

Parish News

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

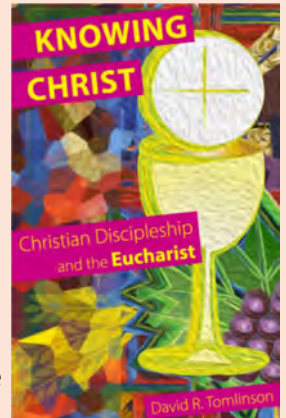
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November 2020

FREE

David's second book is now out

Our former rector David Tomlinson has just published his second book *Knowing Christ, Christian Discipleship and the Eucharist*. Unfortunately the current Covid-19 restrictions means that there cannot be a book launch at Harts Books, as there was for David's first book. However, David is hopeful he can return to Saffron Walden for a signing event when restrictions are eased.



The publishers synopsis of the book states, 'On the road to Emmaus, Jesus' followers recognized their risen Lord in the breaking of bread. The Eucharist remains at the heart of discipleship. Participation in the Eucharist transfigures Jesus' companions, and inspires them to live for God in their daily lives. David explores the liturgy of the Eucharist and finds in it the basic building blocks of the Christian life. Through story, reflection and prayer, he invites readers to consider the different aspects of this central act of Christian worship, so that their faith can deepen, and they can learn to live more fully as members of Christ's body, the Church. This book can be used for individual reading or group study. It offers valuable insights for new Christians, and for those who want to experience new riches in a familiar service.'



Knowing Christ: Christian Discipleship and the Eucharist by David R. Tomlinson, Sacristy Press, 2020, ISBN 978-1-78959-122-4, Price £12.99. It can be ordered through Harts Books, Saffron Walden, through Amazon or directly from the publisher at www.sacristy.co.uk.

David is now Vicar of St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham and the Chair of Thrive Together Birmingham.

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PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **December-January** issue is **Sunday 1st November**.

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PARISH NEWS IS A FREE PUBLICATION and can also be viewed (**in full colour**) online at our parish website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

Front Cover: Poppies

Photograph by Lesley Green

During the lockdown...

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

office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org



St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

TEAM RECTOR: Vacancy

ASSISTANT CURATE: On maternity leave

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Pastoral Letter

From The Rev'd Paula Griffiths

Dear friends

Winter is coming. T S Eliot wrote in *Murder in the Cathedral* that '....golden October declined into sombre November....' Dark nights, short days, and depressing weather can make the passing of time seem very poignant.

For centuries the church has associated November with Remembrance. Even before 11 November became a day of national commemoration for those killed in war since 1914, the memory of the saints who have gone before us – All Saints' Day – and our own loved ones who have died – All Souls' Day – have marked the Christian calendar. Modern Hallow'een tries to make light of it, with broomsticks and pumpkins and fake skeletons, but these days remind us that death and mourning are inescapably part of the human condition: a tunnel that we all must face alone. Yet Jesus, by accepting human death and conquering it for ever through his resurrection, transformed death's darkness into the hope and promise of life eternal.

Even knowing that hope, we feel natural grief at no longer seeing our loved ones. It is right to take space and time to pause, reflect, and mourn - while giving thanks for lives well lived. Sometimes we mourn for lives scarred by pain or illness, or for lives which for whatever reason could not fulfil their potential. Jesus, opening his arms wide for us on the cross, holds that sadness, as he offers the fullness of life without pain in his kingdom.

This year, we recall other communal tragedies too. We know so **much** about the First World War – umpteen books and websites describing battles, cemeteries, photographs, medals, and countless stories from families on all sides of the conflict – yet know so **little** by comparison about the Spanish flu epidemic which followed. Despite its worldwide spread, it is now little more than a footnote in the history books: yet it killed some **50 million** people.

Now we too are living through a pandemic. COVID has made 2020 the strangest year many of us have ever known: the unseen enemy insinuating its tentacles into our work, our social life, our family get-togethers and our worship. We mourn the many thousands dead; stand in compassion with those who have contracted the virus and who may be scarred by it for months; pray for safety and healing for ourselves and our loved ones: and ache for a way of life where the virus is defeated.



Yet we have hope. Jesus, weeping at the death of beloved Lazarus, shares our sorrow and loss: but promises his future. Jesus, dying like us, meets us in the Easter resurrection garden, calling us by name. As we mourn and remember, with thanks and with love, may we hold fast to that knowledge that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor COVID-19, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord; and hold to the promise of Revelation that death, crying and pain shall be no more in God's new heaven and new earth.

