



TRINITY TIMES

the parish magazine of Holy Trinity

FEBRUARY 2012

Issue number 83



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THE DEATH OF CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS



I was very sad to hear about the death of the author and journalist Christopher Hitchens. Like all of us, he had many flaws, but he was a colourful character and could write (and debate) brilliantly.

It may seem odd for me, a Priest, to admire one of the world's most famous (and strident) atheists. But his book "God is not Great" is a rip-roaring and at times very uncomfortable read, and it sits on my shelf alongside Richard Dawkins "The God Delusion" and Sam Harris's "The End of Faith".

As I said in the sermon on Christmas morning, there are Christians who would regard me as an "abomination" just for reading these books at all. But were not the angels' words to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid"? Is not the most commonly used phrase in the Bible, "fear not"?

Christians follow Christ, who was fearless in proclaiming the truth, who was always ready to engage in debate, even with those who claimed to be far more learned than he, and he faced down everything that could be thrown at him – on the cross. This all says to me that Christians should be fearless, and ready to engage with anything that may be thrown at them, too.

It seems to me profoundly unchristian to say "you can't read that" or "you shouldn't mix with them". God in Christ enters human life to the full, and experiences it – "warts and all". Christ mixed with the despised, so if Christians "despise" the high profile atheists mentioned above, then shouldn't they be prepared – following Christ's example – to be alongside them and to engage with them?

If Christianity is true, it has nothing to fear about ideas from science, philosophy, literature, film, TV or anywhere else.

I am proud to be an Anglican, and Anglicanism has taught that our views should be forged in interplay between "scripture, tradition and reason". The last of those, reason, means using our minds and embracing human knowledge to deepen our understanding of the bible, and the traditions of the church. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, MIND and strength".

"Do not be afraid".

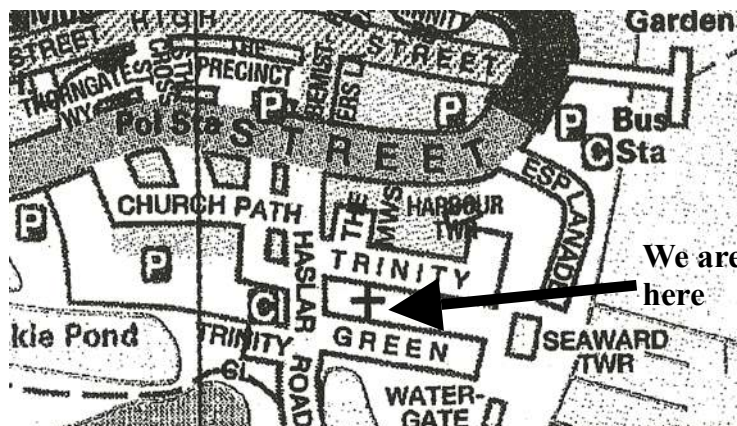
With love

Father Andy

HOLY TRINITY - Your Parish Church

If you are new to the area and/or reading Trinity Times for the first time - Welcome. Set out below are a few details about the Church which we hope you will find helpful

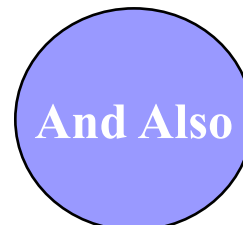
Also check out our website at www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk



You will find us on the east side of Haslar Road; look for the steeple - you can't miss us!

We are a Church of England Church in the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth and we are linked with Christ Church, Stoke Road.

In addition to the times listed on the following page, we are normally open to visitors Tuesday to Friday 1.30 to 3.30 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.



We worship 'in the round' which we find is a very friendly way of worshipping - it enhances the feeling of 'family' in the church. We use incense at our Sunday services (only) - in other words we are a "Smells & Bells" church. We have hearing loop and voice enhancement systems installed. This work was funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery fund

We have 2 meeting rooms available for hire; one holds a maximum of 60 people and the other 12 people. Kitchen facilities are available. There are toilets on the ground floor and a lift to the first floor. Telephone Fr Andy for details.



