

Parish News

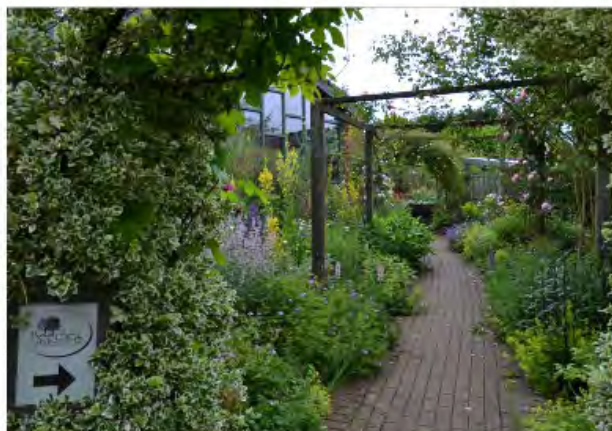


June 2021

FREE

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden
St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End
Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

Ashdon Open Gardens



Proceeds to All Saints Church, Ashdon
Tickets - £5 per adult, Children FREE
Refreshments and Lunches available

Sunday 13th June 2021
11am - 5pm

*Tickets from 'The Cart' in the centre of the village on the bridge - CB10 2ET
and All Saints Church Rooms in Church Lane*

Contents for June 2021

THE RECTOR'S LETTER	4
NOTICEBOARD	
Ashdon Open Gardens	2
From the Registers	5
New Sidesmen and Welcomers	9
Calendar	16
News from the 'Daughters'	17
Congratulations Rachel!	19
An invitation from Margaret	19
From the editor	30
REPORTS	
St Mary's Music News	23
FEATURES	
Archive Group: June 1890	6
A Message from Paula Griffiths	8
The Gospel and Technology (part 2)	11
What is Cop 26 and why does it matter?	13
Prayer for the month	17
Wonders of the Living World	21
You in the Pew	27
Gelio	28
The Ancient Church	29
God in the Arts	30

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **July** issue is **Sunday 6th June**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon
email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024

Editor: Andy Colebrooke
01799 732970

Advertising: Gillian Brace
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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: Ely photographed by
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:	The Rev'd Jeremy Trew; 01799 500947
ASSISTANT CURATE:	The Rev'd Rachel Prior ; 01799 500047
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)

© 2021

All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

The phone rings: Another enquiry about a wedding. It's the mother of the bride. Can they book a certain date for the autumn? I'll oblige if I can, but this time I can't, the date is already spoken for. 'But,' the bride's mother insists, 'he's a very important person.' So, I ask; 'What makes him important?' She's stumped. I'm not sure why, it's a simple question.



I hope she will answer that he is important to her because he loves her daughter enough to want to spend the rest of his life with her, to support her through the best and worst that life can bring. That would be an excellent answer. I would do whatever I could to help this couple be married. But it's not the answer I get.

Maybe she could appeal to my role as a minister of the church: He is important because of his selfless lifestyle; he gives freely to charity; does voluntary work in his spare time; even goes to church (steady on now!). Being a Christian may be about a lot more than simply being good but being good is not a bad start. No, even if he does do these things, they are apparently not what make him important.

Go on then I will her silently, appeal to my selfish nature, to those things important to me: Does he empty my bins or provide me with clean drinking water? Does he teach youngsters such as my own, drawing out of them talents locked deep inside, or is he waiting at the hospital to offer treatment if one of us should be hurt? I'm afraid not. His importance apparently supersedes even my self-centred wants.

Apparently, his importance is directly proportional to his income. His income is very large. Thus, he is very important. I can see the merits of such a system in terms of sheer simplicity, but in all other respects I think it's somewhat lacking. He may be wealthy. That may mean he is powerful. But does that make him important? According to many people it does. Even in Jesus' day wealth and power were seen as signs of God's blessing and importance and the same is often true today. Even the Church can often fall for this lie and pay greater heed to those with the loudest voice and fattest wallet. When some of his disciples argued about who was the most important Jesus brought a child into the centre of their argument and bid them be like the child. A child in that society had no rights, no intrinsic value, only a

potential value if they survived to adulthood and, of course, the inestimable value which might be placed in them by their parents. If a child were valued at all they were valued unconditionally. That is the value God places on us; a limitless, unconditional value. To value ourselves on any other basis is to sell ourselves short.