With my love and prayers,

Paula

From the Registers

Funerals

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

- 1 Sept. Margaret Curtis
- 3 Sept. Alan Edge
- 11 Sept. John King
- 22 Sept. Christine Dixon

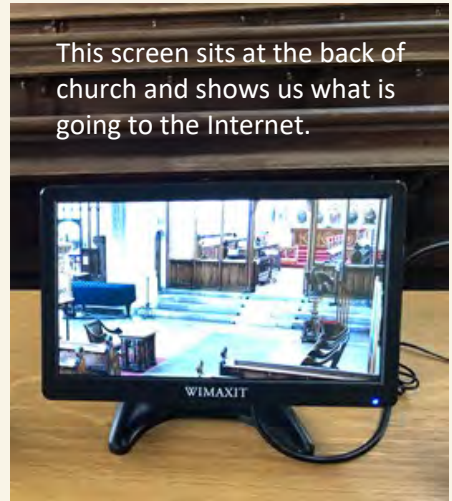
*Praying for them and for those who mourn
"May they rest in peace"*



Streaming Our Services Live to the Internet

Many of you will have read about our 10am Communion services being made available to view by those who are not in the church, or perhaps you have watched one of the services from your own home already.

In June, our PCC was informed that a camera system now exists, at an affordable price, to capture our services on video and very quickly saw the possibilities that this would open up. At the time churches were starting to re-open for services but it was clear that church attendance would be limited to 50 households, about a quarter of our usual 10am congregation, to ensure social distancing. By August the necessary approval was obtained, Archdeacon Robin King was extremely helpful to achieve this rapidly, and the equipment was installed. Sometimes the Church of England can move fast!



This screen sits at the back of church and shows us what is going to the Internet.

We now have 3 cameras installed in the church, 2 of which are visible in the nave, although not easily spotted, and the third is well hidden in the Chancel. The cameras are set to give 8 views, e.g. close ups of the main altar, the lectern, the Chancel steps; the required view is selected using a keypad no larger than a car key fob. The video is sent to the Internet by a laptop which controls the whole system along with an audio feed from our sound system. If you have watched any of our services using your computer, tablet or smartphone, you will have seen that the quality is very good.

We now stream our 8am Book of Common Prayer service on the 1st Sunday and our 10am Communion services on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month. You can find these on YouTube: the link you need to find the live stream is on our weekly bulletin which comes out each Friday. You can access the YouTube recording at any time after the service using the same link. The 10am services are also shown on Zoom allowing participants to chat and socialise after the service, almost like meeting over coffee when in church. The Zoom links are on each weekly bulletin too. Better still, those who like to join the service on Zoom using a telephone rather than a computer can still do so. Our capability to stream services so that they can be viewed at home will be of benefit to those who cannot get to church when normality returns.

With the season of major services rapidly approaching, there is a lot of work

continued on page 9



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going on to plan the services so that people can join them even though we have limited capacity in church. Our All Souls Service on 1st November is designed for viewing only on the internet and planning for Remembrance, Advent and Christmas has started too. For all of this keep a close eye on the Grapevine and the weekly bulletin.

When the Archbishop of York used to lead the Confirmation Services at St Mary's he would lead those newly confirmed out to the south porch steps, look across the town and tell them 'church is out there where the people are, by no means just in the building behind us. Out there is where you need to be as Christians'. Even Bishop Stephen probably didn't imagine that being 'out there' meant taking the Gospel message online, not only to the town but beyond.

Steve Hasler

The People have Spoken!

In September the UK's first ever People's Assembly on Climate change published a ground breaking report. In response to pressure from Extinction Rebellion, six Parliamentary Select Committees joined together to set up the assembly. It included people from all walks of life, balanced in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, education, where they lived and their level of concern about climate change. It even included climate sceptics.

Their task was to determine how the UK should meet its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. They discussed the topics with experts and each other before reaching their conclusions. You can read the full report on <https://www.climateassembly.uk/report/>

Their recommendations included a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030–2035 while more quickly ending the sale of the most polluting vehicles, with grants enabling businesses and people to buy low carbon cars.

They wanted better public transport, with government investment in low carbon buses and trains, adding new bus routes, more frequent services and making public transport cheaper. 80% of assembly members 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that aviation taxes should increase as people fly more often and as they fly further with the airline industry required to invest in greenhouse gas removals.