Our vicar is Rev Andy Davis. (We usually call him Fr. Andy but Andy is OK) As our priest, he is always happy to see anyone who needs to talk with him about anything. He can be contacted at 9 Britannia Way, Gosport. Tel: 023 9258 0173 or Mobile: 077 0991 9602. email@holytrinitygosport.co.uk (He is not usually around on Mondays)

SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS**

Parish Mass 11.00 am

Vespers and Benediction 6.00 pm

(A quiet, reflective service to end one week and begin another)

**Throughout Lent Vespers and Benediction will be replaced by
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



MONDAYS

Father Andy's day off



TUESDAYS

Mass 9.30 am

(30 minutes, quiet, prayerful, peace-giving)



WEDNESDAYS

5.45 pm Prayer Group

*(An informal gathering, to pray – quietly and simply –
For the church, the world and those suffering and in need)*

Mass 6.30 pm

(30 minutes, quiet, prayerful, peace-giving)



FRIDAYS

Mass 5.00 pm

(30 minutes, quiet, prayerful, peace-giving)

*****On each occurrence of a fifth Sunday in a month, a joint service will be held alternating between Holy Trinity and Christ Church. The next joint service will be held at 11.00 a.m. at Holy Trinity on Sunday 29th April 2012***

Trinity Times is published by Holy Trinity Church, Gosport, Hampshire. It is distributed free of charge to more than 1,000 households and 160 shops in the Parish. You can also view in colour on our website: www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk

Editor: Joan Millard

LENT

Yes, we're at that time of year again. Lent begins on the 22nd February with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament when the Israelites, as part of their repentance for sins they had committed, covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heartfelt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

Today, at Holy Trinity we receive on our foreheads the mark of ashes in the form of a cross which reminds us of our mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..."

Lent is a time for prayer and reflection, to follow Christ's every step to His crucifixion until His resurrection. It is a time to pause for a moment, to sit down quietly and think of how we can bring Christ into our hearts and into our lives, not just for Lent, but for always.

Many people give up something for Lent, perhaps stop eating chocolate or drinking wine. Others take on something extra such as attending additional church services during the week. It's a bit like new year's resolutions but lasting for only 40 days!

At Holy Trinity our Ash Wednesday service starts at 6.00 pm on the 22nd February.

If you want to journey with us throughout Lent why not come to any of our services set out on page 5. As you will see the Sunday evening Vespers and Benediction will be replaced by Stations of the Cross, a truly moving service in which we follow Christ's journey to Calvary.

We are also encouraged to join one of the Lent Study Groups referred to on the following page - more detailed information can be found at the website referred to or alternatively an information sheet is available in church.



In Gosport

Lent Study Groups 2012

**Join with other Christians
in a small groups during Lent.**

**Simple but profound bible study
and fellowship!**

Meetings are for **FIVE WEEKS**, commencing in the week beginning Monday 27th February 2012.

**A copy of the Course and how to book
can be found on the "Events" page at
www.churchestogetheringosport.org.uk**



More details from Rev Andy Davis
andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk
christchurchgosport@hotmail.co.uk
023 92 580173 or 07709 919602
(Phone number unavailable one day a week)

TEA TIME CONCERTS 2012

At Holy Trinity we continue our “Tea-Time Concerts” at 3.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month. Admission to all the concerts is free although a retiring collection is taken for the benefit of the organ restoration project. All the musicians give freely of their talents as their contribution to this project. Afternoon tea is served in the Capper Room after each concert.

These concerts, which last no longer than an hour, present the opportunity to hear fine music in the generous acoustic of this beautiful Church. Why not give it a try? It’s a very pleasant way in which to while away a Sunday afternoon.

Details of the February, March and April concerts are set out below.

SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY

YOUNG MUSICIANS PLATFORM

**Young players from local schools and colleges
enjoy the acoustic of Holy Trinity whilst entertaining us**

Please support them

SUNDAY 4th MARCH

Music for violin, cello and piano

from

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SUNDAY 4th MARCH

Music from our own

STRING QUARTET IN RESIDENCE *plus*

Block-flute (Philip Hickman)

Harpsichord (Geoffrey Holroyde)

STRIPPED FOR ACTION



Anyone visiting Holy Trinity now will not fail to notice that the organ is looking somewhat skeletal as can be seen from the photo on the left showing a unique view of the church taken from inside the organ case.

The keyboard was one of the first items to go and the rest has gradually followed so that the organ is now pipe-less, reed-less, stop-less and almost “everything else-less”.

The bulk of the work will be carried out off-site and it is expected that the organ will be re-assembled in time for a programme of special concerts starting in May.

A range of superb photographs taken as the organ was dismantled, can be seen on our website at http://www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk/organ_appeal.html.



Ride & Stride

Didn't they do well!

In September our Riders and Striders - including Mollie - raised a grand total of £195 for the Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust.

As explained on previous occasions half of this total is returned to Holy Trinity and we have therefore received the sum of £97.50 for church funds - money which is very necessary for the day to day running of the church.

We thank everyone who took part - the Riders and Striders (and Mollie, of course), and those who manned the signing-in station and provided refreshments.

We also thank those who gave so generously in sponsoring the energetic people (and dogs) who took part.

There will be another opportunity to take part this year so start training now - or perhaps when the weather improves!

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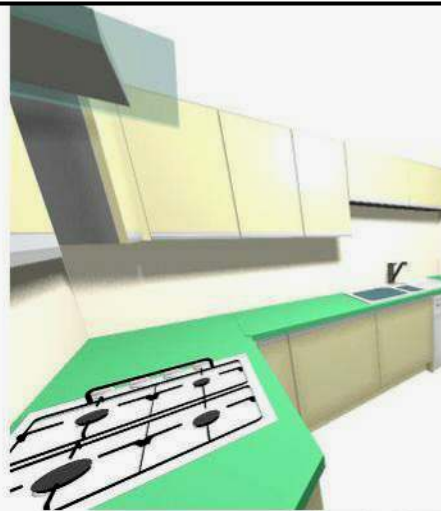
Worried about inviting a pushy salesperson into your home?

Whether you are thinking of spending £3000 or £30,000 give me a call.

I am completely independent, with no affiliation to any kitchen supplier or installer and have no product to sell - so no sales pitch.

I will put my 20 years experience in the kitchen industry to help you design your new dream kitchen and advise on some of the extras that otherwise get overlooked until it is too late.

To make an appointment call
Martin 07867 955052 / Joyce 07779 230651
Or visit me on www.greenknightdesign.co.uk



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From: Great Aunt Pru <prudence.little@shewitters.com>
To: Tamsin Ozling
Subject: Do I need it?

My dear Tammy,

Sorry I've been so long writing to you but I know from your mum that you had a great Christmas and that you celebrated the New Year in style - by the way, rather belatedly, Happy New Year.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? I made just one and so far I've managed to stick to it. I decided that I will buy only goods (particularly clothes and shoes) if I really *need* them rather than just want them. For instance, I look in my wardrobe and think "I've had that for years...I'd really like a new one" but then when I really look at my clothes there's nothing wrong with them and they will go on for years; so that's when I decide I don't *need* the new jacket/skirt/dress.

Then, of course, there's the temptation when I'm out shopping to buy a skirt, say, in a sale because it's a really good price; at times like this I give myself a "cooling-off period" of 24 hours or so and in that time I decide I certainly don't need it and very often I don't even want it - and there is a difference you know.

It even works when I'm grocery shopping - it would be nice to pop some chocolate or cake into the trolley but I can't honestly say I need it so I leave it on the shelf. I know this sounds a bit boring but I find it's becoming a habit to question myself on whether something is needed or just wanted; it's surprising what money you can save by doing this.

