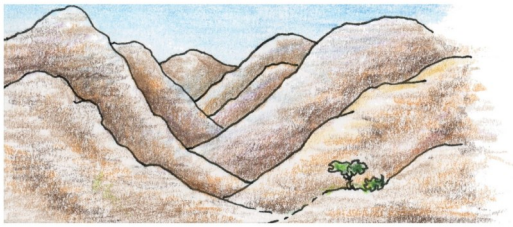
TRINITY

Parish Magazine

Registered Charity Number 1153305



February 2025

The Magazine of Holy Trinity Eccleshall & St. Chad's Slindon





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Please pass this information on to anyone in the ward who does not receive the parish magazine.

Thanks to James Merrick for the photo of Holy Trinity on front cover

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In the wastelands someone is shouting, "Prepare the way for the Lord! Straighten the road through the wilderness, ready for our God." Is 40:2, Mt 3:3, Mk 1:3, Lk 3:4, Jn 1:23

Copies of Trinity magazine have been bound over the years and are available to borrow. If you would like to see any of these please get in in touch with Churchwarden, Kate, on 01785 850948



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Holy Trinity & St. Chad's

Celebrating Christ Proclaiming Christ Growing in Christ

A letter from our Vicar, Revd Phillip Johnson



We find ourselves in a new year and hopefully by now we've got through January which seems to have about 43 days… Most of the lead up to Christmas involved either leading and providing all of the services combined with planning everything for 2025. As the Parish gets bigger and more activities and events take place the need for planning itself becomes bigger and more complex. This year we are launching our inaugural Arts Festival in June and we are running even more courses and open events than in previous years.

The danger is that we start to think that success is found in the busyness of activity – that the busier we are the more important our work must be. However, the Bible spends a lot of time reminding us that God is not found in the loud and extravagant moments but mostly in the silence. This paradoxical statement has troubled humans ever since it was written. We have a tendency to associate activity with achievement whereas God is present in everything including stillness and silence.

When church buildings are built they often have a large main worship space but a lot of them also have small side chapels. Its been said that churches need to have spaces for celebration but also for weeping. In our Lady Chapel at the moment we have a series of paintings by Vicki Heath – a number of people have found this space to be one in which they can just sit and be. The church is open every day and everyone is welcome to come and use that space to be silent, to reflect and to pray.

I hope you enjoy the programme of events that we have planned this Spring leading up to Easter but that you also find some time to just be and enjoy the silence.

God Bless

Revd Phillip

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Prayer for the Month



Lord of all life, we pray that as the young people in each new generation discover your world in their own way,
their energies may be used creatively in your service,
and their choices based on what is true and of real value.
We ask this in the name and for the honour of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Cristopher Idle. (Contemporary Parish Prayers)

This prayer for young people invites us to pray for our own children, those in our wider families and amongst our friends, the children in our churches and those in our community and schools. They are growing up in a fast-changing world in which they need guidance and help as never before. This prayer makes some suggestions about the content of these intercessions for young people.

They should "discover your world in their own way". Young children have a great capacity for wonder. They are learning what the world is all about. We pray that this wonder will lead them to ponder the real meaning of life and not be swept along by the cynicism of so many older people. The prayer goes on "their energies may be used creatively in your service". Youngsters generally have plenty of energy! There is an abundance of healthy outlets for this. But we pray that these will include creativity and service. It is never too young to learn that serving others is a good creative way of life and can bring its own reward. The prayer reminds us that service to others is part of our service to God. Then – "their choices based on what is true and of real value". Many of the most important choices in life are made in the early years. Their future life-style and activity may well depend on such decisions. We pray that these choices may not be made lightly. Truth and constructive thought should be their guide.

The writer of this prayer no doubt included in his thoughts the hope that our young people would embrace the principles and teaching of the Christian Church. This may or may not happen. But given the inspiration implicit in the prayer they will have every chance of doing so.

Revd Stephen Cooke

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Meet Our New Arts and Faith Coordinator



Hello, my name is Sarah Cartwright. I was brought up in Staffordshire and after many years away returned to live in Fairoak. During my time away I worked for seventeen years at an art college in Nottingham.

I am very pleased to announce that I have recently been recruited as the Arts and Faith Coordinator for the Parish of Eccleshall. In this role I have the privilege of combining my passion for the arts with faith. I see it as an opportunity to provide an artistic platform for the local community.

There will be several events over the coming year, the main one being an arts festival in June during the lead up to the Eccleshall Festival. This will bring together artists, art enthusiasts and the community and will be an immersive celebration of art, music, theatre, dance and creativity.

As we are in the very early stages of planning please feel free to email me with any of your ideas or offers of assistance for the festival: arts@eccleshall.church

Arts Children's Activity in Holy Trinity

Wednesday 19th February 10am-4pm

'Prehistoric Adventures in Art' - A workshop for 4 - 9 year-olds to inspire creativity through a hands on, interactive art experience. There will be a variety of things to do including our very own dinosaur dig site, making masks, creating a mural and making our own dinosaur adventure story.

Contact Sarah (above) for more information.

The Stafford and Stone Health Visiting Team holds a **Wellbaby Drop-in Clinic** in the Parish Room on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am. During the baby clinic families can discuss any health issues and have their children weighed and measured.

We look forward to seeing you. For further questions please feel free to phone the 0-19 Families Health and Wellbeing Hub on 08081780611.



St Chad's News

It was a poignant moment at St Chad's on 24th November when Warden John Treanor presented Revd Phillip Johnson with a gift on behalf of the congregation to celebrate his first year in Eccleshall Parish. John thanked him for his great enthusiasm, his inspirational sermons and all the hard work he had put in to make it such a successful twelve months. Phillip told us how well he has settled in to life here and how welcoming the community is.



A fabulous forest of pine trees twinkled, flashed and sparkled at Holy Trinity from the evening of Thursday 28th November to the end of Sunday 1st December for the annual Christmas Tree Festival. St Chad's parishioners decorated our own tree with hand-made ornaments depicting the story of our Patron Saint with his Celtic crosses. This time there were 67 trees adorning the church interior, a magnificent record.

Advent began on Sunday 1st December when Revd Phillip lit the first of the five candles of the Advent wreath, purple to represent hope. This he said was a time of waiting and hope for the birth of the Christ Child.

