

# Parish News

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

**August-September 2020**

**FREE**

## Stephen Cottrell confirmed as Archbishop of York



Archbishop Stephen Cottrell was confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York on Thursday 9th July in a service broadcast entirely via video conference because of the Covid-19 restrictions. The service was in two parts: a legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music; and a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York. It included music from York Minster Choir and Manor Church of England Academy School (York). Young people from across the North of England, read a letter written by the medieval religious scholar Alcuin of York.

Later at the crypt of York Minster he prayed at the tomb of St William of York. Archbishop Stephen then moved to the Quire of York Minster where he took up his Crozier in front of a small, socially distanced gathering drawn from his immediate staff representing the Archbishop's Diocesan Leadership Team, Bishopthorpe Palace and York Minster.



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## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **October** issue is **Sunday 6th Sept.**

### Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon

email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

01799 506024

Editor: Andy Colebrooke

01799 732970

Advertising: Gillian Brace

Email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

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[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews)

Front Cover: *Audley End Farm*

Photograph by Martin Hugall

## During the lockdown...

If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list, email: -

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**Website:**

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<b>TEAM RECTOR:</b>	Vacancy
<b>ASSISTANT CURATE:</b>	On maternity leave
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	Denis Tindley; 01799 524436 (Saffron Walden) Gill Caswell; 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden) Michael Dean; 01799 523388 (Sewards End) Lynne Ketteridge; 01799 523898 (Sewards End)

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## Pastoral Letter

From The Rev'd John Saxon

Dear friends

I have recently been reminded of an often-quoted verse from scripture. It is Jeremiah 29:11, *“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* These are frequently shared as words of encouragement at times of change. Dawn and I received a marble plaque bearing this verse as a wedding gift and it still stands on our mantelpiece today. We would never have guessed all these years later that we would be here in Saffron Walden serving in the team ministry as a vicar and wife.



For me particularly, these words are a comfort **and a challenge**. Some of you may know, ordained ministry is a third career path for me! I completed about 15 years each as a paramedic and a teacher, finishing at a school for young people with profound and multiple educational special needs. Jeremiah's words comforted me in these times of my career changes.

However, that familiar verse is a challenge too if we read it in context. Jeremiah, writing at the time when the Jewish leaders were in exile in Babylon, says in verse 10 that Babylon's 70 years need to be complete before the Lord brings about the exile's return to Jerusalem. God's plan for us is not reassurance that we will have a comfortable life. After all, Jesus said 'Take up your cross and follow me!' Then the following verses challenge us to seek the Lord in difficult times too. Verses 12 and 13 say *“When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.”* In difficult times it is in our seeking and wholehearted following that God's plans are revealed and worked out in our lives. Changing career three times was not always easy, but in response to God's leading it has revealed more of his plan for my life.

I bring these thoughts to mind because this year has been one of unparalleled interruptions and uncertainties. For many, the hoped-for holidays have been cancelled; the anticipated exams with so much preparation and hard work already done haven't been able to take place and the longed-for career promotions and business opportunities have been shattered, for some never to

return again. Our future plans and dreams have been thrown into the air as a result of the pandemic and we are still in the grip of an unknown future.

So, take comfort from Jeremiah's words: God has a plan for you in whatever circumstances you find yourselves. Be challenged too, to seek God's will for your life – wholeheartedly. We may never dream of where we will end up, but we can be assured our welfare is at the heart of all that God has for us and that we have a future full of hope.

With every good wish for your future – God has a plan for you.

John

## From the Registers

### *Funerals*

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

17th June          Norah Bradley

17th June          Kathleen Green

18th June          Edwin Gilling

23rd June          Jane Ranford

*Praying for them and for those who mourn  
"May they rest in peace"*





## St Mary's Music News

During lockdown the SMAA reports have focused on parts of the church's musical life which are less visible to the congregation. Last month starred the Junior Choir. This month we have contributions from our organist, Jeremy Allen, and from Peter De Vile who keeps our aged instrument in good order – though this time he explains the tricky process of combining everyone's individual voice recordings into what appears to be a whole ensemble performance.

