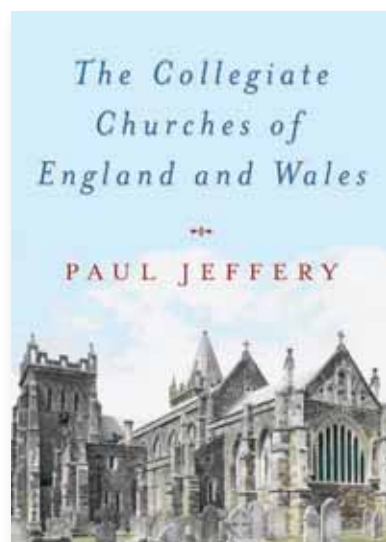


## Book offer – The Collegiate Churches of England and Wales

Holy Trinity used to be a collegiate church. Collegiate churches are one of the country's lesser-known glories. A collegiate church was the church of a medieval college, which was an important class of religious house, different from but comparable to a monastery. For most of their history these colleges had nothing to do with education, but it is from them that the secular educational colleges of today are descended. Usually the most important, and often the only, part to survive from a college is the church. Collegiate churches were often large and magnificent, and almost 150 remain to the present day, forming a superb body of architecture.



to him at:  
36 Olivers Battery Road North,  
Winchester,  
Hampshire,  
SO22 4JB

The book is illustrated with 300 photographs and contains two main sections. In the first, the author traces the development of the colleges from their beginnings in the Anglo-Saxon era to their dramatic decline in the sixteenth century, and deals with their nature, historical evolution, demise and legacy. The second section

comprises an extensive gazetteer, divided into counties, designed as a convenient guide for the lover of old buildings to explore this part of our architectural wealth.

*'The Collegiate Churches of England and Wales is a remarkable work which should be on the bookshelf of all those interested in the country's history and heritage.'*

Paul Jeffery's book "The Collegiate Churches of England and Wales" was originally published in 2004 in hardback at £60 by Robert Hale Ltd. It is now available in paperback directly from the author for £13 (including delivery). Cheques should be sent

— THE FRIENDS 2008 —

### Events Diary

Do put these forthcoming dates in your diary!

#### 'THE ARCHERS' COME TO HOLY TRINITY

Saturday 25 October, 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church

#### VOICES FROM AMBRIDGE

A show, based on 'Come Rain, Come Shine', performed by regular major characters from the world's longest running radio drama serial: The Archers.

Directed by Malcolm McKee

Tickets £15 incl a glass of wine in the interval, on sale in the Parish Office, the Church Shop, or by post (please include sae) from Friends of Shakespeare's Church, Parish Office, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG.

#### THE PONTARDDULAIS MALE CHOIR

Saturday 7 March 2009. A welcome return to The Pontarddulais Male Choir in Holy Trinity Church.

## FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH HONoured

In recognition of the achievements of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, the Clerk to the Trustees, representing the Friends, was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in July. The gardens were thronged with guests, the rain held off, (just) and a good tea was had by all.



## Trustees

President  
Rev. Martin Gorick

Chairman  
Sir Brian Follett

Vice Chairman  
Jane Hornby

Treasurer  
Brian Vince

Trustees  
Tony Bird  
Bill Hicks  
Tim Hindley  
Bill Lowe  
Catherine Penn  
Tim Raistrick

Clerk to the Trustees  
Josephine Walker

## Patrons

Sir Eric Anderson

Mr Jasper Britton

Dame Judi Dench

Mr Martin Dunne,

Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire

Mr Patrick Stewart OBE



## Friends of Shakespeare's Church

The Parish Office  
Holy Trinity Church, Old Town  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
Warwickshire CV37 6BG  
United Kingdom

Tel: 01789 290128

Tel/Fax: 01789 266316

Email:  
friends@shakespeareschurch.org

www.shakespeareschurch.org

Registered Charity No. 1097403



### OUR MISSION

Delivering the means to preserve Shakespeare's church for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

2010 is the 800th anniversary of the building of the church. Could much of our restoration be completed by then?

### Stop Press

Both the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust and The National Churches Trust have generously awarded grants of £30,000 towards work on the clerestory.



Stratford-upon-Avon  
TOWN TRUST  
A registered charity

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church gratefully acknowledge the generous support given by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust

August 2008

"I count myself in nothing else so happy  
As in a soul remembering my good friends"

Richard II, William Shakespeare

# Will's Quill

ISSUE TEN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH

## From the Chairman

A new Chairman and a new set of challenges!

It is a difficult task to follow Philip (Cheshire) as your Chairman, especially as he and the Committee have set such an example during the first five years of the Friends. To have raised half a million pounds and to see the tower and spire restored has been a true success.