Decorations, delightful playing from the Ensemble and organist and the amazing Bible stories surrounding Christ's birth made St Chad's Service of Lessons and Carols a very special occasion on 15th December. Warden John welcomed a full congregation of three generations. He thanked the flower arrangers for seasonal foliage by the



Spot the potential future ensemble musician!

altar and pulpit, on the font and in the windows. A Christmas Tree, the Advent wreath and the little Nativity at the back of church completed the colourful scene. He also thanked all the musicians for their wonderful playing. Everyone wished me a happy birthday and also Mike Smith who would be 80 in a few days' time in New Zealand!

A promise of heavy rain all evening did not discourage 12 carol singers on 18th December to call on villagers and local households giving some festive cheer and Christmas joy. The evening ended with a buffet supper hosted by Andy and Sue Bramall. An incredible sum of £300 was collected during the event.



Our elder son Matt, his wife Simi and their three children Arushi 17, Millen 15 and Eashan 13 stayed with us over Christmas and helped to make our Christmas Day Service especially memorable. Arushi joined Grandpa John to read the two lessons, Eashan rang the bell (74 for eucharist!) and Millen was sidesman handing out books to everyone as they came in. At the beginning of the service the fifth candle, the central white one in the Advent wreath, was lit by Revd Phillip. This candle represents the Light of Christ.

Diary dates: Candlemas 2nd February at 6.30pm

Anthea Treanor

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

The magic happened again at the Christmas Tree Festival held at the end of November. The Festival surpassed all expectations with a record-breaking 67 Trees which were dressed to impress by local businesses, church and community



Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 11



groups, organisations and individuals. This increasingly popular community event has now established itself as the official start of the Christmas celebrations in Eccleshall. The participants arrived early, eager to decorate their trees and they really excelled themselves. The trees were adorned with colourful lights and sparkling decorations resulting in a magnificent display. We were blessed with fine weather during the three-day-event which encouraged a record number of visitors to attend and immerse themselves in the wonderland the trees created. During the weekend Trinity Mens Fellowship ran an impressive Tombola and greeted visitors at the door with an informative programme as they arrived. On Saturday afternoon we were also treated to a varied programme of musical entertainment choreographed by Martin Jones. The performers included Eccleshall Community Band, Broughton Community Choir, Janine White, John Myatt, Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer and Tooty Flooty.

The draw for the Grand Raffle took place on Sunday afternoon and was the final event signifying the end of the Christmas Tree Festival for another year.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all the volunteers involved in the planning, organisation and day to day running of the Christmas Tree Festival. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team of people who freely give their time and talents to support Holy Trinity Church to host this special event and ensure its continued success.



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A Brewing Sense of Purpose

I searched the internet for the word 'vocation'. The first result was Vocation Brewery (other breweries are available!) It's a business that I had never heard of but it immediately piqued my interest as I have been known to sample a few real ales in my time: in particular the company's tag line - Craftsmanship, Innovation & Patience Combine to Create Masterpieces. Further intrigued I then discovered that the brewery came into being when its founder 'left his job to follow his calling – to brew the big, flavourful beers he loves'.

Vocation is a word used often to describe a call for those who work in what we might describe as the caring professions – medicine and teaching amongst them and in the church we use it often for those who follow a call to ordination. At its heart though vocation is doing the thing that God wants us to do which brings us joy and means that we might have something of life in all its fullness (John 10:10). In my work in supporting lay and ordained vocations I often describe it as the divine niggle, the thing that you just can't let go of however much you might try.

I don't know if the founder of Vocation Brewery has a faith but it seems he understands vocation. In the Christian tradition the Craftsmanship that we have is given to us by God as a gift and honed and shaped by learning and practice as we develop. Being open to the ways that God might be working in our lives and the lives of others brings about new ways of seeing the world and new ways of being (innovation). Patience means that we work at God's pace rather than our own which can at times be hugely frustrating! These things combined mean that we might become or create 'masterpieces' within our own spheres of work whether within the church or beyond. Each of us has a vocation and our vocations are used in God's service and for the good of our communities. Again perhaps the website sums it up well: in the 'About us' section there is a tale of overcoming obstacles to create the business and the final sentence reads 'we pride ourselves on working together with shared purpose, on shared triumphs over adversities, born out of a love of what we do'.

There is real joy in doing what we love and so often people think that God is going to ask us to do the thing that we really dread or feel totally unqualified to do. It can take a huge leap of faith to follow a call and fulfil

Continued on page 17

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Continued from page 15

our vocation. One of the great joys of my role is seeing people grow and flourish in their vocations so if you or someone you know has a divine niggle then be encouraged and encourage one another – who knows where it might lead!

Revd Preb Jeanette Hatwell leads Lichfield Diocese's Vocations & Training Team. Contact her at jeanette.hartwell@lichfield.anglican.org or visit her team's website at lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training.



Holy Trinity Grand Christmas Raffle

Main prizewinning tickets

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(All prize-winners have been notified)

A huge '**thank you'** to all those Trinity Magazine readers and others in the community who supported the Grand Christmas Raffle again this year. The draw took place in church on Sunday 1st December.

The proceeds from the raffle were £3,333. A magnificent result.

Thanks to all involved in organising the raffle, distributing the tickets, donating such a fabulous selection of prizes and to those who bought tickets or made generous donations in lieu of tickets.

Kate Griffiths



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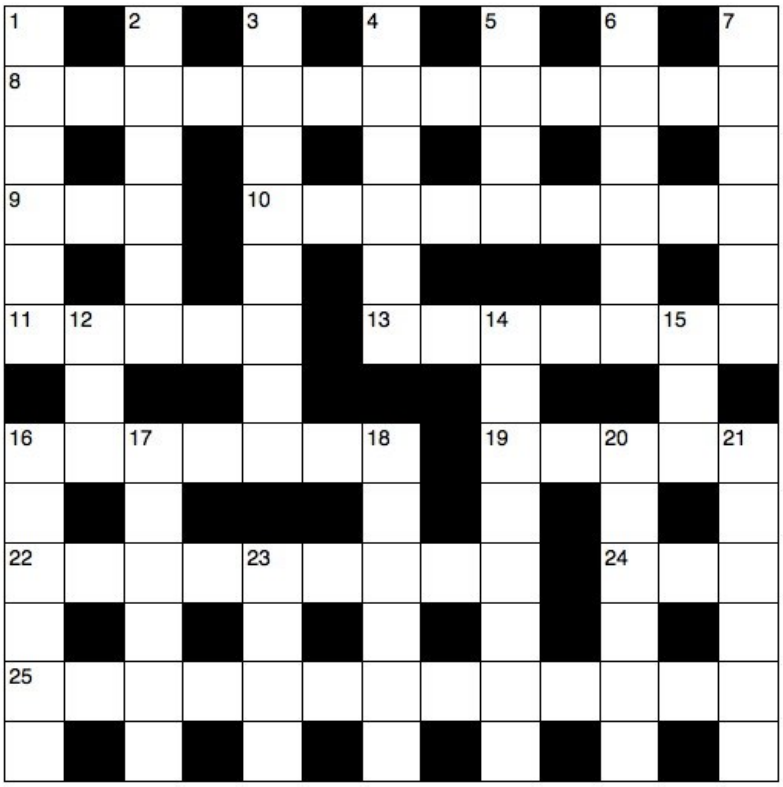
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Crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers on page 38

