

Parish News



St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

December 2020 - January 2021

FREE

Stop Press

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew appointed Team Rector

Jeremy Trew, currently the vicar of St Gregory's, Seaton and St Michael's, Beer in Devon, is to be our new Team Rector and Area Dean of Saffron Walden Deanery. He and his wife, Alison, will be moving to Saffron Walden in the spring.



Jeremy started life in Environmental Engineering and after ordination served his curacy in Leeds and then was the vicar of a group of parishes between Harrogate and York before moving to Devon. He is married to Alison, who trained as a biochemist and currently works for a charity promoting science teaching in primary schools. Their two daughters, Eleanor and Rachel are both at university, studying Architecture and Business respectively. Jeremy writes: -

'...I am very glad, and much energised, that the journey of these years, and this year in particular, has brought me to this place. ... My key interest in the churches I have served has been to respond to our changing times and challenges by creating, training and supporting a broad ministry of lay and ordained that serves not only the church community, but listens to the wider parish and responds faithfully as best as it is able. In my current post this has meant working across churches of varying traditions to enable what we cannot do ourselves, and supporting individuals and communities through the challenges of change. I have been ordained twenty-three years and cannot image anything I would rather be doing.

I hope that knowing that a new Team Rector is on their way will be an encouragement to you, just as knowing that I am moving to Saffron Walden is to me. Please be assured that your people - churches and communities - are in my prayers each day.'

With love and best wishes
Jeremy



The Trews: Jeremy, Alison, Rachel and Eleanor

You can read more of Jeremy's letter on our website.

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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 **February** issue is **Sunday 3rd Jan.**

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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: Arrival in Bethlehem
 Photograph by Falco for Pixabay
 Back Cover: Saffron Walden Fireworks 2018
 Photograph: Andy Colebrooke

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
CHURCHWARDENS:	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 Michael Lovegrove

Dear friends

The production schedule for this publication is such that I am writing this at the beginning of November. This is a difficult task as there is so much uncertainty about the future. The situation with regard to the pandemic changes almost daily and who knows where we will be by the end of January? We are waiting for a return to 'normal' whatever that may be. We are waiting for the time when we can meet together to sing our hymns of praise, we are waiting for a new Team Rector and we are waiting for the time when we can hug our grandchildren and so on.



Waiting is something that most of us are not very good at. At best we regard it as a time that could be better employed and at worst as an experience of growing impatience, anger or anxiety. Post after post does not bring the results of medical tests or a job application and that important email or text message fails to appear on our screens. Waiting can be a bitter word especially in an age when we had become accustomed to living by the clock.

But waiting is a holy word. The Old Testament is a 1000 year record of waiting for the coming of the Messiah and Advent (which this year begins on 29th November) is a celebration of waiting. In our churches a candle is lit on each Sunday in Advent. Week by week the light is coming into the world. A few days stand for centuries of waiting, as the light grows stronger until it reaches its climax with the fifth candle of Christmas.

The Old Testament also records pestilence and plague. In the book of Joel we read "I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten" (Joel 2.25). After the plague comes that gracious promise. No pestilence lasts forever and I pray that when it does pass we will have learnt important lessons from it.

For Christians, Advent is a season of preparation- not just preparing for family gatherings which may be severely restricted this year, nor the buying cards and presents- but preparing also for the glorious celebration of our Lord's coming into the world. So alongside our material preparations let us make some time for some spiritual preparations- perhaps by putting aside some time each day for prayer, reflection or meditation or by reading the bible.

Images of a stable will throng around us at Christmas as well as rival scenes of robins on post boxes and scenes bustling with stage coaches in the snow and houses will be lit with coloured lights. But what will be left for you

when the last turkey sandwich has been eaten and the decorations come down?

Don't misunderstand me. Christians should not be 'kill joys'. There's nothing wrong with having a good time at Christmas as far as current restrictions allow provided that the song of the angels is not drowned out by the noise of men.

'And man at war with man, hears not
The love song which they sing;
O hush the noise ye men of strife
And hear the Angels sing'

The Christmas song is a song to beat all songs, a song to deliver us from fear and to save those 'who sit in darkness and the shadow of death'.