The trouble is, as always, there is another side to this argument. If we all buy only what we need and nothing else it could have an effect on the local economy. There are many complaints already that the High Street is dying (although Gosport's High Street is no worse than, in fact it is better than, many other towns in the country) but the only way shops can survive is if people buy their goods - it's the old mantra of "use it or lose it". So if we all stop buying new clothes for instance, the shops will fail to make sufficient profit to cover their rent and other outgoings and will have to close, resulting in the loss of jobs. Oh! dear, what a dilemma! Maybe I shall have to go on a spending spree soon!

With much love to everyone over there from your ever-loving

Great Aunt Pru



THOUGHT LINES....

Stones

(John 8:1-11)

Stones

Everywhere.

And so often we throw them,

Not taking time

To write on the ground,

To think, to reflect,

To recognise our haste.

To know that if justice prevailed

We too would have bruised heads and bodies.

Lord give us your wisdom,

Your compassion,

Your willingness to forgive,

To accept rather than accuse.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Help us to walk away from the

Stones.

By Daphne Kitching

February is the month we think of romantic love. But true Love comes in many forms, some more costly than others.

Compassion

What a lovely thing it is –

A heart that's warm and kind,

One filled with compassion

That soothes the troubled mind.

A heart that's all forgiving

And always understands,

One who goes the second mile

And never makes demands.

Many hearts grow cold and hard

From knocks upon life's way,

And others lack compassion

In the world today.

Always trim your lamp of love

And keep the flame alight –

For the heart filled with compassion

Is precious in God's sight.

By Kathleen Gillum

....AND SMILE LINES

Forgiveness



A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

Who did it?

A solicitor, doctor, and minister went hunting red deer together in the Highlands. When a deer ran past them, they all fired at the exact same moment, and the deer dropped. However, when they went to look, there was only one bullet hole. They didn't know which of them shot it, and asked one of the stalkers what they should do.

The stalker said: "Let me look at the deer. Sometimes I can figure it out." He asked a few questions, examined the deer carefully, and declared, "The minister shot this buck!" Amazed, they all asked how he knew. Stooping down, he pointed out the wound. "See here. It went in one ear and out the other."

What it's worth

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed.



As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key." Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

MOLLIE'S TAILPIECE

I really like Christmas because lots of people give me presents. The bit where our upright is wrapping the presents is boring though. I got so fed up that I started to unwrap some of the sweets which were for the small uprights. She said she hadn't even wrapped them yet. I thought she'd be glad because I knew she was fed up with all the wrapping, so I'd save her some trouble.



We got some presents from our upright's brother who lives so far away he has to fly when he comes here. I can't imagine that. I see the birds in the garden fly, but I've never seen an upright fly. I mean they haven't any feathers to flap, so how do they do it?

Anyway he sent me a lovely blanket. Our upright said it was hers but she'd got lots of other presents and everyone knows that dogs sleep on blankets. We had a few disagreements over it to begin with but it's all sorted out now and she's got the old blanket. That's alright because it was okay for her before and it's nearly as soft as mine.

She stops me getting at the chewy cupboard now. I got bored again when she got her stamps out so I went to look for something to do. I just found this great big tripe stick and I took it up stairs (where she was) to eat it. Big mistake! She said "Oh! Oh! that's much too big for you." She broke off a bit of it and took the rest downstairs to put it away; which was when she found out that I'd eaten all of the others that had been in the bag. There were lots and they were lovely, tho' my tummy was a bit uncomfortable the next day.

Well, I had a bit of trouble with her over the blanket the other day because she forgot it was mine and sat on it. I had to push and push her until she moved so that I could have it.

The thing about uprights is that you have to make sure that they remember who's in charge.

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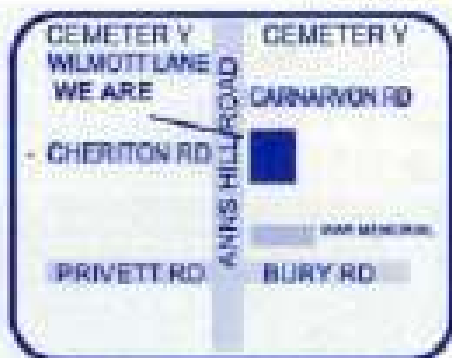
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