Trinity Men's Fellowship - Activites over the Christmas Period

The Christmas Tree Festival provided much excitement for members of the TMF. We were involved in "meeting and greeting" visitors at the door and running the Tombola Stall. Volunteers had put their names down on the rota for both the door and the tombola. I was on the door on the Saturday for a couple of hours with David Milner. He was great fun explaining to the visitors how they could use the "brochure" to identify the various trees. He pointed out that the best one was the one made by the TMF, adding "by me and him" although in reality the two Davids had nothing to do with the decoration! It made people smile. I was amazed how many people used the little electronic paying thingy (a technical term) to make donations with their credit cards as they entered.

The Tombola stand had a wonderful response for the prizes, having over 200 donated! The Parish Room had been used to sort the tickets and prizes and then they were all carried over to the church and arranged on the tables. Those members who took their turn looking after the stall, sold the tickets and then gave the tombola drum a turn, opened the door and the participant drew out their ticket/s. If the ticket ended in a five or a zero then they won the matching prize. If it was a child and they did not win then they had a lucky dip into a big sweet tin! If it was a child and they won an "inappropriate" prize, for example, whilst I was on, one child won a huge bottle of Vodka, then they could take a pick of the stall. She went away with a huge blue monkey instead and a huge smile on her





face! The TMF stall raised a record amount of £1200 and we still have a raffle to run at our annual "Not the Christmas Lunch" to be held at the end of January.



The December meeting was held in the Parish Room where we had a Bingo and Quiz afternoon "with a difference". This was put together and run by our secretary, Rob. To start the proceedings we split up into teams of three, meaning we had five teams. Bingo cards were handed out and we played this as individuals. It all became very tense towards the end with Steve just winning on a quicker call. You can see him in the photo holding up his bottle of Madeira and also spot Rob who ran the whole afternoon.

Then it was time for the quiz. This was over several rounds and culminating in a very tense final round. The result was tied between our team and some other miscreants. This called for a tie-break question, neither team knew the answer? So a second and third tie-break was asked with the same result, nobody knew the answer. Rob had run out of tie-break questions so it was all to be decided on the flip of a coin. I called "Heads" .... it was Tails! So we lost but congratulations to the winners who are pictured with their bottles of wine for winning.



An excellent event - well done Rob! Our next gathering will be at the Cock Inn, Woodseaves, for our annual lunch with partners. It will have taken place when you read this but I will report back on it next month.

Your Junior Correspondent (David S)

Butterflies in Eccleshall 2024

2024 has been a dreadful year for butterflies not just in Eccleshall but throughout the United Kingdom which is causing concern for environmentalists and in particular Butterfly Conservation.

One of the results of this was that no sightings were recorded for Common Blue or Small Copper butterflies all Summer whilst also no Brown Argus butterflies were seen but they are not recorded every year anyhow. No one knows exactly why this is but much of the blame is laid at the feet of the very wet winter and spring followed by a poor summer. It is quite possible that many winter habitats were washed out with flooding from well above normal rainfall meaning the loss of species at various stages of their development. Farmers' pesticides are also blamed but why should they have been so much worse this year?

A couple of statistics indicate how bad things have been. In 2023, although that was not a good year, on the best day (26th July) 369 different butterflies were recorded whilst the best day in 2024 was 11th August when just 83 butterflies were noted. The other statistic relates to the Small Tortoiseshell which has been in decline over the past year or two. Periodic counts have been undertaken by Warren Griffiths in the tower of Holy Trinity Church and some of these, when taken in winter, enable one to record the number of butterflies hibernating. In November 2021 110 of the species were recorded; this dropped in November 2022 to 24 and in November 2024 Warren recorded just 3 examples of the butterfly.

So many species struggled this year. After a good year for "field" butterflies in 2023, Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Small Skipper all struggled whilst Gate Keeper, which had been showing signs of recovery after the building of Sancerre Grange Estate, saw less than half the 2023 numbers. The Speckled Wood did manage an average number of sightings.

The coloured butterflies that we love to see in our gardens did not prosper too well. The Peacock actually was better than 2023 but was down on the previous four years; the Red Admiral was exceptional in 2023 and this year we recorded less than half of that year's sightings, but it was one of the few species to perform better than average. The Painted Lady is an immigrant butterfly and this was a very bad year with no more than one seen on any particular day. The Comma had a reasonable Autumn but was

well down on the previous year.

The Large White is largely an immigrant butterfly and sightings were well down on the last three years; the Small White had its worst showing since 2016 and the Green Veined White had the worst year since we moved into Eccleshall 20 years ago! The Whites are the most visible of our butterflies, so it is no wonder that so many people offered me comments on how few butterflies there were this year.

The only other butterflies noted were Brimstone which are fairly uncommon locally and the Spring butterfly, Orange Tip, which equalled the worst year since 2007.

This commentary illustrates what a disappointing year 2024 has been for butterflies and we can only hope that 2025 will be better. On a brighter note, sightings in September and October were up to average whereas all the earlier months in the year were all worse than normal. Unfortunately, this trend was not continued in November 2024 where we were virtually sunless for the first 10 days followed shortly afterwards by some sharp frosts. No butterflies at all were recorded in that month.

Thomas W. W. Knowles



Green Veined White



Peacock



Red Admiral

The Importance of History

Do you know Repton? I drove through it and was impressed by the sight of its elegant church. “Repton” sounded familiar…. and yet it wasn’t so I looked into it.