In homes, they suggested a ban on sales of new gas boilers from 2030 or 2035 with reductions in VAT on energy efficiency and zero carbon heating products.

They wanted labelling food and drink products as well as other products

continued on page 11



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In agriculture they suggested the introduction of low carbon farming regulations, making farm subsidies conditional on low carbon practices and biodiversity, with farmers paid to use their land to absorb and store carbon by restoring peatland, planting trees and improving soil health.

Despite this achievement, the reputation of Extinction Rebellion fluctuates. They were bitterly criticised for attacking the freedom of the press when they frustrated publication of the Sun and the Daily Mail for 12 hours on 5th September, with some politicians feeling that they should be regarded as a terrorist organisation.



London's Extinction Rebellion Protest photo: Edward Gildea

I don't agree with everything XR do, but I thought it was a pretty well targeted action. Ever since reading Milton's *Areopagitica*, I have regarded freedom of the press as being fundamentally about the freedom to 'speak truth to power'. But what should you do when the press is owned by the powerful? There is an immediate conflict of interest and with powerful men, such as Rupert Murdoch, who is a climate change denier.

The majority of our media is amassed in the hands of five people with powerful vested interests and deep connections to fossil fuel industries, and all too often their freedom includes the freedom to print stories that bear little relationship to the truth. Milton's argument was about freedom of the Truth. We are sometimes hard-pressed to find it!

The BBC Sounds podcast 'How they made us Doubt Everything' is well worth listening to!

Edward Gildea



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St Mary's Music News

The first major choral act of worship of the new academic year was the Patronal Festival at St Mary's on 13 September, where the choir's first physical contribution to a service since lockdown was undertaken by a quartet of 1 honorary and 3 actual choral scholars, with Elliott playing the organ as the departing Michael Swindlehurst scholar. In addition to live singing, the choir's recording of Stanford's Magnificat in G was played during the service, with a beautiful treble solo by Harry. Finally, Oli King and Peter De Vile had recorded a magical setting of the plainsong hymn Ave Maris Stella (Hail Star of the Sea), written by the French composer, priest, poet and musician Jean Titelouze, and first published almost 400 years ago in 1623.

In the service on 27 September, choir numbers increased to 6, and the haunting *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Fauré was sung during communion. It is hoped that participation can be increased gradually, with 8 choir members on 11 October, as confidence is gained in Covid precautions, which will enable a more significant proportion of the choir to support Sunday worship on a regular basis. Meanwhile, preparations for recordings for Choral Evensong in October are continuing in Zoom practices. Once again this will be cleverly stitched together for YouTube listening by Oli and Peter from individual choir recordings, rather than being performed live. Stanford's *Nunc Dimittis* in G will be added to the Magnificat which is already in the choir's recording repertoire, and his *Beati Quorum* is also in rehearsal, together with psalms, hymns and works by Bairstow, Mendelssohn and Monteverdi.

Sadly, poor weather and an uptick in infections meant that the face to face rehearsal in the churchyard did not take place at the end of September. Another, we trust temporary, casualty of Covid is that the search for the next organ scholar has been postponed. We hope to have more to report soon.

On a happier note, 12 members of the Junior Choir and 3 Choral Scholars have completed stages of ribbon training, supported by numbers of the adult choir. Even more excitingly, the Juniors have enjoyed their first face to face, socially distanced rehearsal, and it is hoped that they will be present at and supporting the Family Service in October, albeit without their smart, claret robes, since they all seem to have grown several feet (in old money) over the summer.

It is impossible to predict how the musical life of St Mary's will have evolved by the time you read this, let alone by Christmas. One thing is, however, certain. All the musicians, from the most junior to the most senior, are determined not

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only to keep it going under trying circumstances, but also to develop it and enhance it, whether in person or by using all the tools of modern technology. Watch this space!

Otilie Lefever

Gelio



'At THEIR church the Mothers' Union are making masks for all the congregation.....but only in the right liturgical colours mind you!'

