



TRINITY TIMES
the parish magazine of Holy Trinity
JULY and AUGUST 2011
Issue number 78



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“BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED”



This phrase is often used in a jokey way, including by those who remember the many hilarious sketches by Dave Allen that were set in a confession box! There is sometimes a suggestion that – by going to confession – unscrupulous types are then free to carry on indulging in their favourite “sin”! Or consider this poem, allegedly written on an Irish Girls’ School lavatory wall:

Virgin Mary, we believe:
That without sin, you did conceive;
Holy Mary, this believing,
Can we sin, WITHOUT conceiving?

However, things have changed. What used to be called “Confession” is now officially called “The Sacrament of Reconciliation”, and it is broader than simply dealing with sin(s) but is more about one’s whole being, and how one can best be reconciled to God, to others, and (perhaps most importantly) to oneself.

But isn’t it just for Roman Catholics? No, it is available to people in the Anglican Church, but only if they want and need it. Archbishop William Temple summed up the Anglican approach to what we now call “Reconciliation” beautifully:

“All can; none must; some should.”

My own approach to all this is heavily influenced by a book by Fr Martin Smith, an American who is a member of “The Society of St John the Evangelist” (SSJE) or the “Cowley Fathers” as they were once known in this country.

What follows is a brief summary of what he says about why some people might need “The Sacrament of Reconciliation” (also still called “Confession”).

1. **Our need for celebration.** Human beings have a need to mark significant events and changes in their life with ritual, a celebratory action involving others. Every society has its rites of passage that provide ceremonial for life's turning points and enable the participants to experience their significance in a timehonoured way recognized by all. The church’s sacraments and its cycle of prayer and worship answer this need. Trying to experience inner renewal and change purely on one's own, in the privacy of one's heart, can often be frustrating as well as lonely and incomplete. The Holy Communion can be the setting for celebrating the reality of personal reconciliation with God and has that function week by week, but the rite of reconciliation brings a particular form to the drama of forgiveness and new life within the Christian community.
2. **The corporate aspect of sin and forgiveness.** By confessing my sins to the church, represented by the priest, I acknowledge that my sin is not my

private business, but a failure in my life and witness as a member of the body of Christ. Others are involved. My sin is a part of the church's sin, my repentance is part of the church's repentance, my forgiveness is part of the forgiveness that the whole church constantly experiences afresh as God's gift.

3. **A safe zone for facing the negative.** For many people it is impossible to take selfexamination lightly. They feel vulnerable and even frightened at the prospect of looking at evil in their own heart. They may well hesitate, realizing that to face their sinfulness on their own could prove overwhelming. The rite of reconciliation offers a safe zone for looking sin in the face. It provides a holy setting in which the healing power of God is known to be infinitely greater than the negativity in our lives. The presence of the priest is reassuring; it gives us company and support. The priest, representing the church lifts us out of our isolation, and allows us to know that nothing we disclose is outside the range of the church's experience or beyond the reach of absolution. We can't be left trapped in our sense of sin because the sacramental rite moves us on into the experience of release.
4. **A means of opening and clearing the heart.** The relief that comes from unburdening oneself of oppressive secrets (not just sins) is known to everybody. There is a lightness and openness following the release of what was pent up inside. The rite of reconciliation provides the setting of security in which to bring everything into the light, discharge the tension of secrecy and clear the heart.
5. **A way of accepting the humiliation of the Cross.** Many people shrink from this Sacrament because they know only too well that there is a deep humiliation in revealing one's sins to another human being. In fact, it is a dreadful blow to our pride. This costliness is actually a reason for using, not avoiding, the sacrament of reconciliation. Christ himself underwent the shame of a sinner's public death and long before that had warned that all disciples had to take up their cross and reject all concern for a safe and pious reputation. In making our confession openly to a pastor of the church, we let the experience of reconciliation be costly, not cheap.
6. **The breakthrough to certainty.** In sacramental confession we gain the certainty of forgiveness. Left on our own, there is sometimes room for lingering doubts. Is my sense of forgiveness a matter of selfexoneration? Am I truly dealing with the Lord and the forgiveness that is God's free gift, or am I papering over the cracks? In the sacrament such doubts are overcome. I experience the presence of God in the reality of the other person and the word of pardon comes with objectivity and authority.