Repton is a village and civil parish in South Derbyshire located on the edge of the River Trent floodplain about 5 miles north of Swadlincote. The village’s recorded name changed from Hreopandune in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle to Rapendune in the Doomsday Book and then to Repingdon

Continued on page 25

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Continued from page 23



St Wystan's church & the cross in 1890

before becoming Repton. From the 7th to the 9th century, Repton was a principal residence of the Mercian royal family; Paeda, a son of the early Mercian king Penda, received Christian teaching and was baptized in 653 AD, the village cross marking the spot. Three years later the first bishop of Mercia, Diuma, introduced Christianity to the kingdom at Repton.

Repton Abbey, an Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbey, was founded in the 7th century. The abbey was a double monastery - a community of both monks and nuns and headed by an abbess. The first abbess is recorded as being Saint Werburgh who died in 699. She was a daughter of Wulfhere, King of Mercia and Saint Ermelida. The abbey is noted for its connections to various saints and Mercian royalty; two of the thirty-seven Mercian Kings were buried within the abbey's crypt.

When those early Saxons erected their simple timber and mud-walled church in the 7th century, it began a thousand years of building, giving us one of the most noble of village shrines. They gave us a crypt which grew in fame until it became the northern equivalent of Westminster Abbey. Beginning with King Æthelbald (AD716-757) it became the final resting place of Mercian kings and queens including King Wiglaf and his grandson, martyred Prince Wystan , who was murdered in AD849. For many years the crypt beneath the church sheltered the remains of the martyred prince who had been treacherously murdered by his cousin but his remains were transferred to Evesham on the approach of invading Vikings. By this time Wystan had been made a saint and his shrine a place of pilgrimage. Such was the popularity of a pilgrimage to St Wystan's Repton tomb that the crypt was regularly dangerously overcrowded by devout pilgrims. As a result an extra set of stairs was made creating an early example of a one-way system which stands to this day.

In the autumn of 873 the Viking Great Heathen Army reached Repton, establishing winter quarters there before completing their conquest of Mercia in 874. The monks and nuns were left with no choice but to flee taking the remains of Saint Wystan with them. The Army looted and destroyed the abbey and built a fortified encampment in the grounds between the abbey church and the River Trent. When the Vikings

Continued on page 27



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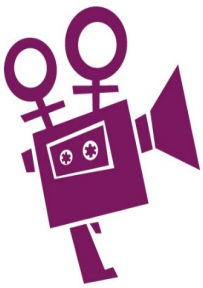
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Continued from page 25

departed they had destroyed the abbey buildings, many of which were made of wood and set fire to the abbey church. The abbey church was partially restored approximately 40 to 50 years later serving as a parish church rather than an abbey. In the 12th century the newly formed Repton Priory was established a short distance away and was rebuilt and enlarged between the 13th and 15th centuries. It has been suggested that the crypt at Repton later influenced the design of both the spiral-columned shrine of Edward the Confessor and the Coronation Pavement in Westminster Abbey, both commissioned by Henry III, based on the similarity of their dimensions and design.

What struck me was that this history is relevant to all our local church communities as at that time there was only one Christian church. This was before King Henry Vlll split from the Catholic Church and the Church of England was formed and before Wesley's followers split from the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church was formed. Repton's history is our history. My interest was rekindled by a book gifted at Christmas, "I Never Knew That About England's Country Churches" by Christopher Winn. Winn states that, "Repton speaks to us from before the dawn of England…. a cradle of Christianity….the oldest unaltered place of Christian worship in England, a tiny exquisite crypt…" This book looks at churches arranged by County and, in Staffordshire, is mention of Ingestre, Ashley and Maer, Izaak Walton, Josiah Wedgwood and Charles Darwin. All our churches have a history which links us to individual people of the past as well our nation's Christian story. The beautiful church we see in Repton today is nothing like the first little wooden place of worship built there in the 7th century but one led to the other and tell us of our country's, and religion's, history. If our forebears hadn't built our wonderful, varied churches, we wouldn't be worshipping here in Eccleshall today and future generations will rely on us to tell their stories.

Dorothy Kirkham for Eccleshall Churches Together

The Wonderful World of Lichens

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

Churchyards are the ideal place for a lichen enthusiast to while away many happy hours. Lichens can be found on walls, monuments, trees and if you have ancient grassland there may be lichens within the sward as well.

Continued on page 29

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Continued from page 27

To the uninitiated lichens can look broadly similar to subtle mosaics of colour, often greys and yellows forming expanding circles as they increase in size as the years go by. There is more to lichens than meets the eye however. Firstly they are two or more organisms living together as one, usually a fungus and an algae. Fungus forms the visible part of the lichen and within, protected by threads of the fungus, are cells of algae and/or cyanobacteria which photosynthesise. So the fungus provides a home and the algae provides food. Lichens reproduce through microscopic fungal spores which, if they find a suitable partner, can colonise surfaces which are not too shaded or too smooth. These spores are released from structures which look rather like tiny jam tarts, flasks or pimples!

Lichens are fantastic at surviving where other life cannot. Provided there is enough light and moisture lichens are able to grow on bare stone, not needing cracks or soil to root into. Some lichens grow very slowly, perhaps half a millimetre per year whilst others grow more quickly. Many lichens are long-lived so the lichen you see in a churchyard may be almost as old as the wall or gravestone it is growing on. Astonishingly there are over 2,000 different lichen species and it is not unusual for a single churchyard to contain more than 100 different types.

Churchyards are particularly rich in lichens as they contain so many old stones with a variety of types; limestone, sandstone, granite to name a few. Some stones are smoother, others rough and they may have differing amounts of shade, wind and moisture depending on where they are within the churchyard, which side of the monument the lichen is on, whether they are vertical, leaning or flat. The carving of the inscription itself provides microclimates with different amounts of light and moisture within the lettering. All of these changes in conditions will suit different lichen species. They are also found on trees, wooden fences and gates, grassy areas, pathways and even dustbin lids!

