



# **TRINITY TIMES**

**the parish magazine of Holy Trinity**

**MARCH 2011**

**Issue number 74**

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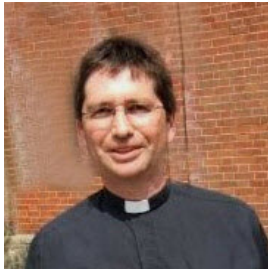
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## THOUGH I SPEAK IN THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS.....



I have always admired people who have a way with words. Having been educated at a time when teaching people formal grammar was seen as stifling their individuality, I am sure that my letters in this magazine are full of grammatical errors! When I worked as Bishop's Chaplain, Bishop Kenneth (who was trained in classics) would regularly send my draft documents back with things like "split infinitive" or "hanging nominative" (or did I make that up?) written all over them.....

Some pieces are so beautifully written that it is a pleasure to read them – even if they are about tractor maintenance or how to install plumbing.

But what I admire most is people with a flair for public speaking. A few months ago I listened to a free CD of the last century's great speeches. Hearing Martin Luther King ("I have been to the top of the mountain and seen the promised land") or President Roosevelt's famous inauguration speech: "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself") certainly sends a shiver down my spine!

In a world of sound-bites, texting and emailing, and public figures hell-bent on avoiding saying anything too direct, it is an even bigger pleasure to hear someone speak in public with passion, clarity, humanity, humour and warmth.

I recently judged a "Youth Speaks" event in the Council Chamber, organised by Rotary, and with teams from Bay House and Brune Park Schools. Each team had three members: a Chair (who introduced for two minutes); a Speaker (who spoke for six minutes) and a proposer of thanks (who also spoke for two minutes).

In a world where public speaking is less and less common, these young people showed very high standards of preparation and delivery, with one young man delivering his six minutes without a single note in front of him! It was a faith-restoring experience!

Ironically, one of the speeches was a searing attack on the website "Facebook", and how real, human, face-to-face communication is in danger of being fatally undermined. Amen to that!

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.

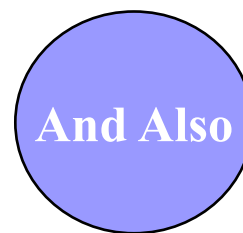
In addition to the times listed on the following page, we are normally open to visitors Monday to Friday 1.30 to 3.30 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to midday



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)



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 a hearing loop system 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.

# 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 **11.00 a.m. at Holy Trinity on Sunday 29th May 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](http://www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk)*

*Editor: Joan Millard*

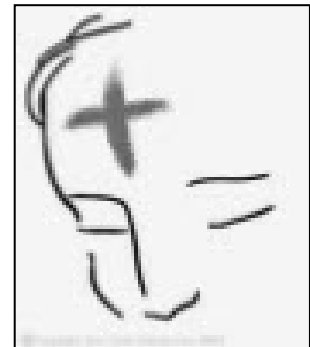
## THIS MONTH'S HIGH DAYS....

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT - WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT LENT, ANYWAY?

Lent begins on the 9th March with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is widely observed by Christians as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This recalls the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on oneself as a symbol of repentance. (e.g. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse and repentance.

Especially during the Middle Ages, Christians began Lent by imposing ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. Nowadays any ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses from Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent. Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent.



What about the custom of giving up things? Lent is based on the period of forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for forty days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full forty days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and



**SUNDAY 6th MARCH**

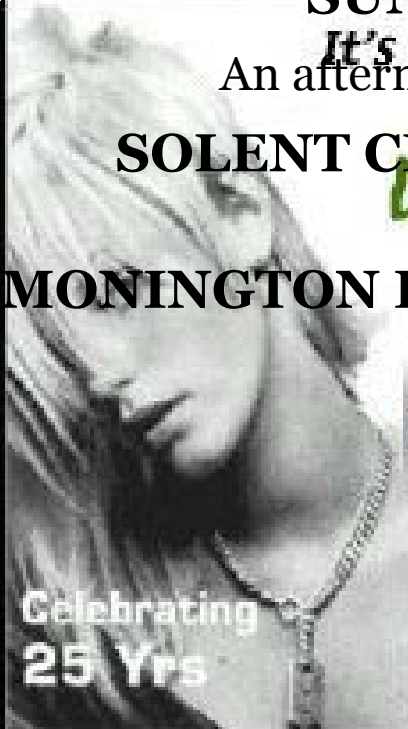
*It's more than a haircut!*

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## **TEA TIME CONCERTS 2010**

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 March, April and May concerts are set out below.

### **SUNDAY 6th MARCH**

An afternoon of entertainment from  
**SOLENT CITY CHORUS** - Barbershop  
Contrasting with  
**MONINGTON DUO** - Clarinet and Piano

### **SUNDAY 3rd APRIL**

**PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL  
CHORAL SCHOLARS**

entertain with  
**MUSIC DOWN THE AGES**

### **SUNDAY 1st MAY**

A programme of music from  
**GOSPORT U3A SWING BAND**  
and **THE SONG BIRDS**



In Gosport

## Lent Study Groups 2011

Join with 180 other Christians  
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Meetings are for **FIVE WEEKS**,  
commencing in the week beginning  
Monday 14th March 2011

Information sheets available  
in most Gosport Churches

*or contact:*

Revd. Andy Davis

[andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk)  
[christchurchgosport@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christchurchgosport@hotmail.co.uk)

023 9258 0173 or 07709 919602



**From: Great Aunt Pru** <prudence.little@shewitters.com>  
**To: Tamsin Ozling**  
**Subject: Fresh Start**

My dear Tammy,

Well, what a time of it you've had in Townsville with cyclone Yasi wreaking havoc - although fortunately not so bad as it was a bit farther north from you. I was so relieved to learn from your mum that you were all safe and that apart from decimated gardens, the only damage was to a corner of your mum's house. She told me when we spoke the other day that an estimated 63,000 trees were brought down in Townsville alone - what a mammoth task to clear that lot.

