

# Events Diary

We are currently organising a range of events to help raise funds for The Friends.

Details will be available on our website: [www.shakespeareschurch.org](http://www.shakespeareschurch.org)

If you have any suggestions for future events or wish to advertise your fundraising event, please contact the Parish Office on 01789 266316 or email: [friends@shakespeareschurch.org](mailto:friends@shakespeareschurch.org)

Sat 14th August 7.30pm

## Beaufort Male Voice Choir

The Choir continues its charitable work by performing in aid of The Friends.

Tickets: £8  
Friends £7

Tickets available from:  
Parish Office 01789 266316  
or Holy Trinity Church Shop

Saturday 4th September 7.30pm

## An Evening with Jane Lapotaire

An evening of readings from one of the country's leading actresses.

Tickets: £8  
Friends £6.50

Tickets available from:  
Parish Office 01789 266316  
or Holy Trinity Church Shop

Saturday 25th September 7.30pm

## The Stratford Chamber Choir

Don't miss this sensational choir's performance.

Tickets: £10  
Friends £9

Tickets available from:  
Parish Office 01789 266316  
or Holy Trinity Church Shop

All the above events are to be held at Holy Trinity Church

## Reviews of Events

### Hey for Christmas

A robust, jocular programme of music, featuring period instruments such as the baroque violin, lute, hurdy-gurdy, nakers (sic), bagpipes and pipe and tabor was offered. This was interspersed with readings from authors such as the Oxford chronicler Anthony à Wood, and diarists John Evelyn and Samuel Pepys. The words and music, spoken and sung by performers in traditional costume, focused on Christmas.

### Choir's Christmas offering

The Stratford Operatic Society choir demonstrated its wide-ranging abilities, moving from Showboat to Holst's Christmas Day. Variety was certainly evident with Joan Self staunchly declaring I Want To Be In Opera and Caz Wootton's upbeat version of The Way You Look Tonight, accompanied by pianist Andrew Holtom.

Full reviews of the events are available at [www.shakespeareschurch.org](http://www.shakespeareschurch.org)

## AGM Report

The Friends of Shakespeare's Church AGM, held in the Shakespeare Centre on Thursday, 22nd January 2004, was well attended. The meeting started with a welcome from the President, the Revd Martin Gorick, followed by an address from the Chairman, Dr. Philip Cheshire, and a presentation of financial report from the Treasurer, Mr. Brian Vince. A new Trustee's nomination was accepted and the Trustees were delighted to welcome Mr. Tim Raistrick to the team. Following the AGM, Dr. Robert Bearman, Chief Archivist from the Shakespeare Birthplace Centre, gave a fascinating talk and slide show, called "Impressions of Shakespeare's Church". He explained the architectural style and changes over the centuries

and was able to show very early illustrations to demonstrate his talk. One of the most striking slides was of the painting showing Walter Scott looking at Shakespeare's tomb.



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

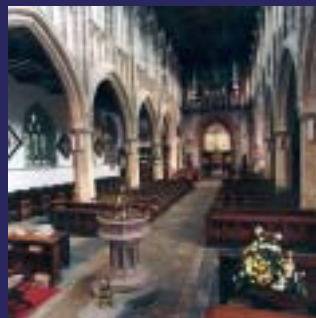
Stratford-upon-Avon  
TOWN TRUST

Stratford-upon-Avon  
Town Trust

## A Unique Heritage



Stratford's stunning parish church, a place of worship since the 13th century, welcomes thousands of visitors every year. Many come to see the place where William Shakespeare, the world's most famous playwright, was baptised, where he worshipped with his family and where he lies buried in the chancel. Many leave impressed by the splendid architecture and the pervading sense of peace and tranquillity that is the essence of Holy Trinity.



## Friends of Shakespeare's Church

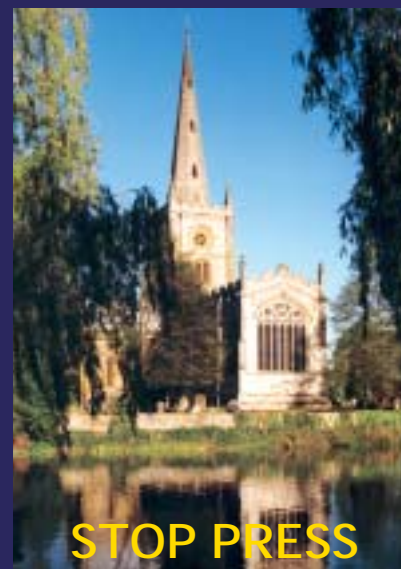
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*The Friends exist to ensure that Shakespeare's Church is preserved for future generations. It also provides an opportunity for individuals to offer their support by joining us as custodians of this rich heritage.*



STOP PRESS

## Friends Meet Their First Target

We would like to congratulate our members and donors who have helped us reach our first target of £50,000. With the generous match-funding by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust, this makes a staggering £100,000 raised. The Trust's generosity has allowed us to implement our plans earlier than expected and their future grants will really help with our planned projects for this year.

