



TRINITY TIMES

the parish magazine of Holy Trinity

OCTOBER 2011

Issue number 80



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THE “CHRISTIAN RIGHT”



Michele Bachmann, Republican candidate for President of the United States, “darling” of the “Tea Party” Movement and the “Christian Right”, has recently said at a political rally that Hurricane Irene, which devastated parts of the U.S. East Coast and killed 36 people, is God’s way of trying to get the U.S. to reduce government spending. She then tried to claim it was a joke, but it clearly wasn’t. It was an absurd and offensive out-pouring from someone whose theology and understanding of Christianity is – in my opinion – highly questionable (and ought to be questioned rigorously on every possible occasion).

The so-called “Christian Right” in the United States is a huge political power, and a similar faction is emerging in this country (seen lobbying behind proposed changes to the abortion law). As an aside, I have one question for those who believe that “life begins at conception”:

Three out of four fertilized eggs (in your thinking, human persons) do NOT implant in the womb, but are lost; if there are three “lost people” for every human that has survived to birth, why has God chosen to kill 650 billion people (at a conservative estimate) before they are even born?

Apart from abortion, the “Christian Right” is also obsessed with:

- 1) Lowering taxes for the rich.
- 2) “family life”
- 3) Opposing the teaching of evolution in favour of “creationism”.

Concerning number 1, Jesus lived in poverty and repeatedly commended generosity with money. How can you justify cutting taxes for the richest 2% in society using the Christian Gospel?

Concerning number 2, whenever Jesus mentions family relationships, or mothers, sisters or brothers, he talks about us all having to put God or his kingdom FIRST; and when is he EVER mentioned interacting with, or praising what we would call a “nuclear family”? Jesus is always ministering to those who are alone / outcast, and places them at the centre of his understanding of God’s work.

Concerning number 3, there are two completely separate creation stories in Genesis – clearly indicating that they are allegorical, not historical. They are parables; and someone else was very keen on those, as a vehicle for truth! Also, I defy anyone to read Richard Dawkins amazing book “The Greatest Show on Earth – The Evidence for Evolution” and not accept evolution as fact. The evidence is vast, overwhelming and incontrovertible.

With love

Fr. Andy



STAY-AT-HOME CHRISTMAS?

Are you staying at home for Christmas?

Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university?

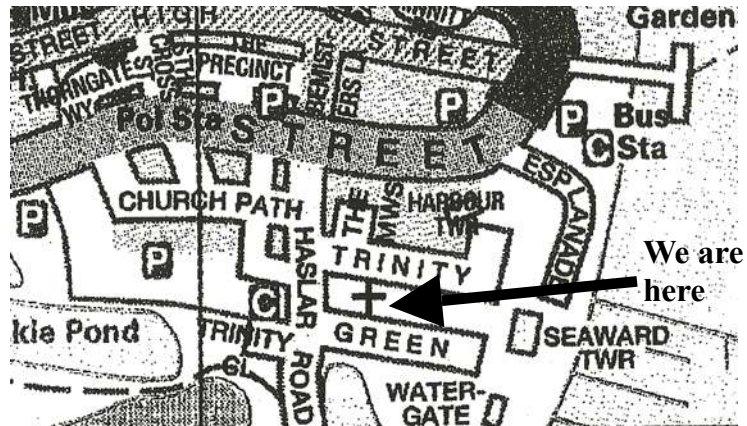
HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special. HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household. More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 1-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round.

Please see www.hostuk.org or call your local voluntary organiser for a chat: Katherine Varden 01420 479473

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

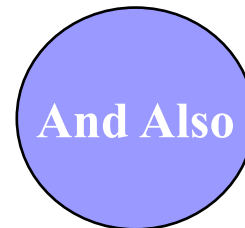
Also check out our website at www.holytrinitygosport.co.uk



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 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 **11.00 a.m. at Holy Trinity on Sunday 30th October 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

NEW ARCHDEACON



On a very windy Sunday, 11th September, Geoff and I attended Portsmouth Cathedral on the occasion of the Collation and Installation of The Reverend Canon Gavin Collins (*left*), as Archdeacon of the Meon.

The Processional hymn, “O praise ye the Lord”, was sung with great gusto as the procession, which included Bishop Christopher and many of the Clergy, entered.

The Archdeacon of Portsdown presented the Archdeacon-designate to the Bishop for Collation and Installation. Following this, the new Archdeacon of the Meon was escorted to his seat in the quire to a great round of applause.

The Service of Choral Evensong which followed was, as usual, beautifully sung by the Cathedral Choir. Intercessions were led by representative Area Deans and Lay Chairs of the Archdeaconry.

The Sermon was given by The Venerable Gavin Collins who said that the meaning of the word ‘venerable’ was, ‘to serve’ and this was what he intended to do. He would be visiting the Parishes of his Archdeaconry as soon as possible. He said he was very much looking forward to the job. He was a family man, and was joined by his wife and children.

The Cathedral Choir sang a most beautiful anthem, “They that go down to the sea in ships”, the words of Psalm 107: 23-30, to music by Grayston Ives.

