

Parish News

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden
St John, Little Walden and St. James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden &
Villages Team Ministry

October 2019

Stole for Rev'd Canon Jenny Tomlinson designed by Cathy Little

Background: Jenny commissioned this stole in March 2019 when she was appointed an Archdeacon in Birmingham Diocese. Jenny had seen some of Cathy's work when present at a talk given by Cathy at *Women's Own* in St Mary's.

Brief: Cathy was asked to design a green stole (Ordinary Time) to represent and draw together key symbols relevant to Jenny's service in St James' and St Mary's to be a permanent memory of her time there as an Associate priest in the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry in Chelmsford Diocese.

Design and manufacture: In approaching the design of the stole Cathy spent considerable time thinking about the style, materials to be used, colours, techniques and meaning to be conveyed before drawing up a working design to full scale. The ultimate approach, in consultation with Jenny, was to incorporate the Clamshell, representing St James' Swards End for which Jenny was primarily responsible and the Saffron Crocus, representing St Mary's Saffron Walden. The St James' connection with St Mary's as a team ministry church is represented by the Saffron stamens from the centre of the crocus incorporated within the Clamshell. Working through the representations and drawing them together is the Holy Spirit, symbolised by the graduating coloured red silk dupion wending its way between the symbols of the two churches. In turn, all aspects work together through the central image of the Cross on the back of the neck.



Cathy presented her design ideas to Jenny along with her suggestions as to the type of materials that would work well. With Jenny's agreement on the project, Cathy obtained the relevant materials and constructed the stole in accordance with the design. Possibly the most difficult aspect of its manufacture was that owing to the nature of the silk, normal marking tools could not be used for the purposes of placement or additional stitching which presented its own challenge and employing lateral thinking.

The project including time spent on the physical design and aspects of fabrication with decorative stitching before finishing by hand took some 64 hours.

Cathy Little, Saffron Walden 28th June 2019

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PARISH NEWS EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 2nd Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **November** issue is **Sunday 13th October**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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Thetford Forest in October © Andy Colebrooke



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4. This magazine is also available on the parish website and is distributed to local press where extracts may be used in their columns.
5. The Editor reserves the right to edit, or exclude, any article submitted. Please be aware when submitting articles 400 words fits comfortably onto a page and that any article over 800 words may need to be edited to ensure readability.

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is hoped that the film of 'Pilgrim's Progress' will be shown at the Saffron Screen in the near future. Based on the classic story by John Bunyan, it is described in the publicity as: 'An epic journey, faithfully adapted to modern-day. Christian faces distractions, challenges, and perils at every turn of the way. He ends victorious, with helpful guides, as he stays on the narrow path to the distant Celestial City.' Whether you can see it here in Saffron Walden or elsewhere, I encourage you to grab the opportunity.



One particular quote from this gripping and insightful story that has been resonating with me of late is this: "*A man there was, and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had.*" Let me explain why I have been struck by this ostensibly paradoxical statement for surely when you give something, you have lost it. This contrary assumption – the more we give, the less we have - is blighting much contemporary politics and undermines interpersonal relationships. It puts everyone on the defensive, is divisive and makes collaboration seem undesirable. Instead, wars between nations – military or trade - and battles for supremacy between individuals become the name of the game.

'Sharing God's love' is our mission statement. When we love, the more we give, the more we have. When I reflect upon the life within this parish, at St Mary's, Saffron Walden, and St James', Swards End and at St John's, Little Walden, I see this truth in action. Indeed, this virtuous circle is at work. The more love we share, the more love there is. The more love there is, the more love we have to share.

Looking back on my life, I have been particularly aware of this reality when I have moved from one location to another. These transitions inevitably involve an awareness of loss, a leaving behind of people and a place. Alongside this grief, are the memories and relationships I take with me, and the people I carry that will remain in my heart and prayers. Another way to look at it is that I have left part of myself behind every time I have moved. Yet, this has not left me diminished. In fact, the opposite is the case: I have been enriched.