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The Transition Project – Now Online



From 2009 to early 2020, the Transition Project welcomed a steady flow of clients, seeking employment help and advice. At our Tuesday morning sessions in the basement of the Parish Room we have seen any number up to 10 people each week. Our help includes reviewing CVs and letters, offering advice on where and how to search for new jobs, providing guidance on future employment paths or holding practice interviews. For some clients we suspect it is also the chance for a cup of coffee and a friendly chat, providing general encouragement and support during what can be very testing times. From the beginning the Transition Project has been run entirely by volunteers and supported by the PCC. In addition, the contact has introduced a number of people to St Mary's Church. The Covid epidemic forced us to close down as a temporary measure. However, it is clear that the need for help and advice will be greater than ever as the current crisis is predicted to cause even more unemployment problems. However, we cannot continue to operate a fairly informal face-to-face service. In the past we have been able to assist some clients by email and phone and we now believe this has to be the way forward.

Therefore, from Tuesday 6th October 2020 we shall be relaunching the Transition Project as an online service with the volunteer advisers working from home. We can be contacted by phone between 10.00am and 4.00pm on a Tuesday or at any time by e-mail.

The contact details are: Phone: 07901 173763
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 Website: www.transitionproject.co.uk

We can help with job identification and search, CV preparation, applications and cover letters, career review, email set up and interview practice. We can also help with Department for Work and Pensions registration.

Team members are not able to help with formal financial, medical or legal queries, but we have good cooperation with other organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Uttlesford Frontline which provide formal advice in these areas.

Should you know of anyone that would like help with job searching, CV writing etc. please encourage them to contact us. If you can help us to publicise our service and/or distribute Information leaflets, particularly across the villages, please do contact us, using the links above.

Noel Starr & Gerald Gardner

Calendar for November 2020

The arrangements are tentative and subject to government restrictions, so please see The Grapevine or website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Compliance with physical (social) distancing caps the number we can safely have at our regular services in St Mary's at approximately 50 households.

In order to be sure of a place, please book online via the church website or by contacting the Parish Office and Dawn will reserve your seats. Please leave a message stating the service you wish to book for together with your name, telephone number and postcode 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.

Alternatively, you can watch streamed Sunday services by logging onto YouTube via the website or by Zoom and join midweek Zoom services from your phone or computer (contact Parish Office for Zoom sign-in details).

Sunday 1 November (All Saints)

8am	Holy Communion (1662)	[in church and on YouTube]
4pm	All Souls Service	[only on YouTube]
6.30pm	H2H Youth Service	[only in church]

Sunday 8 November (Remembrance)

10.30am	Service of Remembrance (no Holy Communion)	[in church, on YouTube, & Zoom]
4pm	Music, readings and Compline	[streamed on YouTube]

Sunday 15 November (2nd before Advent)

10am	Family Service	[only in church]
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Sunday 22 November (Christ the King)

10am	Holy Communion	[in church, on YouTube, & Zoom]
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Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday)

10am	Holy Communion	[in church, on YouTube, & Zoom]
6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	[only on YouTube & Zoom]

Zoomed weekday services

See weekly email or contact Parish Office for sign-in details

Tuesdays

5pm	Zoom Evening Prayer
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Wednesdays

9.30am	Zoom Holy Communion
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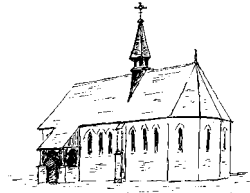
St James', Swards End

Sunday 8 November (Remembrance)

3pm Remembrance Service

Sunday 22 November (Christ the King)

9.30am Holy Communion



St John's, Little Walden

Saturday 7 November (Remembrance)

10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Sunday 22 November (Christ the King)

11.15am Holy Communion



Prayer for the month of November

provided by the Prayer Team

Jesus, where are you taking me?

Into joy

Into pain.

I am afraid, but to do anything other than go with you
would be to die inwardly;

and to look for wholeness apart from you
would be to lose my true self.

So I come to you, protesting and confused,
but loving you all the same.

You will have to hold on to me
as we walk together

through this compelling and frightening landscape
of the kingdom of God.

YOUinthe**PEW**

interviewed by Chris Bishop

Pam Russell

Pam was born in Liverpool but was brought up in Witney, Oxfordshire, a market town not dissimilar to Saffron Walden in size and attractiveness. The parish church was dedicated to St Mary where Pam was confirmed.

Oxford was nearby and Pam studied nursing at The Radcliffe Infirmary. On completion of her training she went as a '£10 Pom' to Sydney, Australia, where she worked as a Theatre Sister.

In Sydney Pam met up with Simon who she had grown up with in Witney. This meeting was due to the mothers corresponding with news of their offspring's travels. After a few months they were engaged and married in 1970 in Sydney followed by a honeymoon in Fiji.

