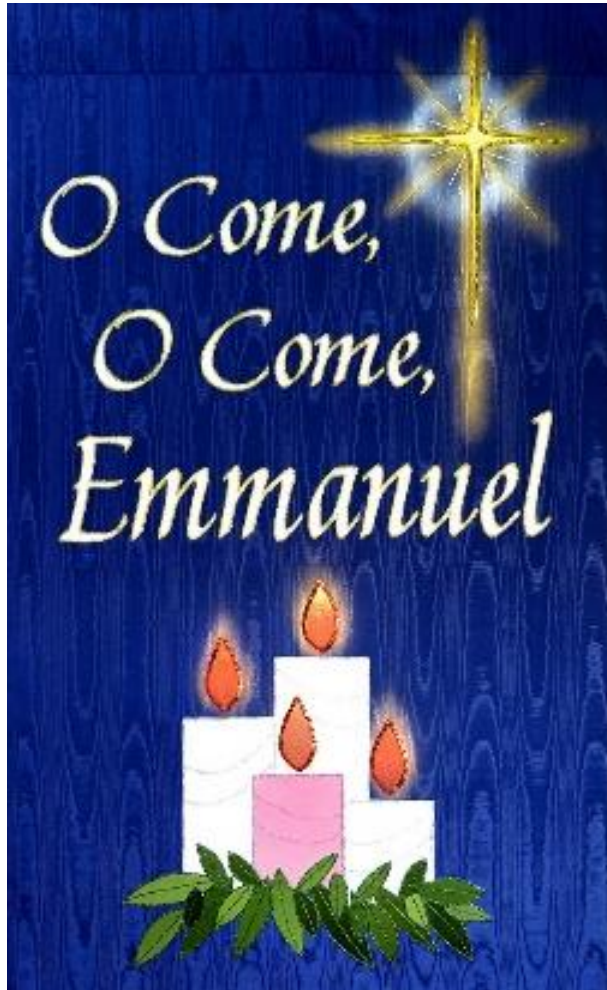


HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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December 2024

Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 4.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am

Friday 12.30pm

Saturday

10.00am and 6.00pm

**All services will continue to be streamed,
except for Saturday 6pm and Sunday 8am.**

**Service times may occasionally vary – please see
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To access streamed services:



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Fr Julian can be emailed directly: frjulianssc@gmail.com



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FR JULIAN WRITES...



December 2024

It doesn't seem possible that we're in Advent. I say that partly because the year has gone so quickly, and also partly because for many people Christmas seems to have arrived already. As I drive around the parish(es), I see more and more Christmas lights appearing outside peoples' homes, and talking with people (usually non-church ones, but...!) homes are being decorated inside as well. It would appear that the switching-on of the lights in town with associated festivities, seems to be the green light for people to go to town in every respect!

If you think that this magazine is a little lacking in Christmas cheer, don't forget that there will be a Christmas/New Year issue, when Outlook really is about Christmas. So, December's issue is about Advent; just hang for another few weeks!

Advent is all about preparation. Yes, there's all the preparation for Christmas itself, with presents, cooking, freezer-filling, card-writing and the rest; so much so that we seem to be so caught up with getting ready for the 25th, that we lose sight of the month or so which precedes it. With all this busy-ness, Advent, a time of peace and reflection is all the more welcome as we make time to enjoy it.

Yes, we CAN enjoy it. It is not as full-on a penitential season as Lent. True, purple is the liturgical colour, but this represents more the royal kingship of Christ rather than sorrow for sins. The hymns and music are perhaps more solemn than at other times, but the tunes and the words are truly moving and wonderful. Just read and pray over some of the words. If you make use of YouTube, listen to your favourite Advent hymns. And look up some special readings or prayers.

St Anselm in his 'Proslogion' writes:

“Come now, turn aside for a while from your daily employment, escape for a moment from the tumult of your thoughts. Put aside your weighty cares, let your burdensome distractions wait, free yourself awhile for God and rest awhile in him.