The problem was not that this woman overvalued her future son-in-law, but that she undervalued him. Also, she should have rung when I wasn't in such a cantankerous mood!

Warmest wishes
Jeremy



From the Registers

Funerals

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

6 April	David Lunt
12 April	David Keen
13 April	Hilary Parry-Jones
16 April	Jean Harmer

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



Archive Group findings...

June 1890



General Notes

During this month two days of special interest to the people occur, viz, the anniversaries of Her Majesty's Accession on Friday, June 20th, and Her Coronation on Saturday, June 28th (Editor.note.1838). On the latter day there is to be a great constitutional demonstration at the Crystal Palace, and it has been suggested that either or both of those days might be observed by some special Services, and opportunities for rejoicing. Such an observance of them would be welcomed as a means of showing affection for the Queen and Royal Family, and as a protest against any tendency to disloyalty.

More subscriptions are wanted for the Essex Clergy Charity. From 60 to 70 cases are helped each year, and it is impossible to overstate the gratitude almost invariably expressed even for small grants. How sorely this Charity is needed, is shown by the number of distrest applicants, among whom have been the following; a widow over 80 years old, has no other pension than an annuity of £13; another equally aged had no certain income except from such charities as this; the orphan children of a Clergyman, have only £9 a year each, not 4s each a week, or about 6d. per day! Donations or annual subscriptions of the smallest amount will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

Heydon

As St Peter's Day falls this year on a Sunday, it is proposed to hold our Festival on the Tuesday following, June 1. The Rev. R.P Pelly, Vicar of Saffron Walden, will be the preacher . One very unsatisfactory part of the festival has always been the small attendance of the parishioners at the Service: it will be better perhaps to have simply a service in the evening, and do away with the social enjoyment afterwards, than continue them both as hitherto, unless it can be understood that the best way to enjoy a holiday is to begin it by prayer and praise to God.

St Mary's Mission Room

We are glad to notice an improvement in the Congregations here, and more heartiness in the Responses. On Sunday afternoon, May 11, after the Service the Rector distributed prizes of Books to the Sunday Scholars, who, although the School has not been opened during the winter as often as he had expected, have been on the whole fairly diligent in attendance. The lads seem anxious to get some Cricket things: well, those things perhaps will come, if they learn all of them to be respectful and well behaved. There is an old saying that "Civility costs nothing": and we may add that "Civility often gains a good deal."

Wendons Ambo

The church looked very pretty with the Whitsuntide decorations: many of the poor kindly sending flowers. The Services were well attended throughout the day, although so many are holiday making about this time.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

Planning an Event or Celebration?

Friar Tucks



CATERING EQUIPMENT HIRE

can supply crockery, cutlery,
glasses, linen and lots more!

Call us on

01245 231819

to request a brochure, or visit our Showroom.
We offer delivery, washing up and table laying services

www.friar-tucks.co.uk

**Friars Grange, Keers Green,
Aythorpe Roding, Gt Dunmow CM6 1PG**

A Message from Paula

It seems no time at all since I joined the Saffron Walden clergy team as a raw (though not exactly young) curate in September 2009, freshly ordained as a deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral. But the years have flashed by – and at the end of June I reach retirement.

After serving my curacy at St Mary's, with David Tomlinson as my training incumbent, my ministry continued in Little Walden and later concentrated in Hadstock, though I've always kept links to St Mary's as part of the clergy team taking the Wednesday 9.30 am Communion – and, before COVID, taking Sunday morning 8 o'clocks and Evensongs too.

I'm not disappearing for ever! I hope the Bishop will grant me what's called Permission to Officiate, so I can join the group of retired clergy. But I shall be taking a complete break for six months, and Roger and I are hoping to have some time away.

How do I sum up this time? Here are a few reflections and memories of St Mary's.

The overwhelming and lasting impression is of the privilege of leading worship and sharing it with all of you in such a magnificent building which itself speaks of the wonder and beauty of God. But the stones alone don't create that sense of wonder and spiritual light – though they can help. Every time you enter a church building, you can tell whether it is loved, cared for, and prayed in. St Mary's is suffused in prayer - even despite months of lockdown.