One particular vivid example of this – I imagine – universal human phenomenon was my return to Uganda in 1990. I had taught in a remote school in the east of this beautiful country which Winston Churchill once described as 'the pearl of Africa' from 1986-1988. My time at Bulucheke Secondary School was formative, and my investment in the place and people deep. When I stepped out of the plane at Entebbe airport as the leader of Church Mission Society venture

for students to gain some awareness of cross-cultural mission, I felt the heat and saw the banana trees with their large leaves waving in the breeze in greeting. It felt profoundly, and at one level, disturbingly, like a home-coming. I knew in that moment how connected I still felt to the place and its people where I had served. That bond is still strong.

Now I am into my final three months. My final working day is Sunday 24th November, and my final service at St Mary's, Saffron Walden is at 10 am that day. I have so enjoyed my 11 years living and working in Saffron Walden, ministering here within our Team ministry and the Deanery. I have felt privileged to work and share my life with you. As a family, we have been very happy and all thrived because of the strong and fruitful relationships we have forged with many of you. Thank you. I hope and pray that together we have all discovered the great truth that when it comes to 'love': the more we give, the more we have. I am determined to make the most of my few weeks, including my next letter for Parish News which will be my last.

I close with some further words about love from the great hymn to love from Paul's first letter to church in Corinth.

'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'

With love, David

As John Sibson steps down from his role on *Parish News* our Rector writes:

The Rev'd Canon John Sibson has been editor of the Parish News since September 2005. He has brought his customary dedication to this role. His careful leadership of the magazine has been appreciated by the team. Besides faithfully taking responsibility for compiling the magazine, encouraging contributors and making sure it is ready for production on time, he has diligently canvassed for advertisers to cover the costs. I have appreciated his annual timetable, giving me the deadline and production dates each month, alongside his willingness to proof read my letter. As John stands down from this responsibility, I publicly register my gratitude and acknowledge his sterling efforts over that last 14 years. Thank you, John.



The Rev'd Canon David Tomlinson, Rector

A new look *Parish News*

With this October issue we are launching a new format for our *Parish News* by using the services of the Diocesan Print Unit in Chelmsford. At the same time we are making the magazine free and placing each edition on our parish website. In this way we hope to increase our readership and encourage even more interest in this vibrant Christian community in the heart of Saffron Walden. I very much hope that you will enjoy this month's offering and that many of you will contribute to future editions.

Andy Colebrooke, Editor

A note to our faithful subscribers

THANK YOU to everyone who has held a yearly subscription for our *Parish News* Magazine. The October issue will now come in a different format and be **free of charge**. We can continue to deliver it for you as per usual.

If you have paid up until next April we are happy to refund monies, if people wish to do so or alternatively donate the £2.25 to Church funds. Please speak to Ruth Lucy if you have any questions 01799 523310.

Ruth Lucy

Thanks to the *Parish News* team

I would like to add my thanks to past and present Parish Administrators and members of the Parish Office team for all their work towards faithfully issuing *Parish News* over very many years – from long before I started to share the compilation with John Sibson. Particular thanks are due to Parish Administrators past and present for the patience in sorting out incompatibilities between the computer file I would provide and the Parish Office software – we seemed to resolve that in the end.

With production of the new version of *Parish News* going offsite to the Diocesan Print Unit, we are pleased to release Dawn Saxon and the present Parish Office team of Heather Finch, Veronica Sylvester, Juliette Welch and Jean Wooderson from the printing, collating and stapling tasks, although we will still be looking for assistance in bundling the magazine for distribution. We are also thankful for the ongoing persistence of our longsuffering distributors to deliver the magazine. Thanks are also due to Ruth Lucy for handling the subscriptions and to the distributors for collecting many of the subscriptions.

I also enjoyed the friendly chinwags around John's dining table with his team to propose editorial contributions and potential new advertisers and to review the finances.

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Crowds enthralled by spectacular Flower Festival

Theme: 'When the Saints go Marching in'



St Mary's Church was thronged by around 2,000 visitors enthralled by a grand Flower Festival during the August Bank Holiday Weekend. There were over 40 splendid exhibits by local flower arrangers, each exhibit representing one of the saints. The public viewing was preceded by a private view on the preceding Thursday evening to which about 80 guests were invited. Among the guests were the UDC Chairman Cllr Richard Freeman who also deputised for the mayor, Cllr Arthur Coote, who together with local MP Kemi Badenoch, were unable to attend but sent their greetings. The evening was enhanced by piano accompaniment played by Elliot Randall, the organ scholar at St Mary's. There was also a concert by the Claydon Chamber Orchestra in the church on the Saturday evening, which performed works by Handel, Suk, Ravel, Elgar, Tchaikovsky and Vaughan Williams to a very appreciative audience. Since the Flower Festival partly coincided with the Saffron Walden Grand Prix cycle event on the Sunday, spectators of the cycle event had the opportunity to include attending the Flower Festival in their visit.

