



# **TRINITY TIMES**

**the parish magazine of Holy Trinity**

**DECEMBER 2011  
and JANUARY 2012**

**Issue number 82**



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## “PITCHED HIS TENT AMONG US”



One of the most famous – and loved – bible verses associated with Christmas is “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 14). It comes at the end of the passage that begins “in the beginning was the Word” and is read at the end of carol services, and often as the Gospel reading at Midnight Mass.

God’s “Word” (logos in the original Greek) is God expressing exactly who he is. A bit like when we say, “you have my word on that”, you are saying that you are staking your whole self on something.

God’s Word; God expressing who he is, becomes flesh – that is, becomes human – in the person of Jesus.

Jesus, therefore, is God, “expressing exactly who he is”. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. In Bishop David Jenkins’ wonderful words, “Jesus is the human being that God chose to be”. Therefore God is compassionate, God’s being is expressed in service, kindness, humility, the welcome of strangers, outcasts and sinners, in generosity with time and possessions, and in self-giving and self-sacrifice.

What is particularly striking is that the LITERAL translation of the Greek that we translate as “dwelt” is “pitched his tent”. So the verse reads “the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us.”

In the biblical tradition, God’s people were always on the move, pitching their tent wherever they needed to be, and when the camp was pitched, there would be a “tent of meeting”, where God dwelt – a “portable” reminder of God’s presence.

So, the tents which have recently been pitched outside St Paul’s Cathedral have a Godly and spiritual resonance. They are an expression of meaning and purpose – challenging people to think about issues of money, common life, selfishness and generosity; and above all, raising questions about how we (as a nation) should order our life and what our priorities should be.

The magnificent Christopher Wren Cathedral, and the tents outside, are both expressions of who God is, and who he wants us to be. Even if the tents are removed, the questions they raised will remain.....

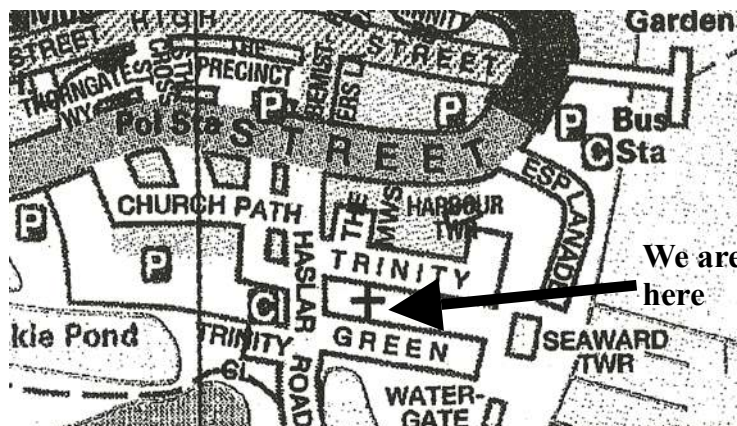
With love

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

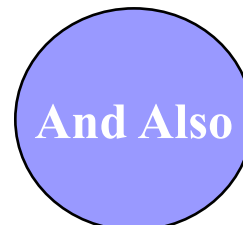
Also check out our website at [www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk](http://www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk)



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 midday.



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](mailto: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)*



## 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 **9.30 a.m. at Christ Church on Sunday 29th January 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](http://www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk)*

*Editor: Joan Millard*



## **CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY**



### **ROTARY CHARITY CONCERT**

Wednesday December 14 at 6.45pm  
*St Vincent Singers, Solent Silver Band and Jim Hames Trio*  
£8.00 adults; £4.00 under 16's

### **LUNCHTIME CAROLS**

Thursday December 15 at 1.10pm  
*(with Brass Band and Newtown School Choir)*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE, 24th. December**

11.30pm Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY, 25th. December**

10.00am Christmas Communion with Carols



### **AND AT CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTINGLE**

Tuesday December 6 at 6.00pm

### **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday December 11 at 6.30pm

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

6.30pm Candlelight Service *(with Nativity Play and Puppets)*  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

8.00am Holy Communion and 11.00am Christmas Carols



Fr Andy Davis 07709 919602 [andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The congregation at Holy Trinity have been busy filling shoeboxes with children's toys and other goodies as part of Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative of the charity Samaritans Purse, a Christian relief and development organisation which works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God to children and families in need across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Every year Operation Christmas Child is made possible through the amazing support of thousands of children and adults in the UK and Ireland. Last year alone Operation Christmas Child had the joy of sending nearly 1.12 million shoeboxes bursting with joy from the UK and several thousand more from Ireland to children living in parts of Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.



In November, Fr Andy, assisted by Lay Deacon Philip Hopgood, blessed the boxes during Sunday Mass and prayed that they would bring joy to those who received them.

## **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 and March concerts are set out below.

### **SUNDAY 1st JANUARY**

**You’ve guessed it.....there’ll be no concert on  
New Year’s Day**

### **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**

**A programme of music**

**for**

**violin, cello and piano**

**from**

**LOVISA TRIO**

## A CHRISTMAS CRACKER....

...that was certainly what our Christmas Market turned out to be. For a start the weather was kind to us - well it wasn't raining anyway. Those who felt a little chilled were soon warmed with a glass of ginger wine before doing the round of the well-stocked stalls.



There was certainly plenty of choice - from the cake and preserves stall (*left*) run by Chrissie O'Neill (always guaranteed to be a sell-out) to Philip Hopgood's well stocked bric-a-brac stall (*Philip is shown right with his "little helper" Dawn Marsh*).