I wish you all a prayerful Advent, a very happy Christmas and every blessing for the year 2021

With love,
Michael Lovegrove

From the Registers

Funerals

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

16 Oct. David Schooling

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



Baptisms

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

1 Nov. Raffael Oscar Dennis Head
Darcy Montgomery Seren Head



The Rev'd Tim Hardingham R.I.P.
Priest, Teacher, Father, Friend and Colleague



Many of you will know, by now, of the sad death of our friend, brother, husband and priest Tim Hardingham. Tim was a man of God, who loved the Lord; serving his community and church unceasingly. He was also a great teacher, a humanitarian and advocate for peace.

In my mind, Tim was a saint for the modern era. The dictionary tells us that a saint is 'a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and regarded in Christian faith as being in heaven after death.' That sums up Tim pretty well for me.

Informally, a saint is also 'a very virtuous, kind, or patient person.' Again, I think we can agree on this apt description of Tim.

I write this sitting in St Mary's, Wendens Ambo. Tim's spiritual home and the church in which he served. I am struck by the outpouring of love and affection from those who have come into the church today.

Tim leaves a legacy worth remembering. He has touched the lives of so many people; be it his congregation, his community or his pupils.

This legacy means that Tim will be with us forevermore, stirring our hearts to be more like him and more like Jesus in the future.

At the moment we are in shock and struck by the unfairness of it all. However, when the shock is over we will honour Tim. He would want us to continue to love one another and to grow in faith together.

Rev'd Alex Jeewan



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The Answer Lies in the Soil!

St Mary's Church have been awarded the ECO Church Bronze award for helping to preserve the environment in practical ways.

Recycling, twinning toilets to support sanitation in Africa and investing church savings in carbon free, ethical funds had their role to play, but much of our work during lockdown has been focused on encouraging biodiversity, pollinators and wildlife in the churchyard.

Eco Church is one way in which the church shows leadership in the world, but we have much more to do if we are to reach the General Synod's ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2030!

Our aim must be to transform lifestyles to something cleaner, more connected to nature and healthier. Biodiversity mustn't stop in our churchyards and gardens; it must extend to the food we buy and the sort of agriculture we choose to support.

Last month the UN summit on biodiversity called upon leaders to make a 10 point pledge. It included commitments to:

- Move towards a resource-efficient, circular economy, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches;
- Shift land use and agricultural policies away from environmentally harmful practices and promoting sustainable land and forest management to reduce habitat loss;
- Mainstream biodiversity into cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including food production, agriculture, fisheries, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries.

Sadly the US, Russia, Brazil and Australia did not sign up, and I question whether we should enter into trade deals with them until they do. Not least because our farmers need a level playing field.

Boris Johnson, however, took the pledge saying: *'The British Government is absolutely committed to tackling biodiversity loss.'* He called for *'ambitious goals and binding targetsNot just good intentions but real action.... Right now. We can't afford dither and delay.'*

We must hold him to that! We have a great opportunity in the Agriculture Bill to support Regenerative Agriculture and Permaculture, but it needs to include serious goals and targets on:

- soil health, carbon sequestration and water retention
- regenerating the micro-organic life in our increasingly barren soils
- closing the loop of massive food waste into compost returning organic matter to the soil.



continued on page 11...



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If you used to listen to Round the Horne in the sixties, you will remember Kenneth William's colourful rendition of Rambling Sid Rumpo with his constant refrain: 'The Answer Lies in the Soil!' We are about to discover that he was absolutely right!

Thanks to conventional farming practices, nearly half of the world's most productive soil has disappeared in the last 150 years. In the US alone, soil on cropland is eroding 10 times faster than it can be replenished. If we continue to degrade the soil at the rate we are now, the world could run out of topsoil in about 60 years, and with it our ability to filter water, absorb carbon, and feed people.