But first an invitation to everyone to join the choir's evening plainsong workshop on Zoom, leading to a service of Compline on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 7.30 – 9.00pm. The hour long Plainsong workshop begins at 7.30pm and ends with a service of Compline which starts at about 8.30pm. Further details will be in the Grapevine in due course.

Ottilie Sefton

### Away from the organ loft

**Jeremy Allen**

I have not played the organ since Sunday 15 March, by far the longest such period since I started learning the instrument almost 42 years ago. Having held successive organist posts without break since 1998 there have been times when thoughts of a sabbatical have surfaced in my mind. Be careful what you wish for! All plans in every area of one's life have been swept aside by the coronavirus lockdown. That said, I'm lucky not to have been otherwise adversely affected by the situation: apart from the enforced abandonment of church activities in the normal sense I have been able to continue with my main occupation unhindered, and no-one of my close acquaintance has suffered badly from the virus.

A long-standing intention of mine had been to mark the 125th anniversary on Sunday 5 July of the birth of Gordon Jacob, Saffron Walden's own composer of international repute. Last year I decided that in 2020 I would learn his *Festal Flourish* for organ and play it as the organ voluntary at St Mary's on the very day. This was also to be the closing music when the choir of St Mary's sang choral evensong at Birmingham Cathedral on 20 June – a musical calling card of sorts. I hope that a delayed performance in honour of the great man can occur before many more months elapse. At least I can say that, when called to play the National Anthem at St Mary's, I have always played Gordon Jacob's harmonisation, which he prepared for the 1953 Coronation.

*continued on page 9...*



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Many of you will be familiar with online church services on YouTube or Zoom. Oli King, our indefatigable Director of Music, hit the ground running by implementing Zoom choir practices for the adult choir, soon complemented by practices for the juniors. It has been a strange yet welcome experience. Strange because participants' devices must be set to 'muted' during singing, and therefore the leader cannot hear the choir and hone the sound as would normally occur. Welcome because it is a lovely opportunity for the choir to stay in touch *as a group*, with a time of socialising available after the singing is over. Zoom breakout rooms enable division of the choir into its separate voice parts for 20 minutes or so, supervised by various leaders. In the same way, ribbon training for juniors is undertaken by small groups at different attainment levels. It is only fair to say that, musically speaking, rehearsing via Zoom is a mixed blessing. Undeniably it is beneficial for the choir to be able to continue in this way, but over time it is draining for the leader to maintain distance rehearsing, largely because you can't hear and respond to singers' efforts as would be the case in a normal rehearsal – the leader is forced to work in isolation.

Having recorded hymns and reflective music for two of our YouTube services, Lorna and I have experienced the dark side of online church. You'd think it a privilege to make such an offering, but it's challenging in so many ways. First of all, on which device will you record: my smartphone or hers? The old laptop or our daughter's MacBook? (Need to tread carefully there!) First, test each device to ascertain best audio quality. Next, work out how to position the device for best visual result, taking into account the optimum angle for room lighting, and avoiding distracting and/or inappropriate background objects. Then there's the minor challenge of having to record each item in one take – is the slight sense of breathlessness in take 9 worse than the bum note in the piano part in take 5? Then you find that the smartphone ran out of memory during the last take, freezing the image. And (horrors!) you notice the onset of pianist's wardrobe malfunction. Having overcome all of that it remains merely to send the mp4 file to Oli. Oh dear! The file is too big to send by e-mail ... using WhatsApp reduces the sound quality ... er ... try Dropbox! Did it really take four hours to record two hymns?

Jeremy Allen

## **Baking a 25 tier choir layer cake**

As I'm sure most of you know, St Mary's choir has been continuing our weekly practice during lockdown via Zoom - an unheard of piece of wizardry to me until we all needed it to stay connected and sane. It has been a learning process in more ways than one, in that we can't all sing at the same time as normal because

*continued on page 11...*



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of the delays in computer speeds, internet speeds and so on. We tried it - sounded like the sheep that had certainly gone astray and thought again. The result is that Oli directs and we basically sing along to ourselves, whilst trying not to watch our friends surreptitiously glug some wine/beer/whatever during the motet...