For both the Church and the Town it is vital that we present our beloved Shakespeare in all his contexts. Towards town we are watching the rebuilding of the Royal Shakespeare Company's theatre and that

**...I have been struck forcibly by the spirit of all associated with Holy Trinity...**

should open late in 2010 or early in 2011. Put that together with our 800th anniversary in 2010 and you can appreciate why we wish to make the Church and the Shakespeare area within it even more attractive to worshippers and visitors alike.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will learn of our many events from the David Starkey lecture through to the Marathon Bible Reading so well organised by Tim Raistrick. Coming up will be a visit from the Archers and through the good offices of actors from the RSC we shall launch our new "appeal". Do please join us on this new journey...

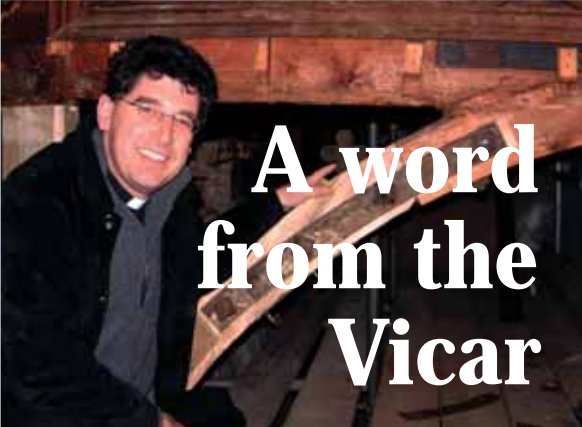
Brian Follett



But I am very optimistic we can raise such a sum: why? The key is enthusiasm and I have been struck forcibly by the spirit of all associated with Holy Trinity. The congregation is large, the church is lively in a host of ways and we are led by a splendid Vicar. We are also so fortunate in being Shakespeare's church and that is to be the cornerstone of our new "appeal" in the coming months.



www.shakespeareschurch.org  
email: friends@shakespeareschurch.org



# A word from the Vicar

Coming out of Holy Trinity the other day I happened to bump into Patrick Stewart who is appearing in *Hamlet* at the Courtyard Theatre. Best known for his Hollywood career as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in the Star Trek films, Patrick recently returned to Stratford to play the lead in *Antony and Cleopatra*, to much acclaim. In conversation he told me how he had spent much

**...he related how he always came into Holy Trinity to sit quietly for a while before a first performance of a play, valuing the sense of stillness and peace that he had always found there...**

of his early career as an actor with the RSC and was very much enjoying being back. He related how he always came into Holy Trinity to sit quietly for a while before a first performance of a play, valuing the sense of stillness and peace that he had always found there. I appreciated his sharing that. Holy Trinity has had a long association as an actors' church, and is often a real spiritual home for actors in their transitory working lives. Perhaps William Shakespeare himself came to find inspiration or a centred stillness within its walls, as actors, writers and directors still do to this day.

Holy Trinity is full of history, but is a living church where people come daily to find that sense of focus and peace that so easily eludes us in this hectic world.

We face many challenges in maintaining and conserving this magnificent building, and I am indebted to Brian Follett our new Chairman, to Jo Walker and all of the Friends who are working so hard to meet those challenges.

We do so not just to maintain a building, but to keep open a place of sacred stillness and of ongoing encounter with the living God.

# Projects ahead of us

*The next project to be undertaken on the structure of Holy Trinity Church is the repair of the clerestory windows in the nave.*

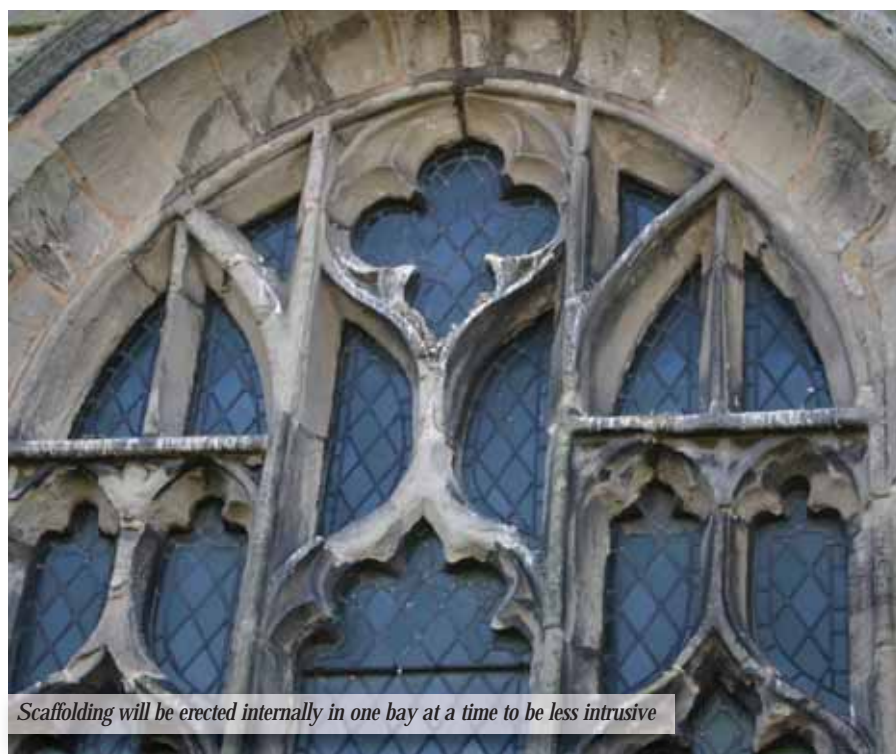
This is what they look like at the moment! The masonry is crumbling away and the metalwork that holds the glass in place is corroding.