The couple moved back to England later in 1970 for family ties. They had two daughters, Nicola and Annabel, and settled near Woodstock. In 1980 Pam and family moved to Saffron Walden because Simon had a new job in Harlow. Both daughters started at St Mary's Primary School.

The family soon started to attend services at St Mary's as they wanted their daughters to complement their education at a church school with church life. Becoming part of the congregation and making friends was important. Both daughters were confirmed and married in St Mary's.

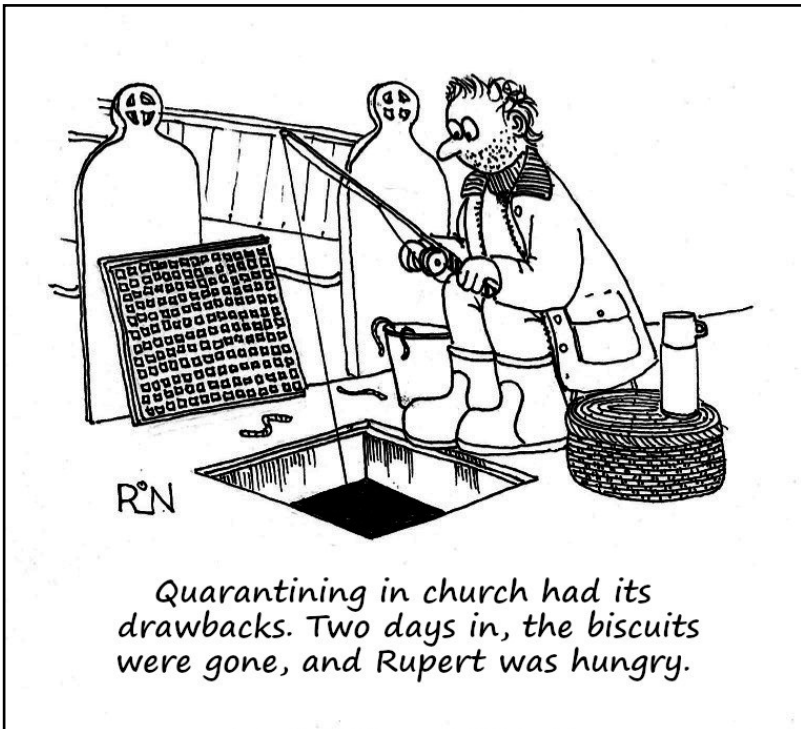
As a dedicated flower arranger Pam joined the Flower Team and has been flower co-ordinator for the past twenty years. She has enjoyed being co-organiser of a number of flower festivals, the most recent in 2019 raised £9000 for the building fund.

Pam enjoys nothing more than enhancing the church for services and visitors with flowers. The event that sticks in Pam's mind is in 1988. She was one of the



flower team that undertook the flowers for the 'Royal Wedding' when the Queen's godson James Ogilvy was married in the church. The Queen attended with other members of the Royal Family. Pam and the other arrangers were invited to the service with gloves and hats being the order of the day. Brides subsequently wanting wedding flowers could be told they were 'By Royal Appointment'.

Pam was a church warden for three years and is a server. On a family coat of arms she thinks she would have 'Trust in the Lord' inspired by Psalm 40 which is a favourite reading.



Paddy McKeown



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Archive Group *findings...*

November 1940

My Dear Parishioners,

First of all let me say that the Working Party's Annual Sale of Work will take place in the Parish Room, on Thursday, November 21st, from 11 am to 6 pm. You all know, I think, how much we depend on this yearly effort to keep our heads above water and balance the Church's budget, now soon to be weighted heavily under the Government Scheme of compulsory insurance against damage and destruction from the air. I feel sure that among the many urgent calls now being made upon us, this local one will not be left out in the cold. The stalls will contain a variety of goods, affording an excellent opportunity to those looking for suitable Christmas presents for their friends, and for War Comforts' gifts. There will be plain, produce and woolly articles for sake and a Bring and Buy stall for which gifts are requested. Coffee will be served in the morning and tea in the afternoon. It would greatly help the success of the Sale if parishioners would enlist the interest sympathy and support of the many visitors now residing in the parish.



I. Hughes

Sewards End

I feel the Sunday School children should be congratulated for having contributed £1-1-9 to the Mayor's Red Cross Fund. They have been putting their pennies in the box each Sunday with the greatest regularity. And now they are starting to collect for a 'Spitfire'. I believe the cost is about £10,000, so it should not take them about a month.