Oli hit upon a plan that we could record ourselves singing something to a backing track. He chose Tallis' beautiful motet 'If ye love me'. We were sent a karaoke-style singalonga part (Bass in my case) which involved listening to it on earphones from the computer and then recording ourselves to another device, in most cases the smartphone. It went out to the world and was really rather good. I offered my computer services for the next one and 'Locus iste a Deo factus est' (translated as "This place is made by God") by Bruckner went out on Sunday 21st June.

Putting together all of the separate recordings of this was, I have to say a joyful experience because I would get one or two a day and add them, so building up the ensemble. The way this is done is a bit like putting a layer cake together electronically. You get each recording and set the first layer, then add the layers as they come in, to create a 25 high tower which doesn't sway around....The only retake I asked for was from my dear wife Caroline. It wasn't her fault - she sang wonderfully and then got to the quiet bit, when with perfect timing a Spitfire flew by! I wanted to add some photos too - to reflect the text - so drew on my own.

We are all missing church and hope that very soon services can resume. There is a little way to go before we can sing lustily but rest assured, it will come and we - the choir - will be back.

Peter De Vile, Organ Builder

## Friends of Saffron Walden Parish Church

In these uncertain times we are not able to make arrangements for our Friends Festival Service and AGM , normally held in September, but they **will** happen at some point.

Watch the website and follow Parish News editions and we will keep you posted.

Please be assured that the Lincoln Cathedral Trip which had to be postponed twice this year **WILL** take place next year and we will let you all know as soon as we have a date. Something to look forward to.

In the meantime, take care, stay safe and well.

Pamela Mugliston, Secretary



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## I'm Calling for No Reason - Step Out of Locked-In



*Photograph: Andrea Piacquadio from Pexels*

'I'm calling for no reason'. My young grandson's words still warm my heart years later. What better reason can there be to phone than just calling because you want to?

Personally I am finding it a challenge to pick up the phone at the moment. It's wonderful to receive a call, yet hard to make it. It's more than Lockdown Lethargy or lack of motivation. Lockdown for some of us can feel like Locked-In. We have the key to our cage, but can't seem to step out of it.

Why is this? What are we afraid of? Dare I suggest that it's not necessarily a mental illness thing, but rather more to do with our social engagement nervous system. We humans are made to blossom and develop when we are seen, heard, understood. Being ignored, lonely, forgotten, neglected does things to us, and we shut down. So enforced self-isolation has consequences. It becomes less easy to reach out to others, less attractive to mix and socialise. We can become less physically active and our mental capacity less acute and lively. Our social engagement system does all this on its own without our bidding, because it is there to judge whether we feel safe or fearful. This polyvagal nervous system is linked to all our organs and regulates how we feel. It thrives on smiles, eye contact, tone of voice and human contact. That anxiety, shame, phobia really can be stayed, even helped somewhat, by something as small as a phone call.

Margaret Collingwood

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## Gardening Notes

We have a Philadelphus in the garden; it's about 30 feet tall, and every year, just before it flowers it's crowded with pigeons, all attracted by something the tree produces at the time. The pigeons are pecking away, especially at the very top and after quite a short time - perhaps a fortnight - they stop. Shortly afterwards the tree flowers, this year particularly abundantly. I don't know what lies behind this apparently symbiotic relationship - a mystery indeed. Perhaps one of my fellow parishioners knows!



My mesembryanthemum display was, and is, a joy, the pots especially though those in an open bed not quite as good: I think they respond well to being very crowded, as the pots were, whilst less so in an open bed. I shall bear that in mind for the future. In another bed I've planted out geraniums, now going well and at point of flower: as they bulk up the need for weeding diminishes - I hope for total coverage reducing even further my weeding duty!



*Image: İsmet Şahin from Pixabay*

My broad beans fruited very well and were much enjoyed: today was my final picking, then plants removed and now on the compost heap. Next week I'll try my 'Rocket' early potatoes.

Isn't this a joyful time!

Charles White

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## Archive Group *findings...*

### August/September 1940

Dear Parishioners,

A few months ago our leading newspaper commented enthusiastically on one good result of the evacuation scheme - "In the reception areas the parish church as the place of worship and the centre of the life of the community has become a familiar and homely building to the evacuated children, for many of whom corporate worship is a new experience - but it is significant that 60% of the boys and girls between 14 and 18 have no attachment of any kind to the Christian community." In a booklet just published by the \*S.P.C.K - the same verdict is recorded - "The war has taught many people to understand for the first time the true worth of the village and the village church. Today they are prized not merely as picturesque features of the English landscape but are visible embodiments of the English tradition.