The architect plans to provide a walkway at the level of the clerestory windows from which to work. It is hoped that within the church this can be much

less obtrusive than we had feared, a slimline version.

A photographic survey of the windows has been completed and most of the preliminary work has been done.

**Current estimates for completion of this part of the work: £400,000.**



*Scaffolding will be erected internally in one bay at a time to be less intrusive*



*Metalwork and stonework deteriorating*



*The masonry is crumbling away and the metalwork that holds the glass in place is corroding.*



## Annual Lecture: Dr David Starkey

A full house gathered in Holy Trinity Church to welcome Dr David Starkey, historian and presenter of the Channel Four television series 'Monarchy', who was the speaker for the Friends' Annual Lecture.

He spoke enthralingly on 'Church, State and Crown from the Tudors to the Stewarts', covering the causes of the Reformation, and comparing the religious

turmoils of sixteenth-century England with the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the twentieth century.

He took questions afterwards, and then talked with a group of boys from King Edward VI School who wanted to grill him on Tudor history before their forthcoming exams!

Speaking without notes or illustrations, he had his audience gripped throughout, and the Friends were very grateful indeed to him for his support and interest.

## 2008 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church was held on 17 April in the Shakespeare Centre.

It was the last AGM to be chaired by Dr Philip Cheshire who, under the terms of the Friends' constitution, had to retire after five years of office. During his leadership, Dr Cheshire steered us through our first years with energy, tact and good humour. Through him, the Friends raised their first half-million pounds. Only another four million to go!

After the business meeting Dr Robert Bearman, recently retired as Senior

Archivist for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, kindly talked to the group about the documents held in the Trust's Archives about Holy Trinity. It became clear that repairs, restoration and rebuilding have been a recurrent feature in the life of the church almost since the day of its construction.

Consecutive clergy and councillors have worried away about the insertion and subsequent removal of galleries, about repairs to various roofs, about re-ordering of the interior and mending the exterior.

It all sounded very familiar. Plus ça change!

## Shakespeare Family Ledger Stones

The Shakespeare family's ledger stones, those gravestones laid flat in the chancel floor, mark the resting places of William Shakespeare, his wife Anne Hathaway, his daughter Susanna, his son-in-law John Hall and his grandson-in-law, Thomas Nash, husband of his grand-daughter Elizabeth.

The condition of the ledger stones is deteriorating. The lias limestone out of which they are made is flaking away. The conservator approached by the architect has suggested a plan to clean the surfaces very carefully, and



**...the condition of the ledger stones is deteriorating...**

then introduce a consolidant to prevent any further surface damage. In addition, it is hoped to move the altar rail further into the church, so that the clergy and servers will no longer have to walk over the stones when administering holy communion.

**Current estimates of cost for the Ledger Stones: £30,000.**

## EVENTS

### "In the beginning..."

With these words RSC actor Jeffery Dench set in motion the challenging five-day Bible Reading Marathon at Holy Trinity at 7.30 pm on Sunday May 25.

His stentorian voice, perfect diction and theatrical skill brought the creation story vividly to life as he read the first seven chapters and two verses of Genesis before handing over seamlessly to the next reader.

Thus the benchmark was set for more than 100 people who signed up to read aloud the whole of the King James Bible continuously day and night until the marathon reached Revelation 22 verse 21 at 11.59 on Thursday 29 May.

**...£2,718.20 was raised for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church through sponsorship of the readings...**

£2,718.20 was raised for the Friends of Shakespeare's Church through sponsorship of the readings, which took place from the Eagle lectern in the Becket chapel, with a large clock ticking down the minutes, and coffee and biscuits at the ready.

The readers ranged in age from 11 to 86. One evening the youth church took over and read in relays throughout the night.

The church remained open 24 hours a day so that visitors could share in the experience. Parts of the Bible Reading were broadcast live by the BBC and appeared on Radio 4's 'Today' programme and also on BBC 1's Breakfast News on the Wednesday morning. The whole event took 3 days, 16 hours and 29 minutes to complete. That's 5,309 minutes or 318,540 seconds!

Those who read are already asking: 'When can we do it again?'