Pam Russell, the church flower coordinator and Jane Knight the festival designer enjoyed the challenge of depicting the saints in flowers and accessories. The Rector, Rev'd Canon David Tomlinson, added, 'The Festival has been a wonderful celebration of the beauty and creativity of God as seen in the eye-catching displays and the moving music of Saturday's concert. It has also exemplified God's church working brilliantly together. I am very grateful to the principal sponsor, Peasgood and Skeates, and all our sponsors, and the multitude of people who have contributed to the hugely successful event.'

The sum of over £9,000 estimated to have been generated by this event will go towards the church's current building project, which has already provided an award-winning servery, welcome desk and accessible toilet. The next stage is to relocate and renovate the Audley Tomb, a monument of national significance, to make it more accessible to visitors.

Photographs of the displays are available at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Chris Knight and Clifford Want



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Prayer for the Month *provided by the Prayer Committee*

An honest, humble and trusting prayer by Thomas Merton for when times are hard, we are confused or uncertain about ourselves and life.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following Your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please You
does in fact please You.
And I hope that I have that desire
in all I am doing.

And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me to the right road
although I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust You always,
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death,
I will not fear, for You are ever with me,
and will never leave me
to face my perils alone.





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TRICK OR TREAT ?

The word 'Halloween' means 'hallowed evening' and was originally a time to pay homage to the saints or 'hallows'. Up until the 7th century All Hallows Eve fell on May 13th, but it was moved by Pope Boniface IV to 31st October to give a religious festival to supplant the more ancient Gaelic Samhain which was celebrated on this date. It marked a pivotal time of year when seasons changed, but was also a time when people believed that the boundary between this world and the next became especially thin, enabling them to connect with the dead - this is where Halloween gains its 'haunted' connotations.

Samhain remained popular until St Patrick and other Christian missionaries arrived here and the population began to convert to Christianity. Instead of eradicating pagan practices the church used these holidays with a Christian twist to bring paganism and Christianity together.

Another tradition is the druidic belief that during the night of November 1, demons, witches, and evil spirits freely roamed the earth with joy to greet the arrival of "their season"—the long nights and early dark of the winter months. The demons were supposed to have their fun with poor mortals that night, frightening, harming, and even playing all kinds of mean tricks on them. The only way, it seemed, for scared humans to escape the persecution of the demons was to offer them things they liked, especially fancy foods and sweets. Or, in order to escape the fury of these horrible creatures, a human could disguise himself as one of them and join in their roaming. In this way, they would recognize the human as a demon or witch and the human would not be bothered that night.

Today costumes take the place of disguises and sweets have replaced fruits and other fancy foods as children go door-to-door trick-or-treating. Trick-or-treating began as "souling," when children would go door-to-door on Halloween, with soul cakes, singing and saying prayers for the dead. Over the course of history Halloween's visible practices have changed with the culture of the day, but the purpose of honouring the dead, veiled in fun and festivities, has remained the same.

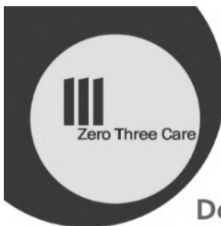
Halloween has no direct reference in the Bible, but is certainly not based on Paul's recommendations of Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." The Bible does not sanction witchcraft, witches or sorcery, indeed the Old Testament makes it plain that 'all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord' Deuteronomy 18:13. In Ephesians 5:11 we read 'And have no fellowship

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with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.' This text is calling us not only to have no association with any type of dark activity but also to shed light on this topic to those around us.

So how, as Christians living in secular Saffron Walden in 2019, should we respond to Halloween?