### September

You will have seen in the newspapers that the King has requested that Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, be observed as a Day of Intercession for God's blessing on our forces and on the cause for which they contend. Needless to say we here gladly comply with the royal wishes as our Archbishop earnestly asks us to do and I greatly hope we may be able to spare a considerable portion of the offertory for the Red Cross Fund, if only to show our appreciation of the R.A.F during the last few weeks.

L. Hughes

\* S.P.C.K. : Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

# Calendar for August 2020

*See The Grapevine for the latest information*

## Sunday services

### St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Compliance with physical (social) distancing caps the number we can safely have at any one service in St Mary's at 50 (couples and families count as one).

In order to be sure of a place, please book in by telephoning or emailing Dawn at the Parish Office. Please leave a message stating the service you wish to book for together with your name, telephone number and postcode. You will need to contact her by noon on the preceding Friday. You can still just turn up on the day without booking, but if we have reached our maximum numbers, you will not be able to enter the church.

#### Sunday 2 August (Trinity 8)

8am Holy Communion (1662)

#### Sunday 9 August (Trinity 9)

10am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 16 August (Trinity 10)

10am Family Service

#### Sunday 23 August (Trinity 11)

10am Holy Communion (Archdeacon Robin King)

#### Sunday 30 August (Trinity 12)

10am Holy Communion

### St James', Swards End

See on demand and streamed services below

### St John's, Little Walden

#### Sunday 9 August (Trinity 9)

11.15am Family Service

#### Sunday 23 August (Trinity 11)

11.15am Holy Communion

### Pre-recorded services - August and September

See [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/onlineservices](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/onlineservices) for details of our weekly YouTube service.

# Calendar for September 2020

*See The Grapevine for the latest information*

## Sunday services

### St Mary's, Saffron Walden

**Sunday 6 September (Trinity 13)**

8am Holy Communion (1662)

**Sunday 13 September (Trinity 14)**

10am Holy Communion

**Sunday 20 September (Harvest Festival)**

10am Family Service

**Sunday 27 September (Trinity 16)**

10am Holy Communion

### St James', Sewards End

**Sunday 13 September (Trinity 14)**

9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 27 September (Trinity 16)**

9.30am Morning Praise



### St John's, Little Walden

**Sunday 13 September (Trinity 14)**

11.15am Family Service

**Sunday 27 September (Trinity 16)**

11.15am Holy Communion



## Zoomed services - August and September

See weekly email for sign in details

### Sundays

9.30am Zoom Holy Communion

### Tuesdays

5pm Zoom Evening Prayer

### Wednesdays

9.30am Zoom Holy Communion

## Let's not save the Planet.



I disagree with the concept of 'Saving the planet'. It is dangerously misleading. It implies that we are greater than the planet and that, if we are altruistic and generous, we might just condescend to save it, as we might try to save giant pandas or greater crested newts.

I imagine the mindset stems from Genesis when God conferred on man 'dominion... over all the earth... to replenish the earth and subdue it.' I have always felt uncomfortable about that dominion until it was pointed out to me that a more accurate translation from the Hebrew would be that God conferred 'responsibility for the earth'. For surely any good ruler thinks not in terms of power, but responsibility?

**The fact is that the planet will be fine.** It will continue spinning on its axis every 24 hours and around the sun every year and it will stay perfectly in balance with itself. The problem is that man's impact in this era, the anthropocene, is changing that balance dramatically and making the planet inhospitable to us. What we should be doing is attempting to save ourselves... save ourselves by paying more attention to our only home so that it is maintained in the favourable balance that gave us life in the first place.

So why hasn't self interest kicked in by now? Why are we so reluctant to preserve ourselves and protect our children? Isn't that our primary instinct? In 2019 Oxfam reported that just the 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the planet's population and the number is falling steadily, from 43 billionaires in 2017. Meanwhile just 100 companies in the world have been responsible for 71% of the global GHG emissions since 1998, and a mere 20 fossil fuel companies can be directly linked to more than one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the modern era.