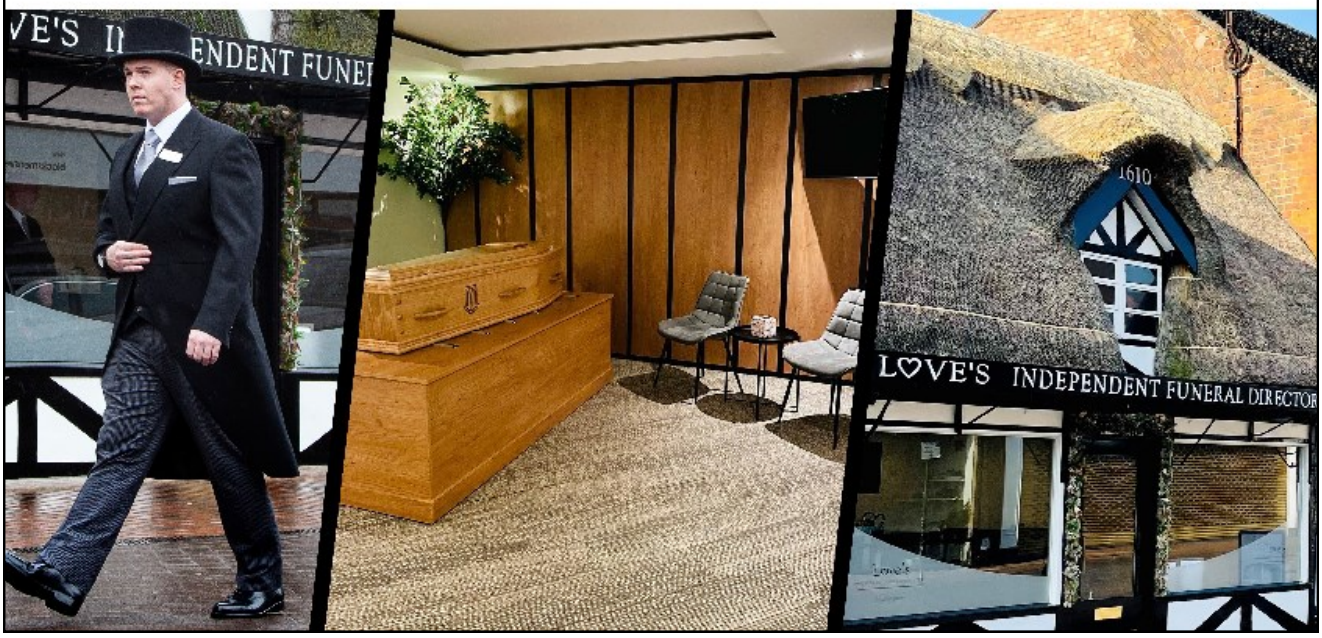
Most lichens offer protection to the surface they grow on and it may be easier to read lettering which is lichen-covered rather than bare, eroding stone. They do not need much care but do avoid the use of any chemicals near to lichens and definitely don't try and remove them. Lichens can die if shaded out so try and keep ivy or other climbers from encroaching over them too.

If you have never taken a closer look at a lichen then why not take a hand-lens or magnifying glass and give it a go. Lichen colonies have been

Continued on page 31

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Continued from page 29



Photograph by Caring for God's Acre, Hope Bagot in Shropshire

described as minute, self-maintaining gardens providing a natural cladding for the stone. They are beautiful and endlessly fascinating and if you like a challenge why not look up the British Lichen Society website and find out more about how to identify them.

Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk

The Latest Buzz

Bees are kept the world over for all sorts of reasons.
All of which has got to be positive for all of us. Sometimes it's a surprise or introduces us to people we have not have otherwise met.
In October last year I was lucky enough to travel to Kenya (one of my daughters has gone to live there). While there I met a lady who used to work in New York for the United Nations. She had decided to move to Northern Kenya to establish a group to enable women and families to support themselves through beekeeping and farming. I think she will succeed as she is determined/knowledgeable and has a background of getting things done as well as being part of the tribe of that region. She has asked me to come out to the group. Watch this space.
Beekeeping is being taught in a number of prisons in UK ie. HMP Huntercombe in Oxfordshire. The aim is to train prisoners (who have earned the privilege) and staff. This has benefits to people and the environment which could take a long time to discuss.
Honey is very 'on trend' at the moment. David Beckham can be regularly seen in his personalised bee suit. Nigella Lawson LOVES honey and has introduced a honey competition. The Princess of Wales is a beekeeper as was Queen Elizabeth II.
Locally we have quite a number of beekeepers - some have lots of hives and are commercial, others just enjoy beekeeping and have a small number of hives or only one hive. Bees are fascinating, essential creatures and their honey is gorgeous.



Eccleshall Bees

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Eccleshall Poetry Group

We're well into the year now and getting this month underway, 1st – 9th February is National Story-telling week, celebrating folk tales, myths and legends and of course our own personal events.

If you want some musical fun, 2nd February is National Ukulele Day, chosen because being 2/2, adds up to four, the number of strings on a ukulele.

If you're not getting involved in those activities, why not try Eccleshall Poetry Group's twice a month Thursday afternoon poetry sessions.

As Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) said:

"The aim of poetry and the poet is finally to be of service, to ply the effort of the individual into the larger work of the community as a whole."

(See Forthcoming Events on page 39 For Eccleshall Poetry Group session details.)

"I Know Where I Am Going" - at the Pocket Film Festival

The Pocket Film Festival will be back in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 15 February 2025 with a romantic valentine film treat with a screening of the 1945 romance film 'I Know Where I'm Going' by the British filmmakers Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. This is a story of a headstrong heroine who knows what she wants but is waylaid by the elements and an unexpected romance is one of the most lovable films in British cinema history.

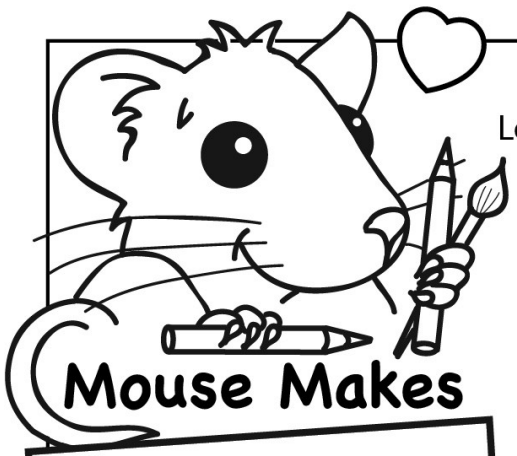


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Children's Page



Mouse Makes

"**Love** is
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _,
love is _ _ _ _ _.
It does not, _ _ _ _ _
it does not _ _ _ _ _ _
it is not _ _ _ _ _ _.
it does not
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
others, it is not self -
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
it is not easily
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _,
it keeps no record of
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
Love delights in
_ _ _ _ _
it always
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _,
_ _ _ _ _ _ _,
_ _ _ _ _ _ _,
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _ _ _ _ _ _ _;
His _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
never come to an end;
they are new every
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
*the greatness of Christ's **love**,*
how _ _ _ _ _
and how _ _ _ _ _
and how _ _ _ _ _
*that **love** is.*
Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
whoever _ _ _ _ _ _
in **love** _ _ _ _ _ _
in God, and God
_ _ _ _ _ _ in them.
1 John 4:16

Give _ _ _ _ _ _ _
to the Lord, for He is
_ _ _ _,
his steadfast **love**
endures
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?