And who could resist Geoff O'Neill's bottle tombola (*right*) when he was looking so dapper - where *did* you get that hat Geoff?

There was, of course, the opportunity of resting tired feet and chatting to friends and neighbours over a welcome cup of tea or coffee and something to eat in the café - the social aspect of our Christmas Markets (as well as our May Fairs) is very important to us.

We are pleased to report that a much needed £1,609.06 was raised for church funds - and yes, that odd 6p is important. This total certainly warrants a big –



### THUMBS UP AND THANK YOU TO...

... everyone who helped stock and run the various stalls and the café

... the many individuals and local businesses who donated raffle prizes, in particular **Go Bowling**, **Gosport Ferry Ltd.**, **Dash & Cox**, the **Co-op** (Wych Lane branch) and **Highbury College**

... all who supported the Christmas Market and made it worthwhile.

Our May Fayre is planned for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012 so why not make a note of it in your diaries now .

## Green Knight Design

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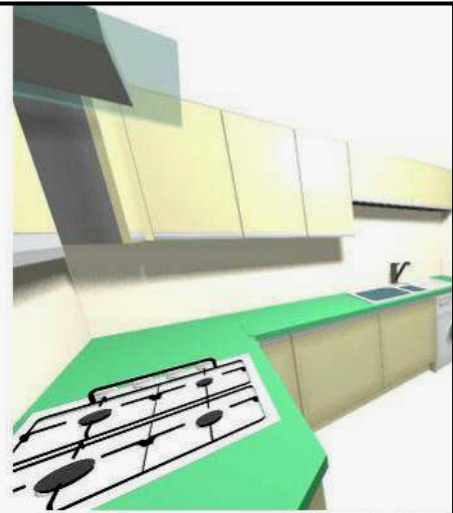
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## CLOCK WATCH

Despite our best efforts, Holy Trinity's clock remains 'timeless' - as it has been for over a year now. With the many kind donations and grants so far received and including the promised grant from Gosport Borough Council, we have a little over £9,800 available towards the total cost of £15,336 for the repair and restoration of the clock.



2012 will see some high profile events taking place - the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics - so let's make it the year the clock gets its mojo back!

Needless to say, we are more than grateful for even the smallest donation towards the cost of repairing this clock which has been relied upon by the local community for so long. If you wish to make a donation, we suggest you place it in an envelope marked "Clock Fund" and drop it into church one afternoon - cheques should be made payable to "Holy Trinity Church"; if you prefer to post it, our address is Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Green, Gosport PO12 1HL. Every penny helps.

**From: Great Aunt Pru** <prudence.little@shewitters.com>  
**To: Tamsin Ozling**  
**Subject: Love is what it's about**

My dear Tammy,

As I seem to be disappearing under a mountain of Christmas cards to be written and posted shortly and I shall be speaking to you soon anyway, I thought I'd be a bit lazy and send you this parody of the words from chapter 13 of the first book of Corinthians.

"If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen. Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about his or her job prospects. Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever."

I'm going to make sure I read that regularly over the next few weeks to remind me of what's really important.

Love to everyone from your ever-loving

Great Aunt Pru



## END OF YEAR HIGH DAYS....

### Christmas Eve - 24th December

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mass. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The English are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the English are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

### Christmas Day - 25th December

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.



Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimittis.

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!

## ....AND HOLY DAYS

### **The naming of Jesus - 1st January -**

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - eight days after 25 December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

### **Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?**

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Iēsoûs, and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because he will save his people from their sins".

### **Epiphany - 6th January**

On the 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which were given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.



*Trinity Times wishes all of its readers  
a happy and peaceful Christmas  
and all that they would wish for themselves for the New Year  
We look forward to being with you again in February*

## ***MOLLIE'S TAILPIECE***

Upright Aunty Judith has a new cat. She said that after William died she was very sad because the house seemed so empty, so she went to somewhere called 'The Ark' to find another cat.

Is that the ark that our upright used to tell the small uprights about when we used to go to school? All the animals went into the ark, so if it was the same ark, upright Judith might have come back with a heffalump, or a rat, or a horse. But she came back with a stripey cat.



I know she's stripey because I saw her when we went to Bible Study. I think she's called Crumbs - but that's what we put on the garden for the birds. Or it might be Crumble - but that's what our upright cooks when upright Christie comes for tea.

We made tea for lots of uprights the other week. The Mayor spoke to me and said how well I behaved in church. Another night, we had lots of people from all sorts of faiths and I didn't go into the meeting because our upright said that some people there might think that dogs shouldn't be in a church and as they were visitors we mustn't upset them. But an upright called Samir, who is a Muslim, came over and spoke to me because he has a dachshund the same colour as Sascha. Lots of other people spoke to me too.

Anyway, I think that upright Judith's cat might be called Crumpled, because when she woke up and looked at me her face was all crumpled. Our upright was very rude and said that maybe she was having the same difficulty as William when he wondered whether I was supposed to be a dog! I don't know why I put up with all this rudeness when so many people say how lovely I am.

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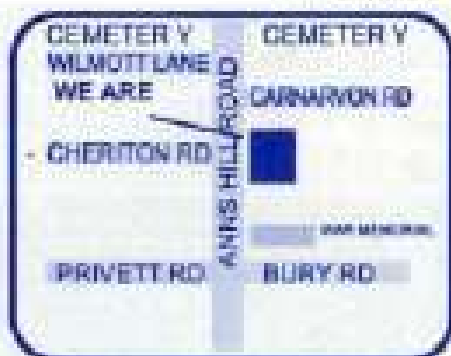
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