Having cleared the garden of fallen trees and debris, your mum tells me she is planning what to plant in their place adding that at least she knows now what not to plant - such as trees that topple easily. It's certainly an opportunity to make a fresh start.

Perhaps it wouldn't be such a bad thing to have the spiritual equivalent of cyclone Yasi to clear out all the unsound structures and debris in our personal lives. We collect so many preconceived ideas and prejudices with no foundation in truth - I know I do anyway. I think it could do nothing but good to clear them all out leaving only that which is securely grounded in love, truth and compassion. Without all the clutter to obscure our view, maybe we would see our fellow human beings in a different light and be more loving and understanding.

In a global context, if we could see beyond the small differences between peoples and nations and concentrate and build on the many things we have in common, then maybe we would have fewer conflicts and work together to improve the things which really matter. I think that, unfortunately, there are too many individuals to whom power and clinging on to it is all that matters - or is this me clinging on to "preconceived ideas and prejudices"?

Perhaps I should use Lent to identify and clear out my own personal clutter.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Give my love to everyone over there

From your ever-loving

Great Aunt Pru



## BOOK SIGNING

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Gosport.

### *"The Four Elizabeths"*

by

*Mary MacLaren*

A novel set in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century about four prostitutes transported – as convicts – from Portsmouth to Australia.

More information about the book and the author at  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Come and meet the author and get a signed copy.

**£1.00 from each book goes to the  
Holy Trinity Clock Fund.**

## SHOW A LEG



Fr. Andy and Philip Hopgood prepare for a Highland Fling during our Burns Night Supper - we're not telling how far we flung them!



## **GOSPORT DEANERY**

*The Deanery of Gosport is one of eight deaneries in our Diocese of Portsmouth. It is made up of the parishes of Rowner, Lee-on-the-Solent, Christ Church, Holy Trinity, Forton, Elson, Bridgemary and Alverstoke.*

A deanery enables local churches to work together. Our deanery clergy meet together weekly for a “Chapter” meeting (Wednesday lunchtimes). The “Deanery Synod” meets three times a year (Your Parochial Church Council will have Deanery Synod Representatives who should report back). Each parish’s “Patronal Festival” celebration is a Deanery Service, to which all are invited to come (see forthcoming dates below).

### **DEANERY “OFFICERS”**

**Area Dean:** the Revd John Draper  
stmrowner174@btinternet.com 023 92 581834

**Associate Area Dean:** the Revd Andy Davis  
andy-chris@adavis.fsbusiness.co.uk 023 92 580173

**Deanery Lay Chair:** Bryan Olive

**Deanery Secretary:** Tessa Bloodworth;

**Deanery Treasurer:** David Bloodworth

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**16<sup>th</sup> April:** St Mary the Virgin, Rowner 9.30 am – Noon. Deanery Quiet Morning led by The Revd Paul Kennedy, Rector of East Winchester, followed by Lent Lunch

**17<sup>th</sup> April:** St Mary's, Alverstoke, 6.30 pm. Palm Sunday Evensong; (Preacher: World President of Mothers’ Union)

**2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Christ Church, 7.30 pm, Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day  
*Preacher: The Ven. Dr Trevor Reader (formerly, Assistant Curate of Alverstoke)*

**18<sup>th</sup> June:** Deanery Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Alban, St Alban’s. Interest to: [office@stmatthewsbridgemary.org.uk](mailto:office@stmatthewsbridgemary.org.uk)

**19<sup>th</sup> June:** Holy Trinity, 6.00 pm Deanery Mass for Trinity Sunday

**23<sup>rd</sup> June:** St John's, Forton, 7.30 pm Deanery Mass for Corpus Christi

**3<sup>rd</sup> July:** St Thomas's, Elson, 6.00 pm, Deanery Mass for the Feast of St Thomas

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

I said I was too poorly to write this but our upright said that we're made of strimmer stuff than that (I think that's what she said, though that's what upright Christie uses to cut the grass, so maybe I've got it a bit wrong).



Anyway, we've both been taking tablets because our teeth are hurting and now I've been to the vet and I've got lots of holes where teeth used to be. We hope that soon my other teeth will be working again.

That's the problem with our upright too. She's got a wisdom tooth that's not working - well that's not been working forever really, has it?

Maybe that's the difference between dogs and uprights. Dogs don't have wisdom teeth so they have to learn to be wise without trying to use their teeth to make them clever.

Mind you, there was a Jack Russell at the vet's once who might have been better off if he'd had some decent wisdom teeth. When he came in he was busy telling all the other dogs what he was going to do to them. When it came to his turn to see the vet, he sat down and tried to dig his feet into the floor. They had to drag him all the way along the passage on his bottom.

We were in a shop opposite the vet's when he came out. We knew it was him because we could hear him being bossy again with everyone. Maybe if he'd had some wisdom teeth, he'd have known that it was better not to attract too much attention because everyone had laughed at him before.

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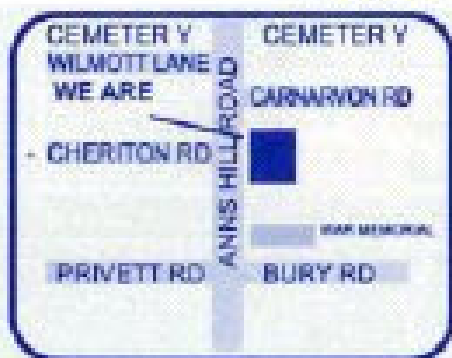
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