God sent me a saviour:
He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.
1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:
He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.
Romans 5:5

God called me His child:
See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.
1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:
***LOVE** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.*
Matthew 22:37
***LOVE** your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.*
Matthew 22:39

P	T	Y	D	E	B	P	O	P	T	E	L	T	
E	R	D	L	N	M	A	Y	R	F	D	G	R	A
A	U	G	O	D	J	T	H	O	P	E	F	U	L
C	S	K	V	U	U	I	K	T	S	F	L	T	O
E	T	P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	E	S	H	Y
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THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings

14th December 2024 Adele Purton & Richard Danby
Married at Holy Trinity

21st December 2024 Samantha Gibson & Michael Rowley
Married at Holy Trinity

Congratulations to the happy couples!

FUNERALS

18 November 2024 Glynis Dyson
Burial of Ashes at Holy Trinity

10 December 2024 Edith Stanejko
Funeral Service & Committal at Stafford Crematorium

23rd December 2024 Pauline Timmis
Funeral Service & Burial at Holy Trinity

3rd January 2025 Ruth Edwards
Funeral Service & Burial at Holy Trinity

10th January 2025 Thomas Cornes
Funeral Service & Burial at Holy Trinity

15th January 2025 Edna Fenton
Funeral Service at Holy Trinity &
Committal at Stafford Crematorium

Sincere condolences to all who mourn



Where appropriate, services that are held after the date that Trinity magazine has gone to print will be shown on the Parish Registers page in the following issue.

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Crossword (page 19) - Answers

ACROS 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN: 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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February 5th & 19th

March 5th & 19th

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Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2025

Mondays 5.30 - 6.30pm
Living Faith course continues in the Parish Room.

Tuesdays (term-time) 10 - 11.30am
Trinity Tots in Holy Trinity Parish Room See p.4

Tuesday 4th 5.30 - 6.30pm
"***Difference***" Course final session in Holy Trinity Church.

Wednesdays 5th and 19th 10 -12
Trinity Coffee and Cake in Holy Trinity Parish Room See p. 38

Wednesdays 5th, 12th & 26th
Tooty Flooty (7-8pm) ***and Eccleshall Community Band*** (8-9pm) rehearse in Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 6th 2 - 4pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'For All Occasions'**

Friday 7th 7.30pm
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust meets in Holy Trinity Parish Room "David Douglas - The greatest plant hunter of all time?" Dr Michael Jones

Monday 10th 7.30pm
Eccleshall Historical Talks Society in Holy Trinity Parish Room "The history of women in the Royal Navy" - speaker Keith Winstanley

Thursday 13th 7.30pm
Eccleshall WI in Holy Trinity Parish Room "Ginger Bread Making" Sarah Hopcroft

Saturday 15th 7.30pm
Pocket Film Festival in Holy Trinity Church 'I Know Where I'm Going' See p. 33

Wednesday 19th 10am - 4pm
Arts Children's Activity in Holy Trinity Church See p. 9

Thursday 20th 2 - 4pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Migrations'**

Friday 28th 2pm
TMF Meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Room Speaker TBA

MARCH 2025

Mondays 5.30 - 6.30pm
Living Faith course continues in the Parish Room.

Tuesdays (term-time) 10 - 11.30am
Trinity Tots in Holy Trinity Parish Room See p.4

Tuesdays (4th Mar - 8th Apr) 5.30 - 6.30pm
Lent Course in Holy Trinity Church

Wednesdays 5th and 19th 10 -12
Trinity Coffee and Cake in Holy Trinity Parish Room - p. 27

Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
Tooty Flooty (7-8pm) ***and Eccleshall Community Band*** (8-9pm) rehearse in Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 6th 2 - 4pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Time and Change'**

Friday 7th 7.30pm
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust meets in Maer Village Hall "Hedgehogs and other Wildlife - the work of the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital, Stapeley Grange" Eve Astbury-Field

Monday 10th 7.30pm
Eccleshall Historical Talks Society in Holy Trinity Parish Room "Railway History told by Posters" - speaker *Michael Willmot*

Thursday 13th 7.30pm
Eccleshall WI in Holy Trinity Parish Room "An Introduction to Sign Language" Glynis Miles

Thursday 20th 2 -4pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Spring Forward/Fall Back'**

Friday 28th 10am
TMF Walk in the Eccleshall area followed by Lunch @12.30pm in the Royal Oak



Contact details for events can be found on pages 42 and 43.

If you would like to give notice of forthcoming events for March and April 2025 please let us know by 7th February 2025 at the latest (details on page 43).

Notes from Trinity Magazine Team

I know we're a month in but this is the first opportunity to say HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers! Thank you to all our contributors and readers. Please send articles or forthcoming events for the March 2025 issue of **TRINITY** *by 7th February to Hazel Email: parishmag.eccleshall@gmail.com*

Ed.

Our TRINITY magazine subscribers should receive a "Subscriber Slip" with this issue. **For this year you will see that we are asking for subscription payments to made to deliverers in cash please.** (Please see note on subs slip.)

TRINITY magazine income banked in December £16.06 - Holy Trinity, £4.80 - Crown Surgery & £2 - subs. *Sue Marsh, Trinity Magazine Treasurer*

Holy Communion at Home

Do you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion at home?

Geoff Dingle, Retired Lay Reader, has administered Communion to people in their homes for a number of years and would be glad to hear from anyone who might benefit from this service.