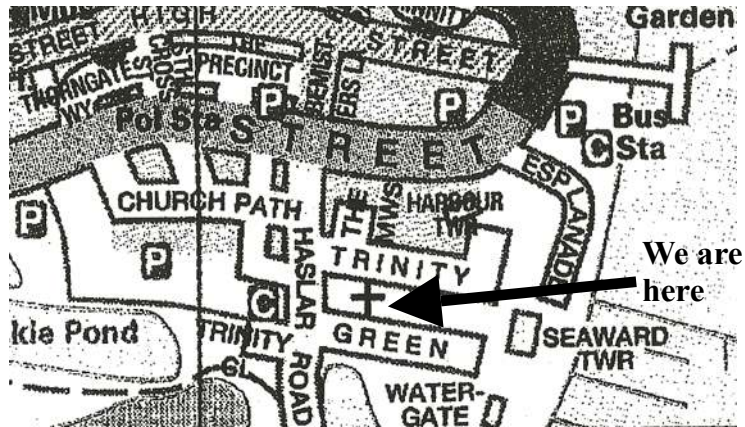
With Love

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

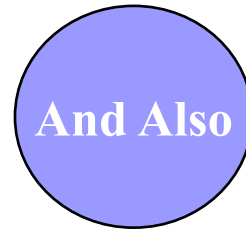
Also check out our website at www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk



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 Monday 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 (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 31st July 2011

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

CLOCK WATCH

Well, we're still at it!

The fund raising for the repair and restoration of the church clock is progressing slowly but surely. We have so far received personal donations of just over £1,477, donations from our local County Councillors of £1,600 and £1,000 from the Gosport Society. In addition we have pledges of money from Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council totalling £5,700 so you will see that we are well on the way to raising the required sum of £15,336.



We are still pursuing various grants and hope it will not be too long before we know the result of these applications.

It would seem that, contrary to the old adage, time has no choice but to wait for man (and his cheque book)!

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. Isn't it amazing how often you automatically look at the clock to check the time only to remember that it is out of action? If you wish to make a donation towards the repair, 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.

COST OF PREACHING



One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

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TEA TIME CONCERTS 2011

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 will be 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 extra July concert as well as the August and September concerts are set out below.

SUNDAY 10th JULY

Organ Recital

by

SIGURD ØGAARD

(this is a special visit to Gosport during his European Recital Tour so that he can play our Handel organ - see the next page)

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS

Recital for

Organ, Tenor and Piano

SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

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ADRIAN CLARKE

SIGURD M. ØGAARD BIOGRAPHY



Born in Bergen, Norway, in 1978, Sigurd M. Øgaard began studying the organ with his uncle, Kristen Øgaard, at age ten. In 1996, he attended the International Summer Academy for Organists in Haarlem, Holland. While there, he studied with Professor Piet Kee. From 1997-2002, Sigurd was an organ performance major at the Grieg Academy in Bergen, studying organ under Tor Grønn and Karstein Askeland, and choral conducting under Magnar Mangersnes. As part of his undergraduate work, he spent a semester at the Birmingham Conservatoire in England, where his teachers included David Saint and James Parsons. During his time there, he worked as organ scholar at St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick.

In 2002, Sigurd moved to the USA to work as Organist and Assistant Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas, while pursuing a Master's Degree at Texas Tech University. He recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting. His teachers have included Dr. John Dickson and Dr. John Hollins.

Sigurd has performed extensively in Norway and abroad. Performance venues have included St. Bavo Church, Haarlem; St. Paul's, Westminster, Birmingham and Coventry Cathedrals (England); and Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis (USA). He has been a featured soloist in the Bergen International Music Festival and the Oslo Church Music Festival.

We are extremely fortunate that Sigurd is “stopping off” from his European Recital Tour to play for us at Holy Trinity - it will surely be a feast for the ears. We hope our readers will support this additional Tea Time Concert - we are certain you will not be disappointed.

From: Great Aunt Pru <prudence.little@shewitters.com>
To: Tamsin Ozling
Subject: Home's best

My dear Tammy,

I was pleased to hear from your mum that you are all keeping well over there; I'm really looking forward to her visit later this year; I've told her that she'll be using Gosport's new pontoon when she arrives - and paying higher ferry prices!

I thought I'd take a bit of a break before your mum arrives; I've decided not to go away this year but spend my time just pottering - something I really enjoy doing. The real attraction in this sort of holiday is that no matter what you do during the day, you always end up in the relaxing comfort of your own home and sleeping in your own bed....and you don't have all that packing and unpacking - bliss!

Added to this you can get up when you want to, eat what and when you want and choose when you go out without feeling you're getting in someone's way if you just stay put. Of course, there's nothing to stop me going out for lunch to save cooking and maybe I'll go on one or two coach trips - or maybe not.... depending how the mood takes me! It'll certainly be a lot cheaper than paying out train and air fares and hotel charges - and these days, that's a big bonus.