I think that the first thing to recognise is that, for most people, Halloween is simply considered to be a bit of fun, based on some old superstitions (dare I suggest that it is much like the fairy tale aspects of the Nativity story in most people's minds?). It is largely driven by business - in the USA Halloween has become the second largest commercial holiday after Christmas with an annual spend of over \$5 billion and experience tells us that the UK closely follows US trends. I certainly can't remember such an array of Halloween themed merchandise being so available when my own children were growing up 20 years ago, compared to what my grandchildren are offered now. Of course, there are some occultists who celebrate Halloween with evil intentions and we are warned in the Bible not to become involved in any such realms.

I suspect that most of the adult congregation at St Mary's choose to ignore Halloween as a bit of a nuisance and turn the lights off and the TV up whilst not answering the door that evening. I feel that this is a missed opportunity to engage with our neighbours and have, for some years now, taken a proactive view of welcoming costumed children and their parents with sweets and a smile at the door. Hopefully some of these children will recognise me when I'm taking assembly in their school and possibly listen a little more closely to the Bible story I'm telling on that occasion because they 'know' me from the neighbourhood. Some Christians respond by adding a small bookmark or invitation to a church event to the sweet treats they offer – it's certainly not the moment to attempt to engage in deep theological discussion! And we can always offer up a prayer for their safety and enjoyment as we close the door.

Those of us with children have the additional pressure of deciding whether or not to let them join in with their friends in the fun of trick-or-treating in their local neighbourhood or going to parties with a Halloween theme. Jesus himself loved a party and I feel that we should be encouraging fun and fellowship. At St Mary's we have sometimes hosted a Light Party for children and their parents from the local school at this time of the year to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World and introduce Him as their friend and Saviour.

However you choose to deal with Halloween this year, I hope that this article has given you food for thought and prayer.

Alison Knights

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Archive Group findings...

Starting again the Archive Group are going to include in the Parish News items from past magazines for you to read. Having spent previous issues following the First World War years and then what was happening in 1888, we intend to give you the events in Saffron Walden during the Second World War, and this begins in 1939, so please read on.....



October 1939

Dear Parishioners

With the German invasion of Poland and the consequent declaration of war most of our parochial arrangements came to a standstill....In our homes both in town and country are billeted women and children from places specially open to attack, our schools for the first time for many years are filled up to their recognised accommodation. While at 11 a.m on Sundays we have welcomed a good company of the men whom we must no longer call Territorials. Many other major and minor changes have come upon us, e.g. darkened streets and houses and gas masks, to be followed very soon by severer limitations. But one has heard no grumbling at inconvenience and disturbance of ordinary routine because one and all are convinced that Hitlerism must be eradicated from the face of the earth and that there can be no real peace till this scourge has been brought to an end. By "Hitlerism" I mean international burglary and gangsterism and the wanton deliberate repudiation of promises solemnly given.

L.Hughes. Vicar.



77th Sale of Stamps

The next sale, in aid of church Maintenance and Music Funds, will be on Saturday 12th October. As usual, thousands of individual stamps on sale in the Town Hall (Council Chamber) from 9.30 until noon. A warm welcome (and a cup of coffee) - even to those who are not dedicated stamp collectors!

David Hoy

Calendar for October 2019

See also *The Grapevine* for the latest information

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Sunday services

Sunday 6 October (Trinity 17)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am Parish Communion + Baptism
- 12.00 Thanksgiving for the gift of a child
- 6.30pm H₂H Youth Led Service

Sunday 13 October (Trinity 18)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am Parish Communion
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 20 October (Trinity 19)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am Family Service
- 11.45am Holy Communion
- 3.00pm Coffee, Cakes and Company (Parish Rooms)
- 6.30pm Deanery Service (Gt. Chesterford)

Sunday 27 October (Bible Sunday)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am Parish Communion + Baptism
- 12.00 Holy Baptism
- 4.00pm Evensong

Weekday services

Morning Prayer

- 8.00am: every Wednesday
- 8.30am: every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- 9.00am: every Saturday (*except 27th Oct when the service will be Parish Prayer*)

Evening Prayer

- 5.00pm: every Tuesday

Holy Communion

- 9.30am: every Wednesday

St Mary's Tinies (in Church)

2.00pm every Tuesday during term time

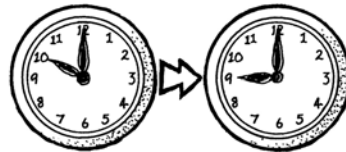
Festivals this month

Friday 18 October (Luke the Evangelist)