Our economic model of intensive tilling, synthetic fertilizers and pesticides have stripped the soil of the miraculous complexity of nutrients, minerals and micro-organisms that support healthy plant life. We lie at the heart of an agricultural community. Let's encourage the change here.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team leader

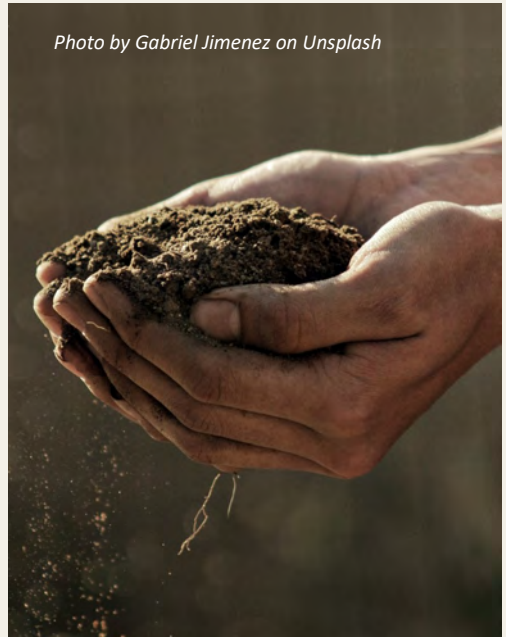


Photo by Gabriel Jimenez on Unsplash

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!





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St Mary's Music News

Last month I wrote that it is impossible to predict how the musical life of St Mary's would evolve during the remainder of 2020, but that it was certain that all the church musicians are determined to keep it going. The experiences of the last 4 weeks demonstrate this determination.

The choir in limited socially distanced form with 8 or so choristers has been singing in the regular Sunday morning services. Larger numbers provided the virtual music for Online Choral Evensong during the time of Covid at half term. This included the hymn Angel Voices, a psalm and Nunc Dimittis in G and Beati Quorum by Stanford. Meanwhile, the junior choir has participated in the Family service.

Soprano Lizzie Bennett explains what singing and worshipping in church has meant to her, and she speaks for many of us: -

'I have now been fortunate enough to sing at two Sunday services since the choir, in truncated format, was welcomed back to church, having been a last minute replacement on one occasion. The first and most overwhelming feeling has been pure joy at being able to sing live music with other people again. Zoom rehearsals have been great for keeping us in touch but, as our attempts to sing 'Happy birthday' to choir members as a massed, unmuted choir have proved, they don't give quite the same musical effect!

The biggest joy, however, has to be that for the first time in months we are able to worship in the way that, for me at least, is more natural and more meaningful than any other: hearing and feeling your voice combine with others is really a transcendent experience. I certainly miss the hymns and will be very glad to be able to sing with the congregation again, but we've all learned that there is no such thing as a small mercy these days: every tiny drop of normality is significant.

Musically, singing in a spaced out way has its challenges - you definitely feel rather exposed vocally as well as physically, and it's harder to get uniformity of tone and timing, especially given how few opportunities we've had to sing together for months (essentially 20 minutes on the morning in question). Fortunately the choir of St Mary's has never shied away from a challenge!

continued on page 15...

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I hope members of the congregation are aware of the huge amount of work that has been going on behind the scenes by Oli, Jeremy, Bron, Patrick, Peter and many others: everything from being 'the Zoom verger' and recording guide tracks to composing brand new music and juggling a hundred odd tracks to create one online service - not to mention keeping up morale and providing endless entertainment, some of it deliberate...

The fact that St Mary's - unlike so many other churches and cathedrals across the country - has been able to keep a weekly schedule throughout some of the darkest times many of us will have ever experienced is really quite remarkable. Being back in church to sing is a cause for great celebration but I do wonder if we would still have a choir if it hadn't been for the substantial efforts made by so many of the church's musicians throughout the last eight months.'

The first (socially distanced of course) meeting since March of the full adult choir in St Mary's took place on 30 October, to record music for the All Souls' service on 1 November. The service opened with Ralph Vaughan Williams' Organ Prelude on Rhosymedre, the motet was Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, and concluded with Richard Rodger's voluntary on You'll Never Walk Alone. Despite the absence of a congregation, there were 2 hymns, The Lord's My Shepherd and Amazing Grace. Of course, a simple list of the music does not do justice to the experience. This is the feedback from some of the choristers, readers and clergy attending the service. The word most often used by participants was 'moving'. Other comments include 'I felt a strong sense of unity within the choir family'. 'The sound and atmosphere were thrilling. Very emotional.' 'It seemed fitting for this first gathering for many months to be one that focused on loss and hope'. 'It was a true joy, despite the sadness, to be part of a big living breathing choir again'.