Enter the inner chamber of your soul, shut out everything except God and that which can help you in seeking him, and when you have shut the door, seek him. Now, my whole heart, say to God, ‘I seek your face, Lord, it is your face I seek.’”

This good advice and a marvellous prayer, is as resonant with us today as it was nearly 1000 years ago, when it was written. Our being busy isn't just the result of the age in which we live, but an eternal preoccupation affecting people of every age. It is a ‘pre-occupation’ because it distracts us from the main task in hand. And in Advent, that is the preparation, not for Christmas, but for Christ's coming in glory, the ‘end time’.

Mary, Queen of Scots, remarked ‘In my end is my beginning’; T S Eliot in his poem, ‘East Coker’ (just outside Yeovil!) reverses it by declaring ‘In my beginning is my end’. As Christians, we should have more sympathy with Mary's expression, because it is the ‘end’ which marks the fulfilment and advent of God's kingdom, at present glimpsed here and there, but with Christ's coming glory – which is what we focus on in Advent – a kingdom which will be fully and finally realised; the old has passed away; the new has come.

So much is lost in Advent by the pressures and expectations that we feel under, from outside and from within. We celebrate the birth of a baby in humble circumstances with an extravagance which some cannot afford. We miss the sound of angels through the noise we create. We dismiss the humility of the shepherds and the Magi by personal concerns and anxieties. That's why Advent should be vital for us all.

With my prayers and all good wishes

Fr Julian

ORGANIST

Simon Gaunt, our musical director has learnt that he is finally to have a hip replacement. We are very pleased to know that he will be relieved of pain and given extra mobility, but as the surgery is due to take place on 12 December, it will leave us without an organist over Christmas. Some cover has kindly been offered by Geraint Jones, but some services are still to be arranged. If you know of anyone who might be able to help, especially at the Midnight Mass, please let Fr Julian or the wardens know. Thank you.

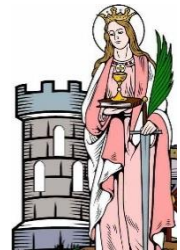
BISHOP MICHAEL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

We offer our warmest congratulations to Bishop Michael Langrish as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of being ordained priest. There will be Mass of Thanksgiving at 12 noon on Saturday 14th December, and he will preside and preach at the Parish Mass on Sunday 15th December, kindly inviting all to cake and fizz afterwards.

DECEMBER SAINTS – Fr Julian's idiosyncratic selection of saints

Some familiar ones this time!

4th: St Barbara (mid-late C3/early C4) Saint Barbara is often portrayed with miniature chains and a tower to symbolize her father imprisoning her. As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, Barbara is a popular saint, perhaps best known as the patron saint of armourers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives because of her legend's association with lightning. She was eventually executed by her father.



6th: St Nicholas (270-343) Eventually becoming Bishop of Myra, much of his history is legend. Perhaps the most prominent of them are his rescuing three children being pickled in a barrel of brine to be sold as

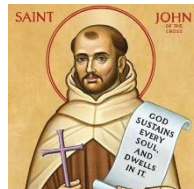
pork, or else dropping bags on gold through a window to prevent three girls being sold into prostitution. This association of good deeds for children gives rise to his role as Santa Claus.

7th: St Ambrose (c339-397) Unexpectedly becoming Bishop of Milan, he was previously the Roman governor of Aemilia-Liguria (Milan). Known for his preaching and hymn-writing, he was a champion of Roman Christianity, and was one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th Century.

13th: St Lucy (c283-304) Martyred during a persecution by Diocletian, she was denounced as being a Christian by a frustrated suitor. The accepted account of her death from the 5th Century 'Acts of the Martyrs', written 100 years after her death. She lived and died in Syracuse, Sicily.