To ex-Londoners like us, Saffron Walden is an eye-opener of a town: friendly; open; relaxed; can-do; with a strong community. It's not perfect, and we all know the pressures on the place at present. But it has something very special. As I became part of St Mary's, I quickly realised how crucial the church community is to that. Christian people living out their lives working in schools or shops or businesses, bringing up families, participating in the many voluntary organisations and societies, or simply chatting in the Market Square, bring their faith and care for others into everyday life to create an atmosphere which can be contagious in the best possible way. Keep that going; never underestimate what a positive effect it has.

It would be impossible to bring out all the highlights, but perhaps one abiding memory symbolises a lot about St Mary's. In 2011 we celebrated 400 years of the King James Bible with a Bible Reading Marathon, which David asked me to organise. Well over a hundred of you, and others from the area,



joined in reading the entire Bible in 10 minute slots from Genesis to Revelation. It took us from Monday morning to Sunday evening; all ages joining in, ready to tackle whatever passage was next and reading with delight and enthusiasm. And always there was someone else there supporting the reader – often several. We planned one session going right through the night. Several times I came into the church – and worried about the gaps still remaining on the rota in the early hours of the morning. And then I came in to find that they had **all** been filled. St Mary's people had risen to the challenge again!

Thank you for your support and friendship and for being yourselves over these years. God bless, go well – and see you again soon!

Paula Griffiths

New Sidesmen/Welcomers

As we will soon have our regular services in Church again we are looking to recruit some new Sidesmen/Welcomers to our teams. If you have previously been on a **Regular Sunday Team** then you will have been contacted by Gill and those of you who feel able to return will already have contacted her, **thank you**. Gill has persuaded me to take on the co-ordinator role and she will pass all your replies on to me so don't worry about having to duplicate them.

We already know that some of the teams will be short of help so we are asking you to consider joining. The rota means that you will only be on duty one week a month and always the same week so planning your busy diaries will be simpler. The tasks are not onerous and it is a great opportunity to see and greet everyone.

We also need to update and add to our list of available **Special Services Welcomers**. If you would like to be added to just this list or to both could you please let me know as you will be more than welcome. Requests for help for each Special Service will be sent out well in advance for diary planning. This is an exciting time for us at St Mary's as we prepare to really open our doors again and get back into the full swing of Church life that we have all missed so much. This is an opportunity to show our new Rector how we all work together as one big team.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Contact the Parish Office: 01799 506024 or office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Pamela Mugliston

Welcome Teams Co-ordinator

Rothwell's
Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

**Carpet Cleaning &
Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs**

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean
more cleaning & drying power
for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell
for expert help today.*

01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz



Mens Day Wear
Formal Hire
Personal Tailoring
School Uniform

01799 522159
Info@graypalmer.co.uk
www.graypalmer.co.uk

47 High Street
Saffron Walden
Essex, CB10 1AR

R FISHER & SON

Est. 1959

**Chimney
Sweep**

All aspects of chimney work

Master member N.A.C.S.
HETAS regd.

www.chimneys.demon.co.uk

01763 838360

Come and visit our brand new showroom to discover an
extensive collection of quality flooring, beds and furniture.



Image: Sella style by Alternative Flooring

B&R
CARPETS & FURNITURE

Monday to Saturday 9 - 5
8 Station Street
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 3HE
01799 522328
www.bandrcarpets.com



The Gospel and Technology (Part 2)

Last month, I highlighted the importance of Gutenberg's invention of the printing press to the Reformation. This month's subject is the early development of the missionary movement.

The modern missionary movement from Britain began with the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. William Carey, a shoemaker from Northampton was the driving force and is often described as "The father of modern mission". In the early days, technology provided Carey and his fellow missionaries with an income by running a printing business. Carey spent 41 years learning Indian languages and translating the bible. The early missionaries concentrated on language learning, translation and providing education. Serampore College, near Calcutta, was founded by Carey and continues today as a Christian college with more than 2,000 students.

The Church Mission Society (CMS) followed in 1799. Its founders, including William Wilberforce, were drawn together by John Venn, rector of Clapham. His grandson, also John Venn, invented the diagram which bears his name.

The second wave followed some 50 years later, with newer societies working further inland. In India, this expansion was helped by the rapid growth of the railways where, by 1867, there were more than 4,000 miles of routes. Medical science was developing and soon became an integral part of missionary work. The Zenana Mission (now Interserve) began in 1852, and sent the first women doctors to India, specifically to treat Indian women. Earlier, Dr David Livingstone had joined the London Missionary Society as a missionary doctor. In Africa, he studied malaria and identified the value of quinine as a treatment. He also published his theory on mosquitos as the source of malaria.