Now that we are again in lockdown till the beginning of December, the future of music during this period for regular services, as well as for special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and Carol Services is awaiting clarification. At the time of writing, all we know is that 'Places of Worship will be closed, unless being used for [among other important activities] broadcast acts of worship', which is happily quite a bit less restrictive than in the spring. However these new rules develop, I remain confident that the church musicians, under Oli's leadership, will continue to serve St Mary's to the best of their ability.

Ottilie Lefever.

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Prayer for December and January

provided by the Prayer Team

Jesus, new-born child of all time,
We greet your birth with wide-eyed delight.
You are precious beyond words
for our world needs your presence more than ever.
Let the angels' promise of your good news
offering joy and peace to all the world
be heard by those who lead and guide.
Let kings bow down and all creation greet this holy
moment
as we seek to grasp its magnitude.
For you are God's gift
silently delivered to every human heart.



"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day ... any suggestions?"





Calendar for December 2020

This calendar is provisional and subject to change with government restrictions, see The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Most services, except family services, are broadcast on YouTube [Y] and some on Zoom [Z] - details from the website. If congregations are allowed in church, compliance with physical distancing is likely to cap the number we can safely have at any one service. Please reserve a place via the church website or contact the Parish Office by leaving 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.

Sunday 6 December (Advent 2)

- 8am Holy Communion (1662) [Y]
- 4 pm Christingle Service [Y] - no congregation in church
- 6.30pm Advent Carol Service [Y] - no congregation in church

Sunday 13 December (Advent 3)

- 10am Holy Communion [YZ]

Sunday 20 December (Advent 4)

- 10am Holy Communion [YZ]
- 6.30pm Carol Service [Y] - no congregation in church

Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

- 4pm Christmas Tree Service [Y] - no congregation in church

Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)

- 10am Family Communion [YZ]

Sunday 27 December (Christmas 1)

- 10am Holy Communion [Y] - no congregation in church

St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 13 December (Advent 3)

- 11.15am Family Service

Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)

- 11.15am Family Service

St James', Sewards End

Sunday 13 December (Advent 3)

- 9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

- 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)

- 9.30am Family Communion

Calendar for January 2021

This calendar is provisional and subject to change with government restrictions, see The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Sunday 3 January (Christmas 2)

8am Holy Communion (1662) [Y]

Sunday 10 January (Epiphany)

10am Holy Communion [YZ]

Sunday 17 January (Epiphany 2)

10am Family Service

Sunday 24 January (Epiphany 3)

10am Holy Communion [YZ]

Sunday 31 January (Epiphany 4)

10am Holy Communion - Candlemas [YZ]

6.30pm Epiphany Carol Service [Y] - no congregation in church

St James', Sewards End

Sunday 10 January (Epiphany)

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 January (Epiphany 3)

9.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 10 January (Epiphany)

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 24 January (Epiphany 3)

11.15am Holy Communion



Streamed weekday services - December and January

See weekly email for sign in details.

Tuesdays

5pm Zoom Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

9.30am Zoom Holy Communion

YOUinthe**PEW**

interviewed by Chris Bishop

Steve Hasler

Steve was born in Barnet in north London. His father was a railway signalman on the main line from Kings Cross to Edinburgh and his mother was a book-keeper. He was, in his words, lucky to live within the catchment of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar in Barnet where an inspirational chemistry teacher gave Steve a love for the subject, which he went on to study at Oxford University.

While growing up, Steve attended Sunday School at Christ Church Barnet but was lured away from church in his teens by Sunday morning football. However, what he heard and learnt came back into mind when he met Judith at Oxford and when their children were baptised in the 1980s.

On leaving University, Steve joined Beecham Pharmaceuticals in Worthing and his job moved the family around the country including a six-year spell in Scotland. It was his job that brought Steve to Saffron Walden when the company moved him to Harlow from Burgh Heath near Epsom. The family had a large choice of places to live within commuting distance of Harlow. Saffron Walden stood out as an attractive town with good schooling and they fell in love quickly with the house they purchased in Swards End.

