.

The event will take place at The Guildhall, Guildford, on Friday 7th October, from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Please RSVP to [events@fivetalents.org.uk](mailto:events@fivetalents.org.uk).

For more information about Five Talents, click on to [www.fivetalents.org.uk](http://www.fivetalents.org.uk).

As you may be aware, **Black History Month** is celebrated every year in October.

This year, Saint Mary Oatlands is organising the documentary "After The Flood" screening on Saturday 1st October 2022 @3pm.

The documentary produced by the Movement for Justice and Reconciliation traces the issue of slavery, colonialism and how the church became involved. It provides an opportunity to explore and reflect on how we got here and how we may be able to get out of the present conundrum.

A trailer of the documentary is available here

Booking is available online.

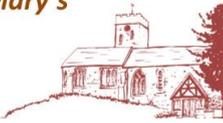


**Coffee  
&  
Cake**  
at  
**St. Mary's**

**Thursday 22 September**  
**10.30 – 12 noon**

*- a chance to meet up  
with friends and  
enjoy the tranquility  
of  
St. Mary's*

*Everyone welcome*



**POP-UP CAFÉ ... for  
ALL AGES**

for a break from shopping...  
to enjoy tea and cake...  
celebrate HARVEST...  
with craft activities for young visitors

**Saturday 1 October 14.30 - 16.00**



## REMINDERS!!

**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.

**Tuesday 27 September** - Trinity Club 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.

**Wednesday 28th September:** Chit Chat 9.30-11am at St Mary's

**13 September - 1st October** - Explore 'Mountain Paths' - An exhibition of photographs by Fiona Bunn at St Mary's.

## Rev Robert Cotton

[rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 575489

**Corinne Jones** - Operations Manager

[office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 567716

**Chloe Benson** - Communications Manager

[comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:comms@holytrinityguildford.org.uk) 01483 567716

Please make sure we have your current contact details.