I know you'll probably say 'What about entertainment?'; well I can find plenty of that and mostly free of charge. It costs nothing but a little energy to potter down to the High Street or the waterfront and people-watch - especially when there are small children exploring anything and everything; or I can sit on one of the seats outside Holy Trinity and listen to the birdsong and watch the squirrels - and do more people-watching! For the cost of a few peanuts, I can have birds entertaining me at home - especially sparrows....they can be surprisingly aggressive and really funny to watch when they're squabbling.

Then, of course, there are the monthly Tea Time Concerts at Holy Trinity - I'm particularly looking forward to a recital being given on the 10th July by a Norwegian organist which I think is something not to be missed.

So, you see, it's not necessary to spend oodles of money on holidays.

Love to everyone in Oz

From your ever-loving

Great Aunt Pru



TWO MONTHS OF HIGH DAYS....

3rd July: St Thomas the Apostle – confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. His impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term but Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining "I am going to my father" and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God". Thus in Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of the Resurrection, find support for their own faith.

22nd July: St Mary Magdalene - patron of repentant sinners

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life. Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberias in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion; on the following morning she went to the tomb to anoint his body. Mary was also the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter morning.

Mary Magdalene has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Luke 7.37) and over the centuries many artists have painted this scene.

25th July: St James the Apostle - apostle to Spain

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee - the 'sons of thunder', as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out for three reasons: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. With Peter and John he went to 'watch' with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, in AD44 he was the first apostle to die for the Christian faith. In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom.

....AND HOLY DAYS

6th August: The Transfiguration - or the day Jesus met Elijah and Moses...

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular and people were seeking him out. On this particular day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a mountain. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before his friends. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered; he immediately suggested building three tabernacles there, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling' - God's dwelling with mankind - no longer depends upon building a shrine, it depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud saying that Jesus was his beloved son whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then it was all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. *Why on top of a mountain?* In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

29th August: Beheading of St John the Baptist

When you go back to work after the August Bank Holiday, spare a thought for John the Baptist: you won't be served locusts with a honey dip in your local sandwich bar; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife; and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hiphop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet we are told that no one was as great as him. Why? Because of the job God gave him to do - the best PR job ever - to act as God's press officer. This was literally the PR job from heaven, with God as his client: his job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised him in the Jordan at the start of his ministry. PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even Max Clifford has ever lost his head over a client.

MOLLIE'S TAILPIECE

We've spent lots of time trying to find out whether I need a past port for going to Eyeland.

Somebody said to upright Christie that if I didn't have proper papers I could be arrested for carrying drugs. Our upright got very cross and said "Where would she carry drugs?" She said: "Get off my phone and don't be so silly." (Or something like that).



The last time we went to upright Judith's the people at Bible Study were worried and said there was something wrong with me. Our upright didn't know what was wrong.

A few days later upright Judith rang to say that William - her cat - had died. She said that he'd been really poorly for a few days and hadn't been eating; she knew it wasn't good and the vet agreed. Our upright said it was odd because I was alright as soon as I left their house.

Our upright wondered whether I knew that William was very ill, but she said she didn't think I was that in too titive (I think that's what she said.) Apparently she'd watched a television programme about a dog which lives in a house for old people and they know when someone's going to die because the dog goes to sit with them. Anyway, she said that William was a beautiful, gentle cat. He'd never hissed at me - I liked his biscuits too.

I found out something interesting the other day. We've got a cat in our car. I've never seen it but one day the car kept making a funny beeping noise and our upright said there was a message on the panel to say that the cat wasn't working properly. What does the cat do when it's working? I keep looking to see if I can see it but then the man at the garage said the back box was falling off - maybe the cat had fallen out of the box. Cats like boxes!

Editor to Mollie: I don't know what a 'cat' and 'back box' is either - if you find out, let me know.

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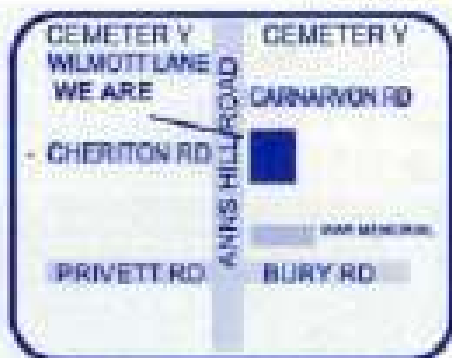
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