With young children, 6 and 8, finding a friendly church was important and living in Swards End offered the mix of St James with its small, easy to get to know congregation with a few young families and the more formal atmosphere of St Mary's. Steve transferred to worship solely at St Mary's in 2011 when David Tomlinson asked him if he'd be a churchwarden. To this day Steve has no idea if St James got any sort of transfer fee or if St James paid St Mary's to take him off their hands!

It was a great privilege and an exciting time to be a churchwarden alongside David Tomlinson, especially with all the improvements to the building that were progressed in that time. In addition, certain events held in the church, notably the Saffron Walden Choral Society concert for the Cultural Olympiad in March 2010 and the annual Spirit of Christmas schools' concerts, really stood out.

Having run Front of House for the Choral Society at their concerts in church from about 2005, Steve was asked to be the Front of House Manager for the very first public concert in Saffron Hall in early November 2013. This was a test event



to check out all the systems before the Hall opened officially one month later. Steve is now the Front of House Manager at Saffron Hall responsible for a team of 6 Duty Managers and about 80 volunteer stewards. He was sure that the opening of Saffron Hall is one of the most significant events in his time in the area.

As we know Steve likes to get things done and so his personal motto, if he had one would be something along the lines of 'Pray, Plan, Do, Review, Pray....'

Archive Group findings...

December 1940

Dear Parishioners

The extension of 'Summer time' throughout the Winter and the consequent black-out encroachments have not made the arrangement of Church Services any easier. We have been compelled to put Evensong at 3pm and from December 1st the early Communion on Sunday's and Weekday must be at 8.30 till further notice. I know how inconvenient these hours are to most people but there seems no alternative. Christmas Services will be particularly difficult unless the Archbishop succeeds in obtaining from the Government some relaxation of the regulations for that day as he obtained last year.....We are still trying to provide interesting and instructive Sunday evenings, in the Parish Room, at 6.30.... We hope from time to time, with the assistance of many helpers to utilise the lantern, vocal and instrumental music, lectures, discussions, instructions on the Church and Bible - all well within the compass of an hour and so generally to use for our mental and spiritual health the things which Mr Hitler intended for our falling.

Yours sincerely

L. Hughes

Waifs' and Strays'

Holders of collecting boxes for the Waifs' and Strays' Society are asked to send them before December 8th to the Hon. Local Secretary, 66 Debden Road. A.G

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Paddy McKeown



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Memories by Lady Perina Braybrooke

This is another article that might amuse you, anyway I hope so. I am always worried that anything I write might appear to be slightly pretentious, but if it seems so I am sure you will forgive me. I thought that some of the events during our lives when Robin was Lord Lieutenant for Essex might be worth writing about, although it all seems so long ago now and I am not too good at remembering.

Robin Braybrooke and I married in October 1998 and we had a merry wedding lunch in The Eight Bells in Saffron Walden when my three children and most of his came. A kind friend ferried us all there and back to Abbey House in his Land Rover so that everyone was able to drink as much as they pleased. A few days after this I had to go with Robin on my first royal visit – The Lord Lieutenant of the county always had to meet and attend any royal person who visits his county and to introduce them to the appropriate people who have done something good, perhaps for a charity, or played a part in the running of the county. On this occasion we had to get up very early while it was still dark as we had to drive right to the south of Essex. So, sleepily we quickly dressed, had breakfast and set off for Grays. After a few minutes, I happened to look at my feet and saw to my dismay that on my left foot was a black shoe and on my right a shoe of a different colour. I expect most of the guests that day thought how extraordinary it was that the wife of the Lord Lieutenant was so badly dressed – but I don't suppose the Royal person (I think he was the Duke of Gloucester) even noticed.

The following year, the Mayor of Brentwood gave an enormous dinner for some hundreds of people. We sat down at tables for ten and I was placed next to the mayor who was charming and very easy to talk to. However, when the main course was served, I saw coming round rather over-cooked steaks so huge they completely covered the plates on which they sat. I'm afraid I simply could not eat mine, so I asked the nice mayor if I could possibly have a doggy bag. Robin, sitting opposite, looked far from pleased and was probably wondering what on earth I was going to say next. When my steak was brought to me, beautifully wrapped in foil, there appeared to be about forty other steaks as well. So, when we got home, into the freezer they went and Robin's Labrador, Bruce, had steak dinners for a long time.