The recessional music, played by the Cathedral organist David Price, was from The Organ Symphony by Camille Saint-Saëns.....beautiful!

After the conclusion of the Service, wine was served and there was an opportunity to meet our new Archdeacon.

CHRISSIE O’NEILL

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 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 November and December concerts are set out below.

SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER
PAUL PILOTT, LOUISE HELYER
and FRIENDS

Sing favourites from

GILBERT & SULLIVAN and

Popular strains from

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

(a Tea Time Concert with a difference)

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

A programme of music from

UPHAM RECORDER ORCHESTRA

Musical Director

David Burgess

and

Pat Jenkins, Soprano



PORTSMOUTH
BAROQUE CHOIR

Director – Malcolm Keeler



Handel & Scarlatti

Baroque music with oboe, strings & soloists

*Handel: Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened
(Coronation Anthem 2)*

A Scarlatti: Dixit Dominus

Handel: As Pants The Hart

Handel: My Song Shall Be Always (Chandos Anthem 7)

With

Nancy-Jane Rucker (Soprano)

Toby Forster (Countertenor)

Stephen George (Tenor)

Benjamin Thompson (Bass)

Peter Newman (Organ)

*Holy Trinity Church,
Trinity Green, Gosport, PO12 1HL
Saturday, 15th October 2011, 7:30pm*

Tickets: £10, (concessions £8, students + under 18s £1)

from 01329 310277 and at the door

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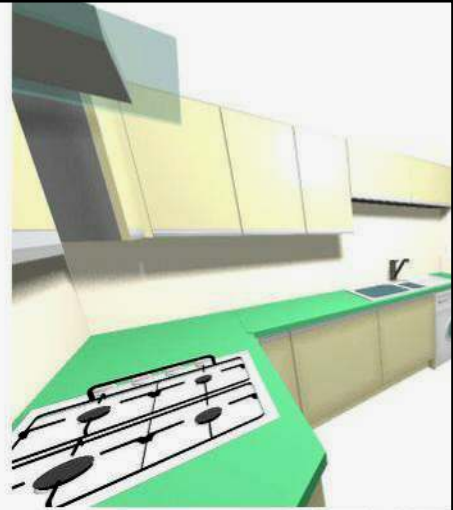
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Whether you are thinking of spending £3000 or £30,000 give me a call.

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.

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Or visit me on www.greenknightdesign.co.uk



SPECIAL DELIVERY...



We wish to thank the many hard working and loyal volunteers who deliver Trinity Times to your door each month: Bill, Brian, Dawn, Grace, Edna, Jean, Olwen, Alice, Cliff, Maz, Jane, Becky, Elizabeth and John.

In particular our thanks to John and Jo at Admiral House for helping to deliver Trinity Times to their neighbours over the past many months.

John and Jo are moving out of the parish (just). We wish them good luck in their new home.

While we are about it we also thank Penny at the Volunteer Centre for helping with deliveries to Martin Snape House.

From: Great Aunt Pru <prudence.little@shewitters.com>
To: Tamsin Ozling
Subject: I remember when....

My dear Tammy,

Well your mum's returned to Oz already; I can't believe how quickly the time passed - it seems only a few days ago that she arrived. Still, I'm sure you're pleased to have her back home with you.

I think we must have talked ourselves dry when she was here. At first we spent time catching up on family news and looking at photographs. Then, as always, we started wandering into the past - usually opening each memory with "Do you remember....?" - and no, before you ask, we don't go back to the age of the dinosaur! It's good to reminisce, so long as you don't live in the past - that's a mistake I try not to make.

With one thing and another, my memory went into overdrive in September especially when Holy Trinity opened all day for one of the Heritage Open Days. We had on display several old photographs from the last century which prompted many memories from visitors. Several remembered Holy Trinity when it had the graveyard surrounding it, and one gentleman who had lived in Chapel Row (which ran along the north side of the church where Barclay House is now) told of how he used to play in the graveyard when he was a boy. Others could identify some of the people (such as Father Barclay and Mrs. Catherine Barclay) shown in some of the photographs which again triggered memories of the Girls' Friendly Society (the GFS) and Holy Trinity's branch of the Mothers Union.

It was a really enjoyable way to spend an hour or two but make no mistake, much as I enjoy reminiscing about the past I make sure I remain very firmly in the present; it's all too easy to look at the past through rose-tinted glasses and be dismissive of all things modern - let's face it, I wouldn't be writing to you by email if I took that view!

We should acknowledge that every age has had it's problems - some worse than we have now. Mind you, I sometimes think it wouldn't be such a bad thing for our politicians and world leaders to reflect on the past from time to time - there must be something to be learned from others' mistakes!

With much love to all

Your ever-loving Great Aunt Pru



THIS MONTH'S HIGH DAYS....

Harvest Festival



Who began Harvest Festivals? Have you ever wondered?

It seems pretty obvious to thank God for the harvest, but actually, it is a comparatively recent church service.