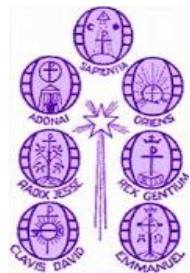


15th: St John of the Cross (1542-1591) St John was a Spanish mystic, associated with St Teresa of Avila, a fellow Carmelite. He is considered as one of the greatest Spanish mystics for his writings on the soul, as well as his work during the Counter-Reformation.



From 17 December we observe the 'O Antiphons', the verses sung before the Magnificat, dating from before the sixth century. Each antiphon is a title of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture, and on which the hymn 'O come, O come Emmanuel' is based. They are:

- 17th: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
- 18th: O Adonai
- 19th: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- 20th: O Clavis David (O Key of David)
- 21st: O Oriens (O Dawn of the East)
- 22nd: O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)
- 23rd: O Emmanuel



Reading backwards, the first letter of each antiphon (in Latin) spells out 'Ero cras', meaning 'tomorrow, I will come'. Such acrostics were very popular in the middle ages, which suggests great antiquity.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days are listed below.

1 ADVENT SUNDAY *Theme: Liberation*

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36

3 Tue S. Francis Xavier, Priest

4 Wed S. John Damascene, Monk & Teacher (749) S. Barbara (306)

6 Fri S. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (326)

7 Sat S. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)

8 ADVENT 2 *Theme: The Joy of Salvation*

Readings: Baruch 5.1-9; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

9 Mon The Immaculate Conception

11 Wed S. Damasus, Pope (384)

13 Fri S. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (304)

14 Sat S. John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher (1591)

15 ADVENT 3 *Theme: St John the Baptist*

Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

17 Tue *O Sapientia* (Wisdom)

18 Wed *O Adonai*

19 Thu *O Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse)

20 Fri *O Clavis David* (Key of David)

21 Sat *O Oriens* (Morning Star)

22 ADVENT 4 *O Rex Gentium Theme: Our Lady*

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45

23 Mon *O Emmanuel* S. John de Kanty, Priest & Teacher (1473)

24 CHRISTMAS EVE *Theme: The Birth of Christ*

Midnight Mass Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

25 CHRISTMAS DAY *Theme: The Joy of Angels*

Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14

26 Thu S. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

27 Fri S. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

28 Sat The Holy Innocents

29 CHRISTMAS 1 *Theme: The Holy Family*

Readings: 1 Samuel 2.18-20 & 26; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

31 Tue S. Sylvester, Pope (335)



Compline will be held at 8.00pm on Tuesdays in Advent from 3rd December in the Choir Vestry.

Do come along and make it part of your Advent preparations.



22nd December	6.30pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Mass with Carols

ADVENT

By Jennifer Rowell (from the Internet)

A very special time of year.
Distant music - church bells ring.
Visual imprints on our minds. But wait -
Emmanuel, Jesus is coming, angels are singing.
No pretence this time.
Triumphant return of Christ our King. At last.



ADVENT PRAYERS



Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one Gd for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, teach us to view time in the light of eternity, and help us to remember that no one of us knows how many or how few days may be given to us. Keep us faithful disciples, that when our Lord comes we may be found using wisely our time and talents, our life and strength; for the honour and praise of his name.

Spotlight on...



Keith Penny

Speaking with our PCC Secretary, Keith Penny, I learned some interesting things. Let's see what he has to say.



Thank you so very much for speaking with me today, Keith, tell us where you came from originally, do you have any family and what did you do for a living?

I was born in Balham in London where I lived for thirty-five years. After that I moved to Mitcham, not so far away, where I lived for another forty years. I trained as a teacher of English and taught at Glyn School in Ewell, near Epsom, and ended up as a Deputy Head where my career diversified into administration and property management for the school. I was amicably released from that life in 1997 but working didn't end at that. I had been attending midweek services at St Olave's in Mitcham: this is a beautiful building and one where I felt very settled. However, it was struggling a little and of course with free time I found myself engaged. I served as Churchwarden for sixteen years (I picked up more litter in those sixteen years than any other daily job!). Later the PCC Secretary resigned, so I took that on.