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

Richard II, William Shakespeare

# Wills Quill

ISSUE TWO

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHURCH

## From the Chairman

It was a great privilege to be asked at the AGM to serve as your Chairman for another year. Over the coming months I hope, with the support of my fellow Trustees, to be able to reward your confidence. Six months on from our first newsletter is a timely moment to reflect on our developments. Often a pause for thought raises questions. Has our membership increased? Have our activities been well supported? Have we received funds from other Trusts? Have we been able to grant more funds to Holy Trinity to help with the restoration? The answer to all these questions is a resounding yes! Detail of much is given in this news sheet.

However, as I so vividly remember from a multitude of school reports, the correct answer must be, "good but could do better"! So, perhaps the real question is "how are we working to do better?". The expansion of the work of the Friends has placed increasing demands on our administrative structures. We are working hard to solve some of the technical challenges that seem to be emerging. The credit card contributions from our web site now should be working smoothly.

The Parish Office continues to give tremendous support. However, it has helped to have dedicated office space within the Parish Centre. Our Clerk works from there most mornings (tel: 01789 290128). At other times



the Parish Office is the point of contact (tel. 01789 266316).

The problems of death watch beetle and dry rot in the chancel of the church have highlighted once again the need for support.

We are very grateful to many who have helped with this and particularly Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust who have promised a further £50,000 grant to support the work - wonderful news. It is good news also that the next Quinquennial Review of the Church has just been completed. Hopefully the results of this will enable the Friends to work with the PCC to establish a planned programme of work needing our support. More of this and of our activities and of our emerging overseas links in the next news sheet. Looking back over the past few months I am very aware of

the debt of gratitude that we owe to many people who have helped in different ways.

I have been pleased to welcome two new Trustees, Mr Tim Raistrick and Mr Tony Bird. Both have extensive experience in Stratford and I know that they will bring new strengths to the meetings of our Trustees.

The Friends continue to need practical help in a wide variety of areas. If you feel that there is something that you could offer then please do contact me or the Clerk. My thanks, as always, for all your support for Shakespeare's Church.

With every good wish,  
Philip Cheshire  
Chairman

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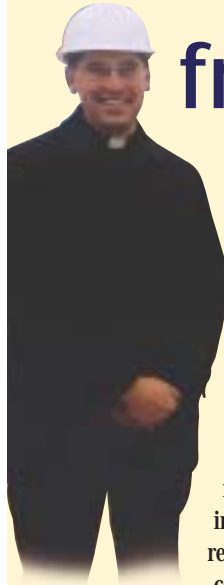
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# A word from the Vicar

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of the Friends Newsletter and my thanks go to all who've produced it.

We're just in the process of receiving our Quinquennial inspection results, which will reveal the scope of essential conservation work over the next

five years. Some of it will doubtless be quite daunting and there will be many challenges for us to face together. Thank you so much for your continued membership and support.

One of my real pleasures as Vicar of Holy Trinity is spending time in that fascinating building, whether in the midst of tourists from around the world, leading worship as priests have here for almost 800 years before me, or exploring it alone or with a small group in the dark and quiet of a late evening when everyone else has gone home. Sometimes then the years seem to roll away and you can feel yourself close to all those who've gone before you in that great space. Let me know if you'd be interested in a 'special tour' for the Friends sometime.

Another thing I really enjoy is bumping into some of you as you visit the church as 'Friends', whether from near or far. Do introduce yourself if you see me around as it's always a pleasure to meet. It's great to see some of you bringing in other friends on your card, and introducing them to this treasure which is both yours and mine. Hopefully you'll be able to encourage some of them to become 'Friends' with a capital 'F' too!

With every good wish and blessing.

*Martin Gorick*  
Vicar of Holy Trinity  
and President of the Friends

## Trustees

- President – Revd. Martin Gorick
- Chairman – Dr Philip Cheshire
- Vice-Chairman – Vince Seaman
- Treasurer – Brian Vince
- Trustee – Tony Bird
- Trustee – Jane Darby
- Trustee – Catherine Penn
- Trustee – Tim Raistrick

## 15th Century Stained Glass



During the recent restoration work in the Chancel, a section of 15th century stained glass was identified. This caused enormous interest because its existence was previously unknown.