If you would like to find out more you should contact Michelle, our Parish Office Manager on 01785 305028 (Mon - Fri 9am-1pm) or email office@eccleshall.church

Prayer Support

Do you know of someone who is in need of prayer? There is a small group of people who pray for needs in the Parish. If you would like a prayer for yourself, a loved one or someone you know but are not sure who to turn to, please ring Kate Griffiths on 01785 850948 and we will ensure that you or they are prayed for.

*** At the 10am Sung Eucharist service at Holy Trinity Church on 2nd February, Candlemas**
The ENGLSIH CHAMBER CHOIR
will sing
James MacMillan's "Mass"

Church Service Rotas for February

Date	2nd February Candlemas	9th February Fourth Sunday before Lent	16th February Third Sunday before Lent	23rd February Second Sunday before Lent
Holy Trinity 10am	**Sung Eucharist** * see page 40	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**
Sides-people	A Dale J Dale	N Reynolds C Reynolds	P Jones Joy Jones	T Jones L Veck-Jones
Eucharistic Officer	A Braithwaite	G Dingle	A Braithwaite	G Dingle
Prayers	P Jones	B Braithwaite	J Norton	A Goldsmith
Reading 1	**Malachi 3 1-5** M Firth	**Isaiah 6 1-8 (9-13)** H Bradshaw	**Jeremiah 17 5-10** B Braithwaite	**Genesis 2 4b-9, 15-end** G Dingle
Reading 2	**Hebrews 2 14-18** V Firth	**1 Corinthians15 1-11** J Bradshaw	**1 Corinthians 15 12-20** Jonathan Jones	**Revelation 4** B Johnson
St Chad's 11.30am	**6.30pm Candlemas Prayer Service**	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**
Readings	**As 10am** TBA	**As 10am** Sheila Kettle	**As 10am** John Leather	**As 10am** Helen Bonsall
Other services, events and activities				
Mondays ~ 5.30 - 6.30pm ~ Living Faith course - one year introduction to the Christian Faith - in the Parish Room				
Wednesday 5th February ~ 11am ~ BCP Said Eucharist - in Holy Trinity				
Saturday 15th February ~ 7.30pm ~ Pocket Film Festival 'I Know Where I'm Going' in Holy Trinity				
Wednesday 19th February ~ 10am-4pm ~ Arts Children's Activity in Holy Trinity See page 9				

Videos of 10am services held at Holy Trinity Church can usually be seen from shortly after the end of the service (at around 11.15am) on the Facebook page of Holy Trinity Parish Church, Eccleshall and will be uploaded to YouTube early the following week.

Town Contacts

GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Adbaston Community Concert Society:
01785 850967 www.adbastonccs.org.uk
Art Group: Ann 01785 748061 and Joy 01785 851885
British Red Cross Society: 258155
Ecc. Allotments Association: Adam Pike
Eccleshallaa@gmail.com
Ecc. Bridge Club: Margaret Atkins 01782 796201
Eccleshall Community Band: Hazel Bradshaw 851259
Ecc. Community Centre Bookings:
Libby Dale 850124
Ecc. Community Cinema: Keith Winstanley 859908
Ecc. Cricket Club: Andy Buttery 284242
Ecc. & Dist. 41 Club: Martin Ratcliffe 07831 277398
Ecc. Festival: Vacant
Ecc. Historical Society: Lester Stuart 850826
Ecc. Library Book Group: Ros Taylor 01785 859068
Ecc. Poetry Group: Thelma Whitfield 01785 760017
Ecc. Show Society: Mary Cartmail 07702 240511
Ecc. Singers: Chris Howe 01785 282785
choweharrier@live.co.uk
Ecc. Trefoil Guild: Nicci Holdcroft
npholdcroft@aol.com
Ecc. Trust: Sharon Lynch 851046
Ecc. Voluntary Car Scheme Peter Jones 01785 851381 / 07815419166 peterwjones@btinternet.com www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk
Ecc. W.I.: Joan Davies 851412
Ecc. Young Farmers: Jessica Bradley 07794362260
Ecclian Society: Brian Freeman 851590
Indoor Bowls Club: Joe Yeomans 851255
Katharine House Hospice-Eccleshall Support Group: Helen Deane 850071
Methodist Church Room Bookings:
Anne Ainsworth 850722
National Women's Register: Mary Busby 850854
Neighbourhood Watch: John Baldry 850004
The Over 60s Club: Jenny Oldbury 01785 850490
Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia: John Ogbourne, Secretary 07796 273885 john@ogbourne.co.uk
Royal British Legion (Eccleshall Branch):
Clive Blakeway 01952 550205
North Staffs Riding for the Disabled:
Jane Banks northstaffsrda@gmail.com or 07428376437
Staffordshire Marquetry Group:
Quentin Smith 850614
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:
David Lovatt 01782 680250
Tennis Club: Mark Embrey 851265

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ros Taylor 01785 859068
email: ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk to Parish Council: Mrs. Stacey Worden
16 Newport Road, Great Bridgeford ST18 9PR
01785 282296 eccleshallpc@gmail.com

RECYCLING CENTRES

Closed Christmas Day Boxing Day & New Year's Day
Open Bank Holidays 9am-5pm
St. Alban's Rd, Stafford
Open: Winter : 9am-4.30pm Mon Tues Fri Sat & Sun
Summer: 9-6 Mon Tues Fri 9-5 Sat and Sun
Stone Recycling Centre
Open: Winter : 9am-4.30pm Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun
Summer: 9-6 Wed Thurs Fri 9-5 Sat and Sun

ECCLESHALL LIBRARY 0300 111 8000

Sun/Mon Closed Tues 9am-5pm Wed 9am-1pm
Thurs 9am-5pm Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-1pm

YOUNG PEOPLE & CHILDREN

Bishop Lonsdale C. of E. Academy:
Principal: Mrs Claire Jones 01785 336512

1st Eccleshall SCOUTS
Beavers: Monday 6pm to 7pm
Cubs: Wednesday 6.30-8 pm
Explorers: Thursday 7.30-9.30pm
Scouts: Friday 7.30-9.30 pm
Contact: e-mail firsteccleshallscouts@outlook.com

GUIDES
Unfortunately there are currently no Guides, Brownies or Rainbows units running in Eccleshall. For information about local units you can visit www.girlguidi.org.uk

HEALTH

G P Practice
The Crown Surgery, High Street, Eccleshall
Telephone 01785 850226 for appointments
www.crownsurgery.org.uk
Hospital Visiting Times.
County Hospital Stafford 257731 3-8 pm
Royal Stoke University Hospital
01782 715444 2-4 pm, 7-8 pm
First Responders: Jay Eames 07834 919194 www.eccleshallcfrs.org.uk
Requests for **Hospital Radio** Stafford : 223456
Pharmacist (High St. Eccleshall) 850057
Shires Veterinary Practice 01785 907185

HELP NEEDED!