Less than 200 years ago, harvest was not formally ‘celebrated’ in church, but in the taverns and on village greens of the countryside, with wild drinking and eating before the harshness of winter set in.

Then in 1834 an eccentric clergyman by the name of Robert Stephen Hawker arrived in Morwenstowe, a tiny hamlet of a few farms perched high on the windswept cliffs of the north Cornish coast. The church had been without a vicar for years, but now Robert Hawker strode the lanes of Morwenstowe in a bright purple or red cassock.

Rural life was harsh, and Hawker soon realised the sheer effort needed to survive in those parts. Harvest was the only thing that got people through the winter: a poor one meant starvation. Each bad year Hawker buried some of his congregation.

But the summer of 1843 was perfect, and the harvest that year was exceptionally bountiful. The local people were getting set to celebrate with their usual abandon, when Hawker stepped in. Who, he asked, did they think had given them the harvest? Were they not going to even say ‘thank you’ to Him? Abashed, the people came to church, and Hawker led them in giving thanks to God for his rich blessing upon them. The ‘Christian’ Harvest Festival had arrived – in Morwenstowe.

These days Harvest Festivals are enjoyed by both regular church-goers and visitors, making it one of the most popular services in the church year.

At Holy Trinity we celebrate ours on Sunday 9th October. We can’t promise “wild drinking and eating” and the goods displayed are more likely to have been bought from the market stall, rather than harvested from our own land, but we can still give thanks for the food on our tables. Why not come along?

....AND HOLY DAYS

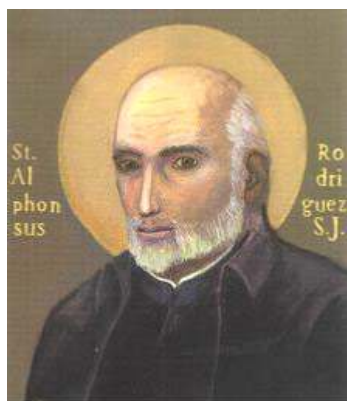
St Luke the Evangelist (1st century) – 18th October

To St Luke we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel.

Alphonsus Rodriguez – 30th October



If you have done your best to live 'right', and still had nothing but trouble and heartache in your life, Alphonsus is the saint for you. He was born in 1533, the son of a wool merchant in Segovia. He followed his father into the profession, married and had two children. He was a responsible person. Then his wife died, his children died, and the business failed. By the time he was 38, Alphonsus had lost everything - through no fault of his own. In 1571 he entered the Jesuit order, and was sent to the college of Montesione (Majorca).

They decreed he should be a hall porter - and so he was, for the rest of his life.

We can only surmise the grief, despair and anger that Alphonsus must have struggled with at times. All we know is that at some point, he discovered he was still able to salvage something from the wreck of his life. For the surviving accounts of Alphonsus describe him as a prayerful, self-sacrificing, obedient man. Indeed, his character was so remarkable that it bore fruit more widely than he could ever have imagined, and down the years many sought out that hall porter for counselling over the heartbreaks of their own lives.

MOLLIE'S TAILPIECE

We went on the Tried to Ride - I think that's what it's called. (*The Ride and Stride in aid of Historic Churches*).

We do it every year and when Sascha was here, we used to ride in a cart behind the bike, but it's difficult to put together. It's too wide to go through the back gate with the wheels on and when upright Christie tries to fix it onto our upright's bike, they always end up arguing because he always says it won't work and our upright gets cross with him because she says it's the same every year.



Now I ride in the basket on the front of her bike. I used to be frightened but I go in it quite often now. There's lots to see and the wind blows my ears and people say "Ooh" and "Aah" and "Isn't she lovely?" So I quite like it. Now our upright is the one who's nervous that we might fall over.

Upright Kathy had to go to the hospital for them to look at her poorly foot, so Fr. Andy asked our upright if she would play the hymns for the service at Adding Books (*Addenbrookes Old Folks' Home*). That's what our upright's always doing - adding books - so I expected to see piles of them there, like we've got in our house. But it's like the big house where we go to see Uncle Henry when Fr. Andy does the service for him there. They laughed because one time there our upright thought that I grumbled when Fr. Andy gave me my Saint Francis blessing. Fr. Andy thought I'd made a rude noise.....me? I was only thanking him, like the uprights do when they have their communion, only they don't say "thank you;" they say "Our men." Why do they say that?

Come to think of it, Mollie, why don't they say "Our women" - or to be really PC "Our persons". Perhaps we had better stick to the traditional "Amen".

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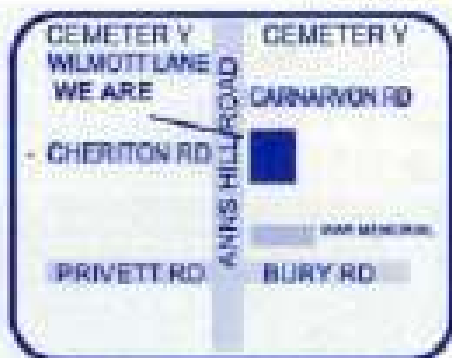
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