I wanted to move to a smaller house or flat while I was fit enough to do so, and it was time for a change from London. I have no siblings and am unmarried, but I have good friends who were then very active in Lydeard St Lawrence church, and I spent many weekends with them in the Rectory. After some time, they suggested that I move closer, so to Taunton I came. I am not a village person, so Taunton was ideal, still a town but without the London feeling. St Olave's was a Society parish and in Taunton I sought something similar. One February morning I came to see Holy Trinity and was impressed to find it open, so I stayed. I value the weekday mass, and what happens here is exactly as I expect to find it and what I am used to, including sound preaching. I am also PCC Secretary at West Bagborough as well as at Holy Trinity!

What do you do in your spare time, what are your hobbies?

I love reading and history. I wrote several pamphlets for the local history society in Merton and two instalments of St Olave's history. More recently I have written about Fr Briscoe of Bagborough who brought Anglo-Catholicism to the church there.

In younger days I played instruments and sang but have now retired from that. I enjoy watching four-day cricket at County Ground. Whilst teaching I had been involved in coaching the boys in cricket and ran teams for fifteen years. Plus, I like trains. I was a volunteer in the workshop for the National Tramway Museum at Crich in Derbyshire where I spent many a happy week, mostly in the painting department – not signwriting, you understand, but in the general painting workshop.

What are your particularly proud of?

I think it must be getting the automated Angelus bell working at St Olaves. Ten years later you can still hear it chime in local streets at noon and six pm.

What would you say is important to you and what does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?

My faith brings joy into life, and the Church calendar brings some sort of order in a world that is often troubled. Faith and its practice act as a counterweight to world issues and show me things to be thankful for. At Holy Trinity I can join weekday mass and not be involved in management and administration; I can sit quietly and look and listen. That is important to me, and I value Benediction (a service that's harder to find in today's church).

Thank you, Keith, you are one of our newer members and I am sure everyone will be delighted to learn just a little more about you and what brought you to Holy Trinity.

Pauline Holt

HOLY TRINITY WINNERS

October 2024

1st	Wendy Burge	£55.00
2nd	Pauline Holt	£33.00
3rd	Aart Dourleyn	£22.00

A RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

COCONUT FINGERS

This is a recipe I have done for my family at Christmas time for many years.

Ingredients

- 8 oz Bournville (plain) chocolate
- 2 oz Margarine
- 5 oz Caster sugar
- 2 oz Glace cherries, quartered
- 8 oz Dessicated coconut
- 1 Egg, beaten



Method

- Preheat oven at 160° C. Line a swiss roll tin, 11" x 7".
- Melt chocolate in a bowl over boiling water, pour into the tin and put in fridge to set.
- When chocolate is set, melt the margarine in a saucepan big enough to take all the ingredients.
- Stir in sugar, coconut and cherries.
- Bind together with the egg.
- Spread the mixture over the chocolate.
- Bake in the oven until lightly brown, for about 15 minutes.
- Allow to cool and cut into squares, it makes 24.

These are delicious with coffee after Christmas lunch. Why not make it a liqueur coffee!

Mary Patey



*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! This year we might also sing, with great sadness: O little **child** of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!*

This Christmas there will be children lying still because they are badly injured, or traumatised by what has been happening in Gaza and the West Bank, or lying still because their life breath has gone out from them. Then there are those others who suffer from long term disabilities who will always need others to enable them to do the most basic things in life that most of us just take for granted.

In 1985, Val Jourdan, spent a year working as a paediatric physiotherapist in the West Bank. She returned home with a new awareness of the dire needs of disabled children and young adults in the area, a great lack of facilities and resources to meet them, and a realisation that there was no one lined up to take her place, Val and the late Georgina Mortimer, decided that someone needed to act.