M.E.G.

(That last sentence brought a smile to my face!
Chris Bishop, Archivist)

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Gardening Notes



It's mid-October and the garden is rapidly going into winter mode, so time to get on with those jobs you promised yourself you'd do when time permits! Some of those are easy, annual commitments and therefore remembered and acted on - your veg. plot winter dig for instance: rough digging is not now possible for me, but Ashley, our weekly gardener last time cleared the plot and dug it over, all in one morning! My greenhouse is also now cleared and standing by for its winter inhabitant - a large Agapanthus in a large pot (of course!) which will snooze gently 'til next Spring.

Last time I noted how good the potato haulms looked; all now dug and truly fantastic. One spud is enough for Stella and I - I could only get four or five in a bucket, and that's a gardening size bucket. Variety is Cara.

My pots and baskets are still flowering though soon over, then in will go the short stemmed tulips: I've sufficient to fill all my pots and a couple of baskets so look forward to their display with keen anticipation.

Garden maintenance continues with front fence replacement: it's a wooden panel affair about four feet tall and has recently shown signs of aging commensurate with the need to spend money. Today's the day and a new one will be in place by teatime!

Charles White

From the editor...

Although the pandemic has severely restricted many of our Church activities, PARISH NEWS continues to need news items and interesting articles from local sources.

Whilst we are fortunate to have material available from the excellent website 'Parish Pump', what is most prized is material from within our parishes. Your editor will be pleased to receive copy (approx. 500 words or less) on any topic of general interest to our readers. These can be sent at any time and will be considered for inclusion in future editions. Many thanks in anticipation!





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

www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

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Offering hope as we face a second wave – Archbishops’ letter to bishops



The Church has a vital role to play in offering hope and comfort to the nation as we face an expected second wave of the coronavirus, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a joint letter to the bishops of the Church of England, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell set out a stark assessment of the challenges facing the country amid the pandemic including hunger, homelessness, mental health pressures and domestic violence.

But, they say, the Church of England, through its presence in every community, can play a vital role in serving the nation - especially those most in need - and in bringing hope to all through the gospel.

Churches are especially well placed, through networks and partnerships across the country, to help those most in need, who are hungry and homeless, they point out.

‘Most of all we need to draw close to Christ and continue to offer the hope and stability of the Gospel,’ the Archbishops write.

‘It is this gospel joy, even in the darkest times, that alone can help us through this crisis, bringing hope and an eternal perspective to the very pressing trials of the moment.’

The Archbishops also highlight the particular pressures faced by small businesses after months of restrictions and issue a challenge to banks to show the same mercy to those in difficulties now as banks themselves received during the financial crisis.

Referencing the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18, they add: ‘It will be for us and others to encourage the banks, who received such help in 2009, to be equally merciful to others as the nation was to them.

St Matthew 18:23-35 seems highly relevant.’

Source: Parish Pump

Clifford Want continues his series on Hymn writers

John Mason Neale 1818-1866

John Mason Neale, clergyman and author, had a father and mother who were said to have been "very pronounced Evangelicals." His father died when John was five years old.

Neale was educated at Shelbourne Grammar School and by private tutors before graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1840. He reportedly could read, write and think in 21 languages and was especially conversant in Latin and Greek. In 1839, while still a student, he and others organized the Cambridge Camden Society, afterwards the Ecclesiological Society, which exercised immense influence on the architecture and ritual of the English Church. They addressed the dilapidated condition of many English church buildings; Neale also crusaded against heating stoves in churches and especially raged against high walled box pews.

In 1842 he married Sarah Norman Webster, the daughter of an evangelical clergyman. In the same year he was ordained as incumbent of Crawley, Sussex, but, after a short time, chronic lung disease compelled him to resign. The next winter he stayed in the Madeira Islands, where he drew on the cathedral library to write a *History of the Eastern Church*, and a *Commentary on the Psalms*. From 1846 till his death, aged 48, he was Warden of an alms-house, Sackville College, in East Grinstead. There he wrote voluminously — history, theology, travel books, poems, hymns, and books for children.

Neale was an enthusiastic supporter of the Oxford Movement; it is said at times it seems that his sympathies are more Catholic than Protestant. He was prohibited from performing any ministerial duties by the Bishop of Chichester from 1846 to 1863, three years before his death.