So it looks as though a very small handful of very powerful people are working according to their own self-interest and taking the rest of the population of the world along with them. Presumably they are the billionaires and corporations who own most of the media outlets, contribute most to politicians' election expenses, lobby most effectively and stimulate economies based on endless consumption through their advertising and entertainment operations. So how do we break out of our servitude to these billionaires and corporations? At what point are we going to create a sustainable economy based on social justice and humanitarian equity?

An inspirational Oxford economist, Kate Raworth has a thrilling vision of a sustainable, universally beneficial economy. It will look like a doughnut! A creative, regenerative, distributive economy that works within the planet's ecological limits. Do listen to her TED talk and find out more about the doughnut!

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Edward Gildea

*Paddy McKeown*



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## **YOU**inthe**PEW**

interviewed by Chris Bishop

### **Gill Caswell**

This month, at a distance, I have interviewed Gill Caswell one of our Churchwardens at St Mary's. Gill was born in Margate and so therefore is a 'Maid of Kent'. In her first year though, her parents took her to Canada where they lived for 18 months, but then at the age of 4 they moved back to Slough where she spent her childhood, returning to Margate for summer holidays .

She met her husband Ken in Slough when she was 17 and they were married at the country church where Thomas Gray wrote his famous elegy. After a year they moved back to

Margate where they had their two girls. Gill was a physiotherapist and worked in local hospitals as well as the hospice and within the local community.

After the girls were born and having them baptised it was pointed out to her that as she had made promises on their behalf she needed to take them to church to fulfil them. She attended an explorer group ( pre Alpha) was confirmed and quickly became involved within the church family.

They eventually came to Saffron Walden because her husband Ken was ill with myeloma and their daughters wished them to be near them. As soon as they moved Gill wished to attend a church. Their daughter Debbie was married at St Mary's. Gill remembers that on the first visit to St Mary's she sat in front of 2 elderly ladies. The following week they asked her to join them and they sat her between them both! They subsequently became firm friends to both her and her husband.

Pre-Covid she normally volunteers at the Arthur Rank Hospice in the Bistro and Reception every Saturday morning, a time she finds very rewarding, getting far more from it than she gives. She is also a member of U3A and attends weekly Latin classes (not very good but the group is great fun). Her spare time is



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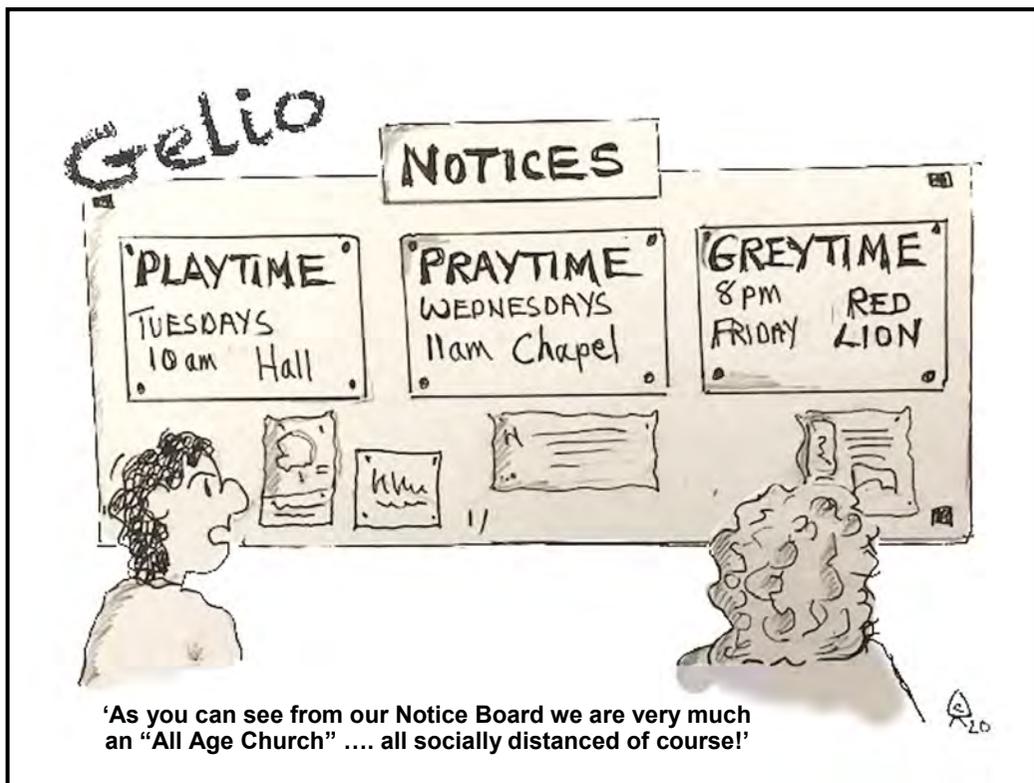
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taken up with her twin granddaughters who also live in Saffron Walden.