A few weeks after this we went to a charity lunch in Chelmsford. The same mayor came up to me and enquired how all our Labradors were getting on eating his lovely steak. I replied that we only had one Labrador and he was enjoying his dinners very much. This wasn't particularly funny but the mayor thought it was as he had seen how many steaks I had taken away. He laughed

continued on page 25...

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and laughed and then to my horror he collapsed onto the floor. The Bishop of Chelmsford, who was standing nearby, said to me as we tried to help him "I'm afraid he's a goner Perina". However, the Air Ambulance was called and he was taken away to hospital where, thank goodness, he quickly recovered. Robin was making a speech in another part of the room and so knew nothing of the drama, but I was dreadfully shocked.

When the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited Southend, everything was of course extremely grand and perhaps a little pompous. The lunch that was given for them started off by being slightly sticky, but Robin, who was sitting next to Her Majesty, made her laugh, and lightened the atmosphere considerably. On the way to the lunch the Royal couple were driven along the esplanade by horse and carriage and we followed very slowly by car. As the carriage went by, one of the horses made a large deposit in the middle of the road into which, to our great amusement, someone had stuck an EU flag. I wonder if Robin told Her Majesty about this at the lunch; I rather think not.

Lady Perina Braybrooke

More memories in February...





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.

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Journeys or lockdown this Christmas?

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus has put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Soon we may not be travelling anywhere very much at all.

Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from

Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus.

After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that Someone special is waiting at the end of their journey.

All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way.

These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging.

If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded.

We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home.



Clifford Want continues his series on Hymn writers

Lord, for the years, thy love has kept and guided

by Rt Rev'd Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

Timothy Dudley-Smith OBE is a hymnwriter and retired Bishop of Thetford. Born on Boxing Day to Phyllis and Arthur Dudley-Smith, a school-teacher, his father died when Timothy was eleven. He said, "The extraordinary thing was that soon after my father's death someone at a family tea party said to me, 'What are you going to be when you grow up?' I found myself replying, 'I'm going to be a parson. It was the first I knew of it myself!'"

He attended Tonbridge School, before studying maths and then theology at Pembroke College, Cambridge. After graduating in 1947, Dudley-Smith began ordination training at Ridley Hall. He was ordained deacon in 1950 and priest in 1951.

After ordination, he served in various roles for the Cambridge University Mission in Bermondsey, the Evangelical Alliance, *Crusade* magazine and the Church Pastoral Aid Society. He was Archdeacon of Norwich before becoming Bishop of Thetford.

He was married to Arlette Macdonald in 1959 until her death in 2007; they had one son and two daughters.

Dudley-Smith is a member and honorary vice-president of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland; he has also been awarded fellowships from the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and the Royal School of Church Music. In 2003, he was awarded his OBE "for services to hymnody". In July 2009 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Durham University.

He has written about 400 hundred hymns. He has said, "Many people learn more theology from hymns than from anywhere else. They stay in the memory ... I think, for many people, the hymn offers the chance to express emotions which are in their hearts, but which they would find difficulty in articulating themselves."



Some hymns make him cringe, “I cringe when people rhyme ‘sin’ with ‘king’, at undue repetition and banal phraseology and when hymns contain doctrinal ideas with which I do not agree.” He says, “I find you have to be prepared for two lines from a couple of hours’ work – and on subsequent review to scrap them!”

The collaboration of Timothy Dudley-Smith with Michael Baughen gives us “*Lord of the years*” where the music works to strengthen the words. This text has been acclaimed as one of the 20th century’s finest hymns: second only to his first hymn ‘*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*’ in popularity, written as a metrical version of the Magnificat when the New English Bible was published. “*Lord of the years*” is a ‘special occasion’ hymn which has proved, as intended, to be much more widely useful. Its immediate origin was the centenary of the Children’s Special Service Mission founded in 1867. He hurriedly put the five verses together on a train.

It is said that there is a sense of the God of the Old Testament, timeless and with his people throughout the ages. There is a sense of the Holy Spirit, with God from the beginning and still speaking to people’s hearts. There is a sense of Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, who is disowned and doubted, but who now reigns as King. There is a sense of the world that God so loves, a sense of people who are actually trapped by the materialism they have embraced. There is a sense of moving forward to the future God has for us. Timothy Dudley-Smith challenges us to make God the “Lord of our lives” and “to live for Christ alone”.