A year later Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD) was established as a UK charity. At that time there were no community based programmes at all. In the first years the problems were so huge, seemingly insurmountable, that it would have been all too easy to have turned away but, from very uncertain beginnings, ABCD has gone a long way in bringing about improvement and progress.

The charity instigated and sponsored the opening of the first community day-care centres and home visits programmes. From these the concept of the multidisciplinary team was born. Over the years the responsibility for the running of these projects has been handed over to the local communities but ABCD still provides a supporting role. Today's partners include:

- The Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation and their community based Outreach Services.
- The Sheepfold in Beit Sahour provides day care for the most vulnerable and severely disabled children and young adults.
- Rehabilitation centres in four Refugee Camps

These centres have progressed and are seen by other professionals and families as regional centres of excellence.

I became Patron of ABCD in 2011 and since then have seen at first hand how this small, but wonderfully effective, charity has continued to care for children with disability, and been so impressed by the determination, courage, commitment and vision of those involved. ABCD sponsors treatment for all those in need regardless of gender, race or creed, helping them to reach their full potential, to live life with dignity and to take their rightful place in their community.

In such quiet ways, still *the wondrous gift is giv'n!* as this Christmas, ABCD – in the face of such great challenges – goes on helping children with multiple disabilities to reach their full potential, to live life with dignity and to take their rightful place in their communities.

✠ Michael

THANK YOU

David Watkins, RIP

Gowan and I were truly moved by the condolences, cards, letters, emails and flowers we received to mark the sudden death of David.

Especial thanks go to those of our Church Family who were able to attend David's Funeral Service. He would have appreciated your presence, as did we.

We were literally overwhelmed by your kindness.

Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Trudi and Gowan

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 11th December 2024 <i>Please note early date</i>

THE RBL TRIP TO DUNKIRK AND YPRES

Thursday 12th – 16th September 2024

Part 2

That Saturday evening was our presentation evening at the Menin Gate.



We arrived early and our 5 standard bearers made time to practice before the main event. It was indeed an honour to represent the RBL, Taunton Branch, the RASC/RCT Association both Taunton and Plymouth, together with the Royal Marines Association. Before the Last Post, bugled by the Belgian firefighters, our own Padre Adrian Prior Sankey MBE, introduced the ceremony with a short prayer. Soon to retire, Somerset firefighter, David Lock, delivered the Exhortation impressively, in the presence of some 2000 people. To conclude the proceedings the Vice Chairman of the Taunton RBL Branch, Major (Retired) Mark Corthine BEM, declared the Kohima Epitaph.

We laid three Wreaths to commemorate the fallen. Three members of the Plymouth Branch laid a wreath on behalf of the unknown soldiers. Mrs Jo Pearson, representing Somerset's official WWI memorial, laid a wreath on behalf of The Somerset Wood, Maidenbrook Park at Cheddon Fitzpaine to remember William Bruford, the local Somerset man, who was killed at the Zonnebeke Chateau. Our final Wreath was laid by Nick and Katie Foster on behalf of the Royal Signals Association. All did extremely well and found the experience very satisfying recognising that, for the majority, this is a once in a lifetime event.



Our Chaplain, with our Standard Bearers at Tyne Cot Cemetery

We were fortunate to be able to entertain the Members of the Last Post Association for a drink in a local Pub. This was the start of another very good evening enjoyed by all.

Day 3: Our first stop was at the Whitehouse Cemetery, we held a small memorial ceremony for William Bruford who was born near Taunton and commemorated at Somerset Wood, Maidenbrook Park. The 5 Standard Bearers lined up behind William's Grave and after the Padre had shared William's regimental prayer and some emotive words of reflection penned by Cheddon Fitzpaine councillor Mike Batsch, Jo Pearson, supported by Mark Corthine, laid a wreath in his memory. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Parish to honour their former resident who was lost, found, later identified and now lays at rest in the Whitehouse Cemetery and will always be remembered as 'our local boy' in the new arboretum being developed on the outskirts of Taunton.