Reflecting upon her time in Walden she says that her most emotionally wonderful memory happened the day before her husband Ken died. Their granddaughters were born 2 months before, and as they all live in Walden they were able to see them virtually every day. On that last day both the girls were very irritable, Ken was in bed, and so they placed the two girls on his tummy. He stroked their backs and within a matter of seconds they were asleep. She reflects that if they hadn't moved to Saffron Walden she would never have had that memory.

Asked whether with all her experiences she had a family motto she gave me 'patientia, perseverentia, amo.....Patience, Perseverance, Love.





## **Hearing Help Essex** **NHS Hearing Aid Support Service**

Due to Covid-19 we cannot resume our Hearing Help Sessions at our community venues just yet, but the good news is we're able to offer appointments at our new Resource Centre on Moulsham Street in central Chelmsford, and also offer a door-step service for those who are Housebound, shielding, or have reduced mobility.

We are following Covid-19 guidance and are able to adhere to 2m social distancing. If you would like to book an appointment, or be added to our contact list so we can let you know when your nearest session will resume, please contact us on the details below.

If you have an urgent issue with your hearing aid, or need batteries, please contact your Audiology Department direct who will be able to help you.

For more information please check website

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Call **01245 496347**

Email: **[info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk](mailto:info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk)**

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*Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.*

## Prayer for the months of August and September

*provided by the Prayer Team*

*This prayer is based on the paintings of Sieger Koder and seems to speak into the pain and confusion of these past few weeks. Born in 1925 in Germany, taken as a prisoner of war, when fighting in World War 2, he taught art after the war and was ordained a catholic priest in 1971 being the Parish Priest in Hohenberg from 1975 – 1995.*

O God of shadow and of light, we reach out to you in our deepest need. Do not let us be overwhelmed by doubt and fear: but come and walk beside us in every valley of darkness, our loving Father and constant comforter.

Jesus, you are the face of God's compassion hidden in each human life. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of our brothers and sisters. Give us loving and generous hearts ready to reach out to you in every person.

*Taken from the Glimpse of the Divine by Gemma Simmonds*

## Know your Saffron Walden

*Where would you find this mural in Saffron Walden?*



*Answer on page 33*

*Clifford Want continues his series on Hymn writers*

**Mary Artemisia Lathbury (1841-1913)**

***Break Thou the Bread of Life and Day is Dying in the West***



Mary Lathbury was born on August 10, 1841 in Manchester, New York: her father and two brothers were Methodist ministers. As a child, she enjoyed reading, writing, and illustrating poems she had written. She studied art in Worcester, Massachusetts, and taught art and French in Vermont and New York.

She said she became involved with Christian service full-time because God said to her, "Remember, my child, that you have a gift of weaving fancies into verse and a gift with the pencil of producing visions that come to your heart; consecrate these to Me as thoroughly as you do your inmost spirit".

She moved towards religious work and writing and was the general editor of materials for the Methodist Sunday School. She was associated with the Chautauqua adult education movement, originally for Sunday School teachers, near Chautauqua, New York, and was known as the poet laureate of Chautauqua.