Clifford Want, with acknowledgments to the Internet

Smile Lines ...

Doctor, Doctor

A man was seen fleeing down the hall of the hospital just before his operation.

‘What’s the matter?’ he was asked.

He said, ‘I heard the nurse say, “It’s a very simple operation, don’t worry, I’m sure it will be all right.”’

‘She was just trying to comfort you, what’s so frightening about that?’

‘She wasn’t talking to me. She was talking to the doctor!’



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Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

*Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings*



As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
A fresh.
Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)





SAFFRON WALDEN

An Update on Saffron Walden Street Pastors

Our last Friday night patrol took place on Friday 6th March 2020, just before the lockdown.

In October 2019 we hosted an evening in the Town Hall where we considered the possibility of beginning daytime patrols but felt we did not have the capacity to do evening and daytime patrols. However, the COVID-19 situation changed many things, including the way we do Street Pastors in Saffron Walden! The trustees considered carefully what our next step should be and so on Friday 26th June 2020 we had a trial daytime patrol with 2 Street Pastors.

During July, August and September we had 6 Street pastors who were able to patrol so we formed 3 teams of 2 Street Pastors. As SP teams of 2 we patrolled on different days and at different times each week depending on each team's availability. During these sessions we met people in the Market Square, on the Common and in the streets in the centre of town. When the pubs opened we also reconnected with those we had had regular contact with before the lockdown and other establishments that were open on a Friday night. We received a good reception from those we met and were able to talk with a number of people.

In September we decided to formally continue the daytime patrols and to adopt a more chaplaincy style role. To be a presence in town and to be there for those working in the shops and businesses at these testing times. We currently have 4 teams of 2 and so are able to go out on a weekly basis.

During the first week in October we visited shops in King St. introducing ourselves, finding out how things are going for them and giving them a gift bag of chocolates with our Street Pastor information card attached. The shops we visited were very appreciative but also thankful that people were there for them. A couple of shops said that they had a number of people who visited them who needed to talk and they would appreciate having someone they can talk to.

We met people who were wanting to talk and we met someone who wanted to go to church and we were able to signpost them to the churches in town. The person attended a church in town on the following Sunday.

The Town Council and Saffron Walden Business Community (BID) are aware of what we are doing and we received an encouraging email from the Town Clerk.

If anyone from your church community would be interested in finding out more about daytime Street Pastor patrols we would love to talk further. They can also come out as an Observer to see what we do at first hand.

We continue to receive prayer support from our team of Prayer Pastors who pray for us from their homes. We are extremely thankful for their support as prayer is so vital! If anyone from your church family would like to pray whilst we are in town or to remember us in prayer in the morning, again please do get in touch.

With love & blessings,

Joy Burton

on behalf of SW Street Pastors

Email: saffronwalden@streetpastors.org.uk



Gardening Notes

It's now November, and definitely Autumnal weather: time to prepare for winter, to ensure that your seasonal precautions are in place. My last lawn cut is planned to be in the next fortnight - a rather higher cut than so far as a precaution against an early frost with resultant root damage. The greenhouse has had a clean, shading removed, trays washed and stacked though I leave a six foot tray on each of the two stages for winter use. I've two pots of Agapanthus overwintering, and some Nerini which will go into a flower bed very shortly: five other large pots are prepared and ready for my ordered hyacinths and dwarf tulips, with a large potted clematis pruned right down and covered with a smaller pot to keep it really snug for its winter sleep.

I had my last picking of runner beans at October's end and although about half were rejected the remainder cooked and tasted very well. Now the garden canes have all to be roughly cleaned and stored on the rack in the roof of the shed.

Back in May I decided to transfer the herbs from the ground to large pots: I'm sure you know just how rampant mint and sage can be. Unfortunately this hasn't been successful so for the poorly ones I shall take cuttings and restart them in the greenhouse and at the same time replot the parent plants - ensuring proper drainage of course!

Charles White



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."



O Come let us adore Him

Joy to the
World

...the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing.

Parish News
wishes its readers a
Happy, Peaceful
and Healthy
2021



St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden Website:
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org