## Our Patrons

Since the last issue of Will's Quill, the number of our Patrons has grown.

We are now delighted to have 6 Patrons; Sir Eric Anderson (Provost of Eton College), Lord Alexander of Weedon QC, Mr. Martin Dunne (Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire), Bishop Colin (Bishop of Coventry), Dame Judi Dench and Mr. Jasper Britton.

### Dame Judi Dench

Our patron Judi Dench writes; "I am delighted to hear of the success of the project in its first year but I realise that there is much that still needs to be done to restore the church and protect the grave of William Shakespeare. It was a joy to spend time recently in Stratford where I was given a wonderful welcome.



During my time there I stayed near to Holy Trinity. That was a special time for it reminded me, once again, of the importance of the church both to the local community and to its many visitors. This beautiful building is so important to the history and character of Stratford. Thank you for doing what you can to preserve Shakespeare's Church."

# Project Update

Through the generosity of all our Members and from the many donations received, work on the Chancel South Parapet progressed at a tremendous pace and was completed in February with the fitting of the new Chancel Cross. Many of the parapet stones have been repaired or replaced. New grotesques have been carved and are now in place. The timber work in this area has now been treated for the Death Watch Beetle infestation, allowing the internal scaffolding to be removed.



Here you can see how the original stone work was used to complement the new.



The Revd. Martin Gorick surveys the new timber work high in the Chancel Roof.



Above: Final finishing and adjustments were made to the newly placed stone work.



Top: A section of new stone work waits to be finished.

Above: The completed stone work in all its glory.



Outside the new timber work is attached to the stone work.

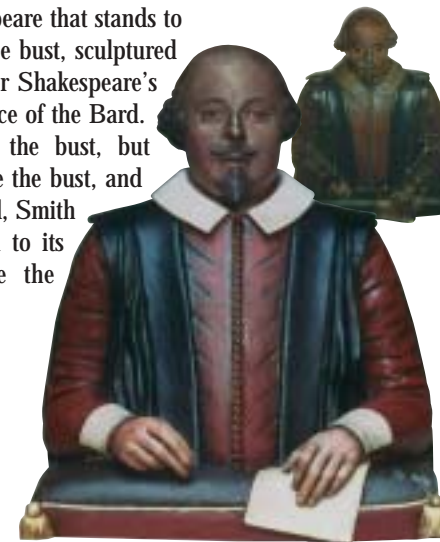


The grotesque finally in position. Hopefully this piece of stonework will look out over Stratford-upon-Avon for hundreds of years

## Shakespeare Bust Restoration

The painted stone bust of William Shakespeare that stands to the left of his tomb has had a tough life. The bust, sculptured by Gerard Jansen in 1623 (seven years after Shakespeare's death) is thought to be the closest resemblance of the Bard. In 1974, thieves tried to make off with the bust, but fortunately failed. They did however damage the bust, and it was only through the expertise of Campbell, Smith & Co, London, that the bust was restored to its former glory. The photographs illustrate the damage and restoration.

Far Right: Before restoration in 1974  
Right: Restoration completed in 1974. Original paintwork on head conserved. Repairs effected to finger, tassel on cushion and other minor repairs. Remainder of bust repainted in colours similar to original but slightly subdued to tone with paint on head, darkened through age



## Chancel Cross Replaced

On Tuesday, 3rd February, 2004, an important stage of the restoration work at Holy Trinity Church occurred with the erection of a new 6ft high cross on the Chancel. This replaced the original cross which was taken down nearly 40 years ago having been in place more than 400 years. The new cross, a copy of the original, was fixed into place by a two metre long steel rod, drilled one metre deep into the historic plinth and secured with epoxy-resin. The cross was hoisted over 60ft into position by an old-fashioned winch, and was blessed by the Revd. Martin Gorick. The placement of the new cross has restored the original view of the church from across the River Avon. Money for the new cross has come from a legacy to Holy Trinity Church by the late Miss Beryl Winter.



## Adopt a Grotesque

When the repair work was commissioned on the south Chancel Parapet, the Church Architect knew the current grotesques which had been eroded past recognition would have to be replaced.

The design was left to the four stonemasons and they have been beautifully carved from Woodkirk Stone. They now magnificently watch over Holy Trinity Church and beyond.

If you would like to sponsor one of these wonderful carvings, then decide which one you would like to support.

You may sponsor a Grotesque for any amount from £5. In return we will send you a photographic acknowledgement in recognition of your gift. Please call the office for further details.