Among his works are many volumes of new hymns and translations



from Latin and Greek of ancient and mediaeval hymns. Well-known translations from Greek include *The Day of Resurrection*.; and from Latin: *Christ is made the Sure Foundation; Of the Father's Love Begotten; Jerusalem the Golden and All Glory, Laud, and Honour*. The Hymn *O Happy Band of Pilgrims* is attributed to him.

Three famous carols illustrate Neale's varied qualities. In 1851 he translated from Latin *Veni, Veni, Emanuel* which became the well-known *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. The Latin words, which are conjectured to be derived from short sixth- or seventh-century verses called *The O Antiphons* used in the days before Christmas, can be traced back only as far as 1710, so there is no real evidence that they are from the medieval era. *Good King Wenceslas* is said by some to be a most peculiar blend of a delightful melody and horrible lyrics and *Good Christian Men Rejoice* is an adaptation of another leading carol: *In Dulci Jubilo*.

While Neale's translations have been almost universally accepted by the English Church, and some of them adopted by dissenting congregations, they caused a storm of indignation from Roman Catholics, who accused him of deliberate deception because he took no pains to point out that he had either softened down or entirely ignored Roman doctrines in those hymns.

Neale had a far more difficult task before him when he undertook translation of Greek hymns than he had with Latin. Since Greek hymns are in prose (metrical hymns are unknown) his Greek hymns are, indeed, adaptations rather than translations.

A commentator writes that John M. Neale's life is a study in contrasts: born into an evangelical home, he had sympathies toward Rome; in perpetual ill health, he was incredibly productive; of scholarly temperament, he devoted much time to improving social conditions in his area; often ignored or despised by his contemporaries, he is lauded today for his contributions to the church and hymnody. He is commemorated in the lectionary on 7th August each year.

Clifford Want

Smile Lines ...

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: 'Some of them are wise; some are otherwise.'



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When life goes wrong for us

Where is God when we are hurting? When we are sick or a loved one is sick, why doesn't God always answer our prayer for healing? If He has not answered us, how do we know that He is even there at all?

The words of Alister McGrath[†] are helpful: -

'Experience cannot be allowed to have the final word... the theology of the Cross draws our attention to the sheer unreliability of experience as a guide to the presence and activity of God. God is active and present in His world, quite independently of whether we experience Him as being so. Experience declared that God was absent from Calvary, only to have its verdict humiliatingly overturned on the third day.



So – where does that leave us? As with the Cross, it may be that our personal darkest hour may be also God's finest moment for us. It may be there that He does His greatest work in and for us, albeit unseen by us at the time. Thus, instead of letting circumstances consume us, we are to be consumed with God. To that end, we should pray without ceasing, trust in His sovereignty, and find comfort in His love and hope.'



[†] *Mystery of the Cross* (Zondervan, 1990)

On 6th November the Church remembers...

William Temple: Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.



Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

(Source: Parish Pump)

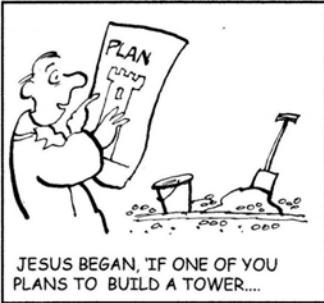
The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....



...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



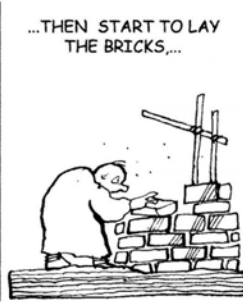
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day in November naturally turn our thoughts to death and what lies beyond...

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;
The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)



War and Peace

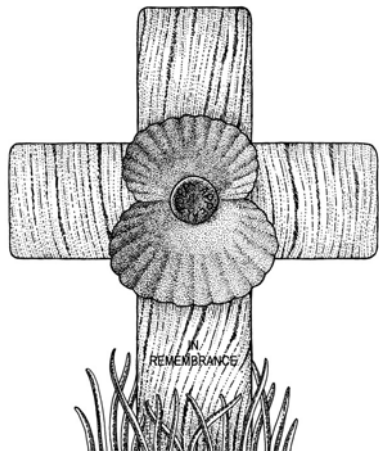
War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'

Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.

By Megan Carter



(Source; Parish Pump)



WE

WILL

REMEMBER

THEM

JESUS THE PRINCE OF PEACE



St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden Website:
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