9.30am Holy Communion

Monday 28 October (Simon and Jude, Apostles)

9.30am Holy Communion



REMEMBER: Clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 27th October

St James', Swards End

Sunday 13 October (Trinity 18)

9.30am Harvest Festival

Sunday 27 October (Bible Sunday)

9.30am Holy Communion + Baptism



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 13 October (Trinity 18)

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 20 October (Trinity 19)

4.00pm Forest Church

Sunday 27 October (Bible Sunday)

11.15am Holy Communion



Dear Readers,

Every month *Parish News* hopes to have an informal conversation with a member of our congregations. Hopefully you'll find this interesting, informative, amusing and thought provoking. Initially you may find yourself being asked by Canon Chris Bishop whether you would like to be interviewed; all who take part will receive a short list of questions they may be asked, allowing time to think before the conversation takes place. You can of course decide that this is 'not for you'. We hope you like this idea! *Editor*

YOU in the PEW interviewed by Chris Bishop

In August I met **Gill Lovegrove** in her home in Beck Road (off Saxon Way) as our first interviewee for YOU in the PEW. Gill, interestingly, was born in an air raid shelter in the garden of the family home in New Malden, Surrey. The family eventually moved to Worcester Park and then, in her 30's, Gill bought a flat in Kingston-upon-Thames.

Gill had a brother, Jim, who was 10 years older, who did his National Service in Egypt and her first recollection of him was hearing him coming back home at the end of his service, walking up the road in heavy army boots and then seeing a very brown face looking down on her in bed when he eventually arrived home. Their father died when Gill was only 13 and Jim became a father figure as well as a much loved brother and so it was a double blow to Gill when Jim died 3 years ago.

All of Gill's working life was spent in the financial City of London, most of it with a Swiss Reinsurance Company. A reinsurance company, in simple terms, is an insurance company for insurance companies, providing protection against multiple or catastrophic risks. Gill came to Saffron Walden with Michael in 1989, a year after they were married in New Malden United Reformed Church. Gill moved to Sawbridgeworth which was where Michael was living at the time.

Although Gill had been confirmed in the Church of England, Michael was an Elder in the United Reformed Church and it was at Abbey Lane URC Church in Walden where they first worshipped. Eventually they moved to St Mary's when Peter Harlow was Rector. It wasn't long before Gill was very much involved in the life of the church, having been very moved by her first experience of the Advent Carol Service with the choir and its memorable music.

During Duncan Green's time as Rector, at his invitation, Gill headed up the organisation of the social side of church life with the help of her committee. Christmas Fair refreshments, Easter Eve suppers, and three course meals with



musical entertainment were all part of the work she undertook for the church. These were all very enjoyable events and she remembers as one of the highlights of her time here her involvement with the Vacation Bible School which she helped with from 2000.

Regarding life in Saffron Walden, apart from taking advantage of the fantastic events at Saffron Screen and Saffron Hall, and playing tennis (which she played competitively in her Surrey days) and badminton, she has to admit that most of her involvement in Saffron Walden life has been within the life and activities of the church. However, to avoid becoming too “parochical” she tells me she travels extensively.

When asked whether she could suggest a motto that she would adopt for her family if she had the opportunity, she was able to say that Michael had been granted a Coat of Arms in recognition of his late father’s services to the College of Arms and which she, as Michael’s wife was entitled to use. The family motto on the Arms is **Virtutus Avorum Praemium** which roughly translates as ‘The reward of the virtue of my ancestors’.

Gardening Notes



Isn't this time of year rewarding - most of your planning, both flowers and veg has resulted - hopefully - in success and a rather pleasant feeling of 'job well done'. This year my flower planting was almost entirely geraniums and impatiens: I was very happy with results especially as our roving muntjac's tastes appear to exclude both! The geraniums, although late flowering are now very large and thickly flowering; the impatiens are especially suited to close planting for en masse display. Not so happy with my runner beans, though: a very poor crop even though my sowing and transplant procedures were exactly as always. Scarlet Emperor is my long standing chosen variety, as recommended by Grandad! I hear similar results from friends so don't feel too bad: thankfully my French beans 'Canadian Wonder', have been prolific.