Her two best-known hymns are 'Break Thou the bread of life', and 'Day is dying in the west', written in 1887. The former of these, which she called a 'study song', was intended primarily for the students on the shore of Chautauqua Lake, with its allusion to the breaking and blessing of the loaves 'beside the sea' of Galilee. Dr G. Campbell Morgan always asked the congregation to sing it at the weekly meetings of his Bible class in London, just before he began the exposition of the lesson. It has been said that though sung often as a Communion hymn, this is one of the few classic hymns on Christian Scripture. 'Break thou the bread of life' focuses on the relationship between the Christ found in the 'sacred page' and the individual reader of the Bible.

'Day is dying in the west.' was written for the vesper hour at Chautauqua. W. Garrett Horder, an English anthologist wrote: 'It is one of the finest and most distinctive hymns of modern times. It deserves to rank with "Lead, Kindly Light," of Cardinal Newman, for its picturesqueness and allusions, and above all ... that devout souls, no matter what their distinctive beliefs, can through it voice their deepest feelings and aspirations.' Lathbury added a third and a fourth stanzas in 1890.

Lathbury died on October 20, 1913 in East Orange, New Jersey and was buried at Rosedale Cemetery in the same city.

Clifford Want

## Snippets from Romania

David and Sari are working as translators in central Romania with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Romania practised very strict, police-enforced, early lockdown with the result that the overall COVID-19 infection rate was relatively low.

Unfortunately, their local community became one of the 'hotspots' with ten deaths and a partial 'no-go' zone. We are pleased to say that none of the family was affected except for the problems of on-line university lectures and exams, as well as on-line school lessons and loads of school work. (On-line lessons starting at 09.00 are possibly preferred to catching the 06.00 bus to school!).

In addition to helping prepare Bible passages in various Roma dialects for written publication, Sari & David are also heavily involved in preparing work for oral presentation. This is frequently preferred amongst the Roma community who have an oral tradition and many cannot or are unwilling to read.

A couple of weeks ago they passed on a few anecdotes illustrating some of the problems found in preparing a scripture recording: -

"First some background. In English, we tend to say "kin" and "skin" with different 'k' sounds. Unlike in "skin", the k of "kin" will move a piece of paper held just in front of your mouth because there's an extra-strong puff of air, that's called an 'aspirated k'. Linguists can write aspirated p, t and k as p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup> and k<sup>h</sup> respectively, and some alphabets where it matters write ph, th, and kh. Romani has aspiration too, but unlike in English, it matters: 'kher' means house, 'ker' means do.

Psalms 37:17 (NIV) says: "for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous."

The Hebrew word translated 'broken' means 'crushed / broken / wrecked', and

the word translated 'upholds' means 'sustains / upholds / supports'.

In one variety of Romani, words we might choose are: phagol 'break', înkhearel 'shatter/smash', and înghearel 'bring/carry/hold', hastravel 'save', înkearel 'keep/preserve'.

So we could have had înkhearel in the first line but chose 'phagol' instead, and we used to have înkearel (keep) in the second line, because "save" isn't quite what the Hebrew is saying. But someone mis-read it on the recording; he read înkhearel (i.e. the Lord shatters the righteous).

Fortunately, he then corrected himself, but the spellings are close, and so often the Psalms say one thing in two different ways.

*Continued on page 31...*



## The Grange Care Home

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It gets worse... Many people prefer to write Romani with the Romanian alphabet, which can't show the difference between aspirated and unaspirated k. We talked to a local speaker and decided people wouldn't make the mistake if we change the word order. Now the second part reads, "but the righteous, the Lord will preserve."

Thank you for praying to get all these details right,  
David and Sari "

If you would like to find out more about Bible translation in Romania, please contact Mary & Gerald or David and Sari directly.

Gerald Gardner



*The Churchyard working party  
was never seen again*

## CMS News from various parts of the world

Having joined a Zoom meeting with CMS last week I was very struck with a) how far reaching CMS is and b) how we can learn so much about living the gospel from different parts of the world. I found it both challenging and a source of gratitude that by supporting Lynn Treneary in her work in Maridi, we at St Mary's are part of this community. I thought I would give some glimpses into other cultures and challenges around the globe, starting with the Middle East and the report that I listened to from Tanas Alqassis.

