



Holy Trinity News

The Newsletter for Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley

November 2019

Autumn at Holy Trinity

'Best Ever' has been heard a few times since this year's Fayre. Perhaps it was the grim weather, but with plenty of activities for the children, room to sit down to chat and a great café, people had every reason to stay longer. Fortunately they kept spending too and at the latest count we have raised just over £2,700 for the church. A record!

If you weren't there you missed good food and drink, games and activities for the children, plus lots of interesting things to buy, both specially created for the occasion and nearly new bargains. The raffle was once again a major feature – over 60 prizes and our biggest money spinner.

Many people gave their time and energy to make the day such a success. Some went well beyond the call of duty. You know who you are. For contributions both great and small, thank you all so much. The money raised is good, but creating such a superb community event is what really counts.





.....and now to Advent and Christmas! Here are the special services coming up

A diary of forthcoming events.



December 1st	10am	Advent Sunday
December 4th, 11th, 18th	8pm	Advent Groups
December 15th	5pm	Carol Service
December 24th	4pm	Nativity Play
December 24th	11:30pm	Christmas Midnight Mass
December 25th	10am	Christmas Day

Holy Trinity Confirmation joy

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!

Sunday, the 22nd September 2019, was a memorable day in our parish as eleven people of our congregation affirmed publicly their commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps and journey in life led by their Christian faith. They did so in front of a packed church, with some people having travelled from as far as Germany so that they might uphold their friends on their special day.

The preparations for the day had been an exciting experience, particularly our Confirmation classes. They were occasions for exploring the Christian faith and teaching, but also for getting to know each other a little better and consequently for strengthening bonds within our church community.

On the day, we welcomed the Bishop of Edmonton, The Rt Revd Rob Wickham, who presided at the Eucharist and confirmed our candidates. The bishop invited us all to 'be at home' with God and encouraged us all to continue to grow as a church community and be a visible Christian presence in our local community and in the world at large.

The atmosphere during the service was one of joy and profound support as we held each other in prayer, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit within the congregation, and particularly upon the candidates. Conducted by Mrs Wiebke Thormahlen, our choir group led us into a contemplative ambience, and for that I would like to express my gratitude once again.

It was great to see so many people staying after the service and enjoying themselves at the reception organised mostly by the candidates' families. It was another wonderful occasion when all guests have experienced the hospitality of our church community. I would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone who helped with the reception.

My hope is that those who have been confirmed will remember and treasure the emotions of the day as it was a very moving celebration, as some of them told me. May they grow in faith and journey on aware that they are not alone, that they have a 'big family' around them. As for our church community, may we always be at their side and support them when need be.



Grateful for yet another manifestation of God's grace upon our church community, we pray that this year's candidates may be an inspiration for others to come forward, as I am looking forward to the next Confirmation service.

Send forth your Spirit, o Lord, and renew the face of the earth!

(Cf Psalm 104)

Dancing the night away!

This year's annual Harvest Barn Dance was a fabulous success as always, according to some the best ever. Although the number of attendees was slightly less than the previous year, those that came danced the night away with gusto and it was lovely to see lots of new faces enjoying the evening, all of whom went on profusely about what a great night it was and how they can't wait for next year's. In 2020 we will move the evening back to its original slot of the first Saturday in October, as this seems to be more convenient for people.

Put it in your diaries now!

Sue and the band were on top form as always and

we are so grateful that even in her retirement Sue does this one gig a year, just because she loves our congregation so much!

Many thanks to everyone who helped set up the church before and after the dance and to Sarah and Marina for the delicious food and those who supported with the cooking and serving. Till next year!

Tam Arden



Paws to Celebrate!

On Saturday, the 5th October 2019, a special Pet Service was held at our Church. As dogs and cats, with human companions both great and small entered, the Church came alive with wagging tails, miaowing, faint snuffles, and yelps of excitement!

The event, led by Fr Marius was a Service of Thanksgiving and Animal Blessing within the context of commemorating St Francis of Assisi, whose love for God was expressed through his love for all of God's creation.

Memories were shared and we heard a couple of very moving testimonies about dogs and cats which literally changed people's lives.

We remembered in prayer animals that help humankind as companions, guide dogs, hearing dogs, animals for disabled people, in the detection of crime and at times of war, as well as those animals suffering commercial and social exploitation.

Thank you to Anne Lewis and David Smith for helping with organising the service. Also, thank you for all those who came along and contributed to a wonderful celebration of God's creation.



Holy Trinity Book Group

Holy Trinity Book Group is alive and well.

Despite its lack of publicity we are still meeting regularly.

Just a reminder that it is open to all and our next book will be "Educated" by Tara Westover and we will meet on Tuesday 12th November to talk informally about the book.

For further details please contact Elspeth
email: eclarke137@hotmail.co.uk.

Our Cathedral

St Paul's Cathedral is, of course, a major tourist attraction as well as hosting many of the major events in our national life.

But first and foremost, it is OUR Cathedral.

The events there attract people from all over the world, not just London.

However, much of its work is directed towards supporting us and the other parishes in the Diocese.

It is a place where WE are welcome.

First, we don't have to pay to go in, or to take guests. If you would like to use one or more of our 4 Parish Tickets simply ask Fr Marius. Or you can become a friend and visit at any time

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/support/st-pauls/become-a-friend-of-st-pauls>

Second, there are lots of events under the 'Adult Learning' banner designed to help us explore our faith in different ways. There are brochures in church. For example, in the early evening of 27th November Paula Gooder, Chancellor of the Cathedral, will be looking at the Christmas story through fresh eyes. It's completely free, but best to reserve a ticket

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/god-with-us-seeing-the-christmas-stories-with-fresh-eyes>

Third, the best way to experience the Cathedral is

at a service. We are always welcome, and some are advertised in church. Services are listed on the website. Evensong at 5.00pm can be a great way to end the day for those visiting or working nearby.

Tam Arden



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