

# Refugee Tales

8 June 2022

Dear Friends,

"I have never read the book, but I know what it says". That description applies to a number of volumes on my bookshelves. It's as though simply owning the book is sufficient for the story to be transmitted to me. Perhaps, for many of us, this applies to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. We know the overall narrative: a company of disparate people are travelling to Canterbury; along the way, each tells their own story – of deception, virtue, trickery or courage. The journey is not only a convenient literary device to give people time to tell their story; it also indicates how each of us gradually develop our characters - for good or for ill – as we journey through life.

Refugee Tales is coming to Guildford. A group of 'pilgrims' travelling from Kent to Winchester will arrive in town on Sunday 3rd July and tell their tales. The stories will be personal. They will also be the voice for refugees who, having arrived in this country seeking help, find that they are being detained indefinitely. Being close to both Heathrow and Gatwick, this part of England bears many conflicting associations for refugees: the first point of arrival; a place of detention; possibly the last place to stay before a refugee is 'returned home'. There are stories we need to hear.

I knew nothing about Refugee Tales until they phoned up, asking for a venue to tell their tale. They will do so in Holy Trinity that Sunday evening. The pilgrims will sleep the night in the Trinity Centre, before setting off on the next stage of their journey, accompanied by the Bishop of Dorking. You can read more about their work here. Do consider whether you would like to hear more, and meet those travelling. We are providing a base for them. Yet hospitality changes the host – as we hear fresh perspectives, we find guests can turn into acquaintances, problems are shared, friendships grow. This is something of a similar experience to those who are now hosting families from Ukraine.

Psalm 90 is probably best known in the version that we sing as a hymn. The first verse is;

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

The hymn beautifully reminds us that God is our home – where we start, and where we will end. Yet, in the middle of life, when storms assail us and our footing is unsure, that is when we need refuge: a place to shelter, companions to help bear our load, people who will welcome us even though we may be strangers. "The problem of refugees" is a hot political topic. Yet refugees are individuals, scared, pushed into such bad circumstances that it is better to flee one's homeland, longing for safety and kindness. I am glad that a seemingly random phone call came to us so that we end up hosting this event. I am glad we have a sacred text (Psalm 90) that we can read and use as a spiritual resource, before we are caught up in political debate. And I wonder 'what happens next?'

Robert.

## A message from Refugee Tales

Refugee Tales organises walks in solidarity with people who have experienced immigration detention, people seeking asylum, and refugees. We also support them to share their stories in anthologies published by Comma Press, and these tales have been written in collaboration with authors such as Ali Smith, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Kamila Shamsie, Patrick Gale, Robert Macfarlane, and Bernardine Evaristo.

This July, we are embarking on a 5-day walk from Merstham to Winchester, stopping to meet local communities along the way. On Sunday 3rd July, our Refugee Tales walkers reach Guildford, and we would be delighted if you joined us for an evening of tales and music.



The event takes place at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church. It is free, and no booking is required.

Our evening in Guildford will be hosted by Tim Robertson, Chief Executive of the Anne Frank Trust. There will be readings of “The Outsider’s Tale” by Bidisha, the “Prologue of the Time Traveller’s Tale by Shami Chakrabarti, and poems by Kyon, written out of detention in Canada.

There will also be music, performed by Greg Russell. Possessed of an ‘extraordinary voice’ that’s ‘full of character’ (The Telegraph), over the last 8 years Greg Russell has established himself as one of the most significant performers on the U.K. folk scene. Playing guitar, bouzouki, banjo and singing, in 2013 he won the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award, and in 2014 he won the Horizon Award from the same source alongside Ciaran Algar.

If you would like to walk with Refugee Tales, you are welcome to walk with us from Dorking URC to Holy Trinity on Sunday 3rd July, or from Holy Trinity to Farnham Maltings on Monday 4th July, where you can attend the evening event afterwards.

Please visit our Eventbrite page to learn more about the walks and book a ticket.

Refugee Tales is deeply rooted in the work of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG), a charity that supports people who are, or have been, detained in Brook House and Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centres. To learn more about GDWG, please visit: [www.gdwg.org.uk](http://www.gdwg.org.uk), and to find out more about Refugee Tales, please visit: [www.refugeetales.org](http://www.refugeetales.org)

## Rector's Notes

### Sunday Evensong at Guildford Cathedral

There will be no Choral Evensong this Sunday at Holy Trinity we have been invited to Guildford Cathedral for the annual joint service (the first since 2019). Both choirs will sing together and with over 100 voices and a wonderful anthem, Ascribe unto the Lord, it promises to be quite the event.

The service will start at 6pm and we look forward to seeing you there.

### Assistant Choral Director

We are delighted to have appointed Robert Patterson as Organist and Assistant Choral Director from September. Robert auditioned and interviewed brilliantly and, with his experience at Canterbury Cathedral amongst others, will be a real asset to our choir community.

Robert was previously Assistant Organist at Holy Trinity between 2008-2010 and has a long-term association with the parish.

It is a joy to welcome him back.

## Sunday Worship • 12th June 2022

### HOLY TRINITY

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

Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31;  
Romans 5.1-5 ; John 16.12-15

[6pm Evensong at Guildford](#)  
[Cathedral](#)

[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 Jonathan Hedgecock](#)

[10:30am Morning Worship](#)  
[Led by Hilary Beckingham](#)

1 Chronicles 16. 8-15, 31-34  
Philippians 4. 4-9

[Midweek Holy Communion •](#)  
[Wednesdays • 12 noon](#)  
(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

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

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

## Notices, Events and Reminders!

Please pray for all those to be  
ordained this Pentecost, among them

[BENJAMIN CAHILL-NICHOLLS](#)

to be ordained Priest by

[ANDREW, LORD BISHOP OF GUILDFORD](#)

in his Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit  
at 3pm on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Please pray also for Ben's wife Ellie and son Hector, and for  
Canon Robert Cotton and the people of Holy Trinity & St Mary's,  
Guildford, with whom Ben will continue to serve.

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*  
[Colossians 3.14](#)



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## The Summer meeting of the Prayer Book Society – The Prayer Book for Today's Church

On **Saturday 18th June** at 4:15pm the Guildford branch of the Prayer Book Society will be holding a service of Holy Communion at the historic church of St. Mary's (on Quarry Street). The PBS aims to support parishes which regularly use the BCP in worship while also promoting its use, not as a throwback to the past, but as a set of liturgies giving us the tools to deepen our own spiritual lives and that of the Church.

The service, which will be followed by refreshments and a chance to hear more about the Society's work, will be led by the Revd Christopher Hancock, Chairman of the Guildford PBS branch and Hon. Assistant Curate at St Mary's Headley, with a sermon by The Revd Tom Pote, curate at St. Mary's.

**All are welcome!**

### REMINDERS!!

Practical Aspects of Spirituality at St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford from 09.20 to 12.30 on **Saturday 11 June**. To reserve a place, email – [rjfox@btinternet.com](mailto:rjfox@btinternet.com). These stand-alone Saturday morning sessions are open to all who want to take their spiritual lives deeper.

A reminder of the Festival Afternoon at St Mary's on **Sunday 19th June** from 3pm - 5pm.  
Please [click here](#) for more details.

The Grafham Art Group have an Art Exhibition at Guildford Cathedral, running from **17th May - 19th June**. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

### Contact us:

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Please make sure we have your current contact details.

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