I'm also very happy to report that my tomatoes, especially greenhouse, have been so very good; I tried two new varieties, 'Giuletta' a red plum; and 'Crimson Blush' a round blush pink. Both were very good for flavour, very large and keeping well.

Charles White



Paddy McKeown

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Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the family of the Church and pray for:

7th July

Sophie Judith Elizabeth Elvidge

Pippa Jane Murphy

11th August

Gabriel Peter Timothy Parker

25th August

Ralph Kenneth Shaw



Weddings

They offer their Married life to God:

6th July

Samuel Gray & Hannah Harpum

3rd August

Ian Macdonald & Rachael Southall

31st August

James Butler & Ya-Hsiang (Yvonne) Huang

6th September

Mark How & Bryony Hoy



Funerals

We send our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

9th July

David Peter Charles Cornell

19th July

Norah Gilbey

25th July

Phyllis Mary Chapman

Ashes Interment

24th July

Betty Goddard

31st July

Stanley Walter Bradley

Praying for them and for those who mourn

"May they rest in peace"



Why not write an article for *Parish News*?

We are a vibrant, thinking, Christian Community in the heart of the town and the magazine should reflect this, encouraging interest in what's going on here.

So we are always pleased to receive reports, features (sacred and secular), and news of all forthcoming events. Please be aware that 400 words fits comfortably onto an A5 page and that any article over 800 words may need to be edited to ensure readability.

Handwritten or typed articles can be left at the Parish Office, St Mary's Churchyard, CB10 1JP Email articles to: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The copy deadline is the second Sunday of the month prior to publication.

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Memories of a dear husband

Don't think of him as gone away,
his journey has just begun.
Life holds so many facets
this is only one.
Just think of him as resting, from the sorrows
and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days or years.
And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched.
For nothing loved is ever lost
and he was loved so much.
Remembering you is easy, I do it every day
Missing you a sorrow that never goes away
I think about you often,
I talk about you too
I have just lovely memories
but I wish I still had you.
Amongst the heartache and the loneliness
one thing makes me glad
that you chose me to share with you
the precious years we had.

Joan Towers



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Report on the MU Garden Party 8.8.19

We began our meeting on a glorious sunny summer afternoon in the garden. Members and visitors were welcomed. Janet Sutherland read the lesson from Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 – 9. Intercessions followed for our founder Mary Sumner, and the special event arranged in her honour, on Mary Sumner Day at Chelmsford Cathedral the following day.

We prayed for Mothers' Union members across the world, listed on the Wave of Prayer calendar for that day, and also our Link Branches. We prayed for our CMS Mission Partner Lynn Treneary and her work with Mothers' Union members in Maridi, South Sudan where in the absence of any social services they fulfil a vital role. Also, we prayed for Nicola Williamson of the Stort Valley Schools Trust and her assistants Andrea and Tina. We prayed for our sick and bereaved members and finally for the people of Zimbabwe who are suffering from severe power cuts, shortages of food, fuel and water. There are 20,900 Mothers' Union Members in Zimbabwe and we prayed for basic services to be restored to them.

After our prayers, members spent the afternoon in the sunshine enjoying conversation with each other and the delicious afternoon tea. We all thanked Gwynneth and Joe for their generous hospitality and presented Gwynneth with some flowers as a token of our appreciation.

Brenda Sheath

Chelmsford Mothers' Union Members Day 9.8.19

The day after our garden party it was Mary Sumner Day, the founder of the Mothers' Union. A Diocesan day was arranged for members in her honour at Chelmsford Cathedral. Seven members from Saffron Walden attended.

Our first task was to set to work discussing the 'Gifts of the Spirit'. Nikki Sweatman the Mothers' Union Provincial President acted as facilitator. We studied St Paul's letter to the Corinthians chapter 12, verses 4-12 & 27-31. We agreed that none of us had all the gifts of the spirit, but they were distributed amongst us individually as the Spirit chooses.

- We agreed we should respect each other's gifts.
- We needed to show tolerance of each other's qualities and be mindful of Christ's teaching in our interactions with each other.
- We agreed we should support each other in using the gifts we have.
- Those with leadership qualities should be encouraged and supported.