Medical Emergency (seriously ill/injured/life-saving)/ Police Emergency/Fire: 999
Urgent medical advice or treatment: 111
Police: Non Emergency Number **101**
Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
Samaritans: 24-hours: **Free Call Number** 116123
or email jo@samaritans.org
Citizens Advice Bureau: 258673 or 814806
Relate (Marriage Guidance) : 242779
Bereavement and Loss Support Service :
01782 263455 & 01785 211734
NSPCC (24-hour line): 0800 800 500
GAS emergency number: 0800 111 999
ELECTRICITY emergency number: 0800 328 1111
WATER emergency number: 0800 783 4444
British Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950
Staffordshire Bus Line Information: 223344
Eccleshall Website www.eccleshallguide.org
Parish Council Website
www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

TRINITY Magazine Free Delivery

If you know of anyone who would like **TRINITY** magazine **delivered to their home** in the **Eccleshall/Slindon/Copmere Area,** please contact **Charles Taylor, on 01782 658832 Mobile 07484 890439**

Church Contacts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

VICAR
Revd Phillip Johnson
01785 848604
vicar@eccleshall.church

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER
Michelle Hardy
01785 305028
office@eccleshall.church
(Normally works Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm)

ASSISTANT PRIEST
Revd Stephen Habgood
stephen.habgood@btopenworld.com

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER
Cassie Jennings
nextgen@eccleshall.church

ARTS AND FAITH COORDINATOR
Sarah Cartwright
arts@eccleshall.church

CHURCHWARDENS

Kate Griffiths	The Malthouse, 82 High Street, 850948
Jonathan Jones	1 Kerry Lane 851237
Tony Jones	Rumford Redoubt, Newport Road 850186
John Treanor	Lower House, Sugnall Parva 851378

Lay Chairmen John Treanor 851378
Jonathan Jones 851237

Deanery Synod Representatives
Hazel Bradshaw, Kate Griffiths, Jonathan Jones

Other Elected Church Council Members
(S represents Slindon)
John Bradshaw, Sue Bramall (S), Isobel Edge, Linda Jones, John Leather (S), Susan Marsh, David Milner (S), Judith Norton, Chris Reynolds, Nancy Reynolds, Vivien Rowley, Jenny Turnock

Parish Website: www.ecclshallparish.com
Facebook Page : Parish of Eccleshall

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER
Steve Enock 01785 851873

ST. CHAD'S, SLINDON
Churchwarden: John Treanor 851378
Treasurer: John Leather 850888
Secretary: Sue Marsh
Health & Safety Coordinator: John Treanor

For general enquiries including Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, Churchyards at both Holy Trinity and St Chad's Slindon please contact the Parish Office
Phone: 01785 305028

CHURCH GROUPS
Bible Study: Revd Phillip 01785 848604
Parish Prayer Group: Judith Norton 859390
Tower Bells: Warren Griffiths 850948
Trinity Men's Fellowship: Rob Hughes 851372

OTHER CHURCH PERSONNEL
Parish Room Bookings Secretary:
Isy Edge 01785 859555 / 07496 032668
isobeledge@hotmail.com
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:
Vivien Rowley 07795086544
Electoral Roll Officer: Kate Griffiths 850948
Flower Guild Rota: Kate Griffiths 850948
Sidesmen's Rota: Emily admin@eccleshall.church
Health & Safety Coordinator: Kate Griffiths 850948

ECCLESHALL METHODIST CHURCH
Superintendent Minister: Rev. David Bintliff 01785 615218
Minister: Rev. Jimione Kaci
Circuit Office: Mrs. Leigh Reade 01785 229973
Lettings: Mrs. Anne Ainsworth 01785 850722

SACRED HEART CHURCH
Fr. Gerry Doyle 01785 813951

ECCLESHALL CHURCHES TOGETHER
Dorothy Kirkham 01785 851778

THE TRINITY MAGAZINE TEAM
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PLEASE SEND articles photographs and forthcoming events for the magazine, by the 7th of the month, to:
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(or Hazel on 01785 851259)

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Please send articles or forthcoming events for the March 2025 issue of Trinity magazine to Hazel by 7th February 2025 at the latest. Email: parishmag.eccleshall@gmail.com

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February Services
at Holy Trinity, Eccleshall & St. Chad's, Slindon

2nd February, Candlemas

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist (See page 40)
6.30pm	St Chad's - Candlemas Prayer Service

5th February, Wednesday Service

11am	Holy Trinity - BCP Said Eucharist

9th February, The Fourth Sunday before Lent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

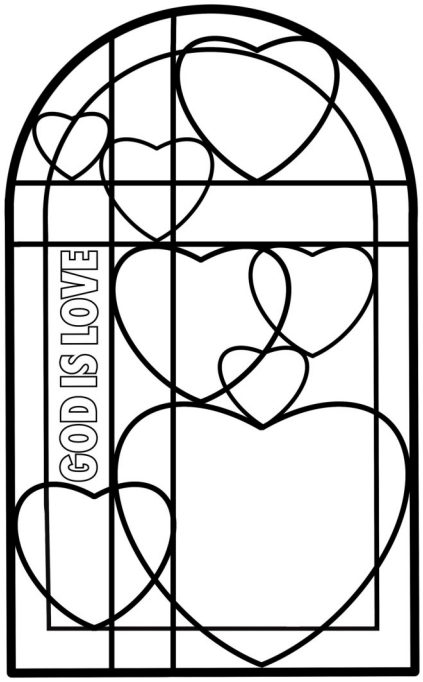
16th February, The Third Sunday before Lent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

23rd February, The Second Sunday before Lent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

(See page 41 for Sunday service rotas)



If you would like to receive a copy of our News and Information Sheet (usually fortnightly) and weekly Readings and Intercessions sheets via email, please contact our Parish Administration Manager, Emily Howard, at admin@eccleshall.church