Within minutes we were soon in Tyne Cot cemetery, where the enormity of the occasion was palpable. We held a simple memorial



service for the fallen in the cemetery where over 12000 British, Commonwealth and four unknown German soldiers lie. We focused our thoughts at the makeshift Altar in the centre of the cemetery. Proceedings were opened with the Salutation and closed with the Collect of the RASC/RCT Association and the Kohima words delivered by the

daughter of a Burma veteran.

We were then driven to the Memorial Museum of Passchendaele 1917. Where we were able to wander the grounds, museum and walks, leading us through the grounds where bodies have been exhumed, each marked by reflection posts. These marker points commemorated the many tragedies that took place there. Along the way we learnt more about several of the men who have been identified, who fought and died close to the museum, built on the site of the original Chateau.

The third evening we attended the Last Post ceremony once more before departing the following day. This proved to be an exceptional

evening. The Royal Irish gave us a real performance. They marched as a squad with Standards; four of theirs' flying up the road and into the Menin Gate, as our standards were already in place. We stood down our union flag and allowed theirs the pre-eminence. It was an impressive show, made even better by an Australian 60-strong, private Boys School choir from the Gold Coast, named the Southport School. They stole the show; their rendition of 'Abide with me' was a 'tear-jerker'. It was a fitting end to our celebrations at the Menin Gate. We enjoyed our final night together joined by members of the Last Post Association in 'The Times Pub'. It was a good evening which was enjoyed by all.

A thoroughly worthwhile weekend, one to remember, for a long time, and which we all enjoyed.

John Godley and Mark Corthine, Vice Chair of RBL Taunton Branch



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

8 December Pickeridge Golf Club
12 January Oake Manor Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15, except the December one which is for 12.30. Please let me know if you want to come along, on the previous Sunday so I can confirm numbers with the venue. If you have booked a space but are unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible.

Wendy Burge



SMILE LINES



Pew sheets that didn't come out quite right...

- Our visiting monster today is the Revd Jack Bains.
- Church toilet out of order. Please use floor below.
- We are always happy to have you sue our facility.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

It was:

- 1750 years ago, on 25 Dec 274 that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion and declared 25th December a national holiday. In 336, after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity, 25th December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.
- 500 years ago, on 24th Dec 1524 that Vasco da Gama, Portuguese explorer, died. He was the first European to reach India by sea.
- 200 years ago, on 21st Dec 1824 that James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.
- 125 years ago, on 5th Dec 1899 that Henry Tate, British sugar merchant and philanthropist, died. He established the Tate Gallery.
- Also 125 years ago, on 16th Dec 1899 that Noel Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born.
- 75 years ago, on 13th Dec 1949 that Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, replacing Tel Aviv.
- 60 years ago, on 31st Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both land speed and water speed records in the same year.
- 50 years ago, on 5th Dec 1974 that the last episode of the TV comedy series Monty Python's Flying Circus was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.
- 40 years ago, on 31st Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.
- 30 years ago, on 9th Dec 1994 that Sinn Fein held its first formal talks with the British government. This eventually led to the IRA ceasefire, the Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998.
- 25 years ago, on 31st Dec 1999 that the London Eye - the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.
- 20 years ago, on 26th Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. It swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

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PARISH OFFICE	Administrator: Mrs Pauline Holt	354800
PCC Vice-Chairman	Mr Geraint Jones	01823 284376
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Pauline Holt	(Church Office) 354800
PCC Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Richard Tomlinson	(Church Office) 354800
Data Protection	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	01823 354800
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	07972 524557
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvia Paul	01823 279436
Hall Booking Secretary	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Trinity Church School	Trinity School, South Street	01823 284128
Head of School	Ms Lisa Eadie	

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