Next we celebrated the life of Mary Sumner by listening to an account of her life history, and completing a questionnaire about her. Then a member led us in



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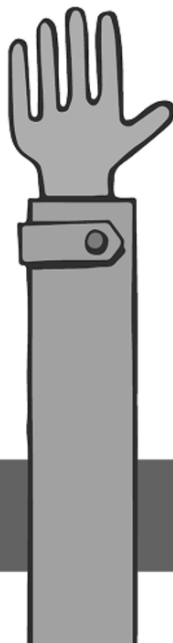
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London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER



"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Gandhi

Midday Prayers. Following this a young member recounted how the MU branch at Epping had been re-opened.

After Lunch more table group discussion took place.

- Many of us had been drawn to the Mothers Union by invitation of a member.
- 'What's good about MU' drew the response, Fellowship, sharing faith, supporting families worldwide.
- When asked what members were doing in their own church as part of MU the list was long
- When asked what Mothers Union in Chelmsford could be doing to make a difference: the answer given was English for Women and an overseas project eg Supporting literacy and numeracy.

At 2.30 a short reflective service was held by our Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain. This was a perfect way to round off the day and offer to God in prayer, the responses made by members throughout the day. The final hymn 'Lord of the years' was sung unaccompanied. Our Chaplain Rob started us off. We all enjoyed taking part in the day and meeting members from other branches in the diocese.

Brenda Sheath



The Rector found some decisions took a long time to make.



Music News

This is always a difficult month to report on the music at St Mary's as the choirs and the brass group all have the month of August off, but after the four week break the choirs met to rehearse for the first time this academic year on 30th August.

Their first duty of the term was to sing at the wedding of fellow choir member Jim Butler to Yvonne Huang on Saturday 31st. Perhaps unsurprisingly almost all the adult choir, most of the Choral Scholars and a good number of the Junior Choir all wanted to attend, and the space in the choir stalls was tested to its limit. The Juniors were largely corralled on benches squeezed into the space between the stalls and the screen – it was suggested that should any of them feel faint, they would still remain upright, held in place by their neighbours! Jim had chosen Praise to God in the Highest, by Sidney Campbell and The Lord bless you and keep you, by John Rutter, whilst the Beare family (Kate on piano, Ellie on cello and Susie singing) performed a beautiful version of a poem in Mandarin, which was also read at the service. The bride entered to Charpentier's Te Deum for trumpet (Emma La Roche) and organ (Oli King) and the couple left as Oli played Bach's Toccata in F BWV 540. The latter piece lasted several minutes and the bride and groom refused to leave the church until it finished! It was a great way to start the new term.

At our Patronal Festival on 8th September the choir was augmented by various friends to cover those still on holiday. The music in the morning included Hassler's Dixit Maria and Joubert's There is no Rose, whilst Evensong included Stanford in Bb Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and Vaughan Williams' Let All the World. Jeremy's morning voluntary was Veni creator spiritus (Sheidt) and he ended the Evensong on the triumphal notes of Widor's Toccata in F.

The brass group doesn't start again until 16th September, and we really need some new players - all welcome, but there is a particular need for trumpeters! Oli is proposing to do some open rehearsals during October, so if you have a brass instrument lurking in your attic, do dust it off and come along to join us. We meet in the Parish Rooms on Mondays from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. On a sad note, we are about to say farewell to Graham and Jenny Cottam, long-standing members of the group, who are moving to Scotland later this month. Graham has been the secretary to the brass group for several years, making sure everyone knows where they should be

and sorting out the music folders for services and other engagements.

With Noah moving up to join the Choral Scholars we welcome Eden as the new Head Chorister. We also offer our congratulations to our Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar, Elliot, who at the end of his first year with us achieved a merit in his Grade 5 Organ exam – a great result as he was new to studying the organ formally a year ago! We are delighted that he will be doing a second year as our Organ Scholar.

On the horizon this term are Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas... it's good to be back!

Bron Ferland

That's impossible!

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. Ephesians 3:17-19

How can you describe the indescribable? How can you measure the love of God? Who can find words to convey the joy of knowing such amazing love? The apostle Paul gives us a model for the love of God that is mathematically impossible. Objects normally have only 3 dimensions, but here he gives us 4, such is the greatness of the love he has in mind.

It is wide, embracing every person without exception.