### In the Middle East

Tanas gave us 4 areas for prayer; huge poverty, refugees, revival and hopefulness. There is huge poverty in all of the Middle East; however, it is being noticed

how the Christian community is the main community serving everyone in very practical ways (regardless of their religion, status or loyalties). They deliver food parcels and medical care, as well as pastoral care, which is making people ask and enquire about Christianity, with a notable number of people coming to faith especially in Egypt.

In Lebanon, the main reason for the huge poverty is because the country has taken in 2 million refugees ; once again Christians are the ones answering their needs by providing education as well as the practical needs of people. Tanas said people are content in their poverty, trusting in the provision of God.

In Palestine where tensions are rising and rumours of war, along with Covid 19, are spreading, there is a huge increase of people signing up for online Biblical studies with a CMS partner Bible College; people are receiving & accepting scripture and coming to faith.

Finally there is news of the Bible being translated in Iraq with a huge demand from the people of Iraq to read and study the Bible.

### In Africa

In Sudan, the transitional government criminalised female genital mutilation, which will now be punishable by three years in prison. This is the result of mission partner Ann – Marie Wilson's charity **28 Too Many** with years campaigning for an end to FGM.



Lynn (far right) at her ordination as deacon, with the Bishop of Maridi, the Rt Rev Moses Zungu and his wife Rejoice

In D.R Congo Bishop William writes to say that in the Diocese of Boga and in the village of Boga not only is Covid 19 spreading but there is much fighting and violence, with people going to bed afraid with the sounds of gunfire surrounding them. They are puzzled why the world is silent. However, the worship and trust in God is joyous and unwavering.

### **In South America**

The two common threads are: -

1) Churches are responding to the protests about racism by facing up to their own attitudes of racism.

*Bishop Nick with fellow bishops Crisanto Rojas and Mateo Alto, members of Argentina's Wichi and Toba Original Peoples respectively, visiting a Wichi university student*



2) They are discovering the best way of expressing the love of God, especially to the marginalized, is by getting alongside them, caring for them with practical help, as well as faithfully befriending and accepting them through the ups and downs of their lives. They are always offering hope, mainly just by being with them, whatever the circumstances of their lives.

There are many other stories on their website if you want to know more. I go away challenged by the faithful trust the Christians have in God, whatever their situations and also by whatever action is taken arising out of prayer and love, however small, seems to bring the love of God into the lives of people, regardless of who they are, what they believe and whatever situations they are living with. God can be found in unexpected places and ways and in all circumstances.

I wonder what these brief stories say to us all.

Sue Walker

**Quiz Answer: Know your Saffron Walden** (page 27)

Bridge End Garden - on the wall of The Summerhouse Lawn, adjacent to the steps leading down to The Wilderness Garden.

## The Transfiguration – beholding the Glory

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea. We look, we hear, and our sense of wonder as something sublime unfolds before us produces delight and awe. We see a hint of glory that can even lead us to worship.

I think the monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence.

On August 6 we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

*Like a pearl we hold  
Close to our hearts  
what we have heard and seen.*

The Rev'd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)



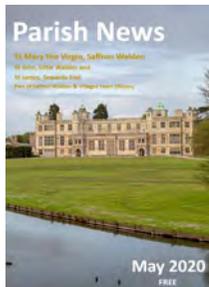
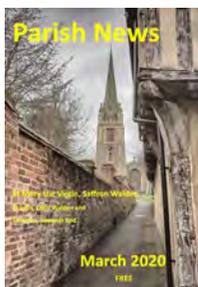
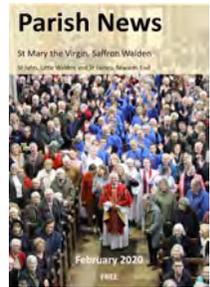
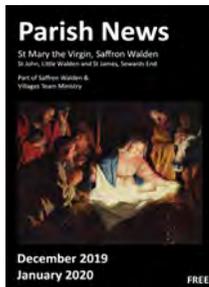
'The Transfiguration' by Fra Angelico.

It is found in the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence.

Our graphic is from Wikimedia Commons at: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration\\_by\\_fra\\_Angelico\\_\(San\\_Marco\\_Cell\\_6\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration_by_fra_Angelico_(San_Marco_Cell_6).jpg)

# Parish News - online since October 2019

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## Missing the printed version?

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