It is long, lasting for eternity.

It is high, coming down from heaven to save us.

It is deep, taking the Saviour to the cross and the darkness of the tomb.

Paul wants us to begin to understand (grasp) with our minds how great is God's love. More than that, he wants us to experience (know) it for ourselves, in our hearts. When this happens, with the help of the Spirit, we will become rooted, like trees with roots anchored in the ground. We will become established, like a building resting on a firm foundation. In other words, we will be secure.

Why not ask God to take you deeper into His amazing love?

Tony Horsfall, editor of Parish Pump

ECO Church - Our New Perspective

We have just celebrated the remarkable and heroic journey of the astronauts who landed on the moon fifty years ago. Just a few months before that, Apollo 8 had taken the first humans out of Earth orbit and around the moon. As they re-emerged from the far side of the moon, after the agonizing moments when communication with Earth was impossible, they saw, for the first time, the amazing phenomenon of 'Earth Rise'. Our small, exquisitely beautiful globe of green, blue and white, rising above the surface of the moon. No wonder the astronauts read the first verses of Genesis to an awe-struck Earth on that Christmas Eve orbiting the moon!



Earthrise taken by William Anders Apollo 8

This was the image that gave us the chance to see the world and ourselves from a new and powerful perspective: small, delicate, self-contained, in balance with the universe.

Sailing around the world, I felt a similar perspective: that however vast and frightening the oceans sometimes seemed, the world is actually very small; and however powerful and dangerous the winds and waves, our climate is very delicately balanced.

It is also full of abundant, natural, clean energy. Sailing towards the Fastnet Rock this summer in a Force 7 gale, I am sure I had all the power at my fingertips on the helm of a F1 racing driver! It was thrilling!

Yet for all these perspectives, we are still treating our world as if it were an infinite sewer. We pour toxins and CO2 into the air, as if the atmosphere can

dispose of them freely on our behalf, and we pour plastics and pollutants into our rivers and oceans as if they are infinitely able to neutralize them without nature being harmed.

Somehow we have not made the link between our behaviours, consumption and lifestyles and the consequences these have on our small and delicate planetary vessel. It is time to connect things up. We vote with every purchase we make. Voting to be part of the supply chain that brought us that food, those clothes, that product, that energy, and voting to be part of the chain that recycles, disposes or pollutes after we have used it.

Nothing goes away. The only things that have ever left our planet are some amazing Voyager space craft and the LEM modules still sitting on the moon. Everything else is still with us; with consequences, if not for us, then for our children and grandchildren.

Edward Gildea



COME TO THE FAIR - FOLLOW THAT STAR !

St Mary's 2019 Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 30th November between 10.00a.m. and 2.00p.m.

In preparation for the event there will be a lot of behind the scenes activity to ensure it will be as successful as possible. By the time you read this we shall have met many of the band of Stallholders and decided who will be running which stalls and where they will be in the Church. But we need more! If you would like to run a stall or help somebody else do so, please get in touch.

We shall be setting up inside the Church on Friday 29th November. As per last year we need volunteers to help in the morning with putting out and decorating the tables as well as the Church and grounds. Stallholders are invited to come in the afternoon to prepare their stalls for the following day.

NB Items for the Bric-a-brac stall can be collected, please contact Gerald Gardner on 01799 500543

As before, we shall be selling scrumptious food in the Parish Rooms. All contributions to that effort will be most welcome, as well as offers to help serve (and wash up!).

Finally we need to ensure that the Fair gets as much publicity as possible. Flyers will be available in abundance as well as posters for your window. We shall also be putting posters up around town so if you can help with that please let us know. Do look out for the flyers at services in November, grab a handful to give to your friends and neighbours and why not take some tickets for the Grand Draw and sell those too?

Please contact Richard Garvey on 01799 521129 aptonfields@supanet.com if you can help in any way.

Pamela Mugliston 01799 521697 pjmteddybear@btinternet.com is masterminding arrangements for the stalls,

Sue Birchall 01799 521297 sbirchall29@gmail.com the catering and Paddy Carver the publicity. All of us would love to hear from you.

Follow that Star

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Having worked from some years for CMJ UK, Pedro has a love for Britain and is always eager to come and share what God is doing through CMJ in the Land of Israel today.

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