Western missionaries have often been portrayed as an arm of colonialism but Livingstone bitterly opposed the slave traders and his commitment to African people was unwavering. He is still commemorated in Blantyre (business capital of Malawi, named after Livingstone's birthplace) and Livingstone, Zambia.

The industrial revolution had begun with agricultural and manufacturing innovations. The so-called "soft" technologies, such as communications, came later. The telegraph (1844), the telephone (1876) and radio (1896). These all aided the administration of missionary work but only in the 20C did they become strategic tools in spreading the gospel. An almost forgotten footnote to history is the first message tapped out in morse code in 1844: "*What hath God wrought?*" Numbers 23:23 (King James version)

Next month I will describe the development of radio and television, particularly in the Middle East.

Ian Sutherland



SAFFRON

Launderers & Dry Cleaners

We specialise in the following areas:

Dry Cleaning

Personal Domestic Laundry

Linen Rental

Wedding Dress Cleaning

Occasional Table Linen Hire

Repairs & Alterations.

13-17 Gold Street
Saffron Walden
Tel: 01799 522588

9 Snowley Parade
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 652128

15 The Traverse
Bury St Edmunds
Tel: 01284 724077

www.saffronlaundry.com



What is COP 26 and why does it matter?

COP is the 'Conference of the Parties' and the 2021 meeting in Glasgow this November will be the 26th meeting. They started following a UN treaty agreed in 1994.

We are all aware of the Paris Agreement in 2015, COP 21, at which countries agreed to try to keep global warming down to 2°C. They then set up a commission to look at whether 1.5°C would make a significant difference, which of course it does. Massively.

Think of global temperature in the way you think about your own body. A one degree rise above 37°C and you feel sweaty and uncomfortable; at 39° you'd go to bed; at 40° you'd call the doctor. The Arctic has already risen by 6°C. We are at serious risk of becoming a hospital case!

At the last conference in Madrid each nation agreed to devise a plan to cut their carbon emissions, committing to 'Nationally Determined Contributions'. The hope is that these specific and measured contributions will replace the vague promises and commitments of previous conferences and be something that can be fed into climate models to see if they have a chance of delivering net zero by 2050 and just 1.5°C of warming.

Sadly, however, a study this year concluded that the rates of emissions reductions need to increase by 80% *beyond* NDCs to meet the 2°C upper target range of the Paris Agreement, and that the probabilities of major emitters meeting their NDCs is very low, estimating that with current trends the probability of staying below 2°C of warming is only 5%, which leaves us on a swift course to catastrophe.

To have a chance of surviving on this planet we are going to need to change more than our boilers, cars and holidays. We need fundamental changes in global economics and politics.

A frequent area of contention is between the developed and developing countries. Europe and America have had the benefit of 250 years of fossil fuels. Coal, oil and gas have transformed our lives and raised our standards of living. Developing countries are still have a long way to catch up and don't have the resources to invest in clean energy technology. How much help are developed



Photo by Chris LeBoutillier from Pexels

countries prepared to give them? Cutting our own overseas aid budget is not going to help.

Meanwhile China, which as a 'developing country' at COP 21, was exempt from the commitments of Europe and America, stated in January that it planned to peak its emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2060. This is a massive step forward, especially if they under-promise and over-deliver, as they often do.

It is worth bearing in mind that we have outsourced many of our emissions to China. Our politicians often claim that we are leading the world and quote 40% as our reduction in emissions. Switching from coal to gas made a big difference, but if we count the carbon embedded in all our imports from China, our reduction is a mere 15%. We still need to get our own house in order!

The UK government declared 2020 a "Year of Climate Action" and has recently committed to slash emissions by 78% by 2035. Even more impressively, this figure includes international aviation and shipping. This is an impressive and welcome ambition, and I can't wait to see what measures are going to be proposed to achieve it!

Setting a target of 2030 for the banning of fossil fuel car manufacture shows how, at no expense to the tax payer, a new industry can be stimulated. All businesses want is a level playing field and such legal action gives them that.

Boris Johnson has said he wanted fighting climate change to be one of his government's biggest priorities and in November launched a 'ten point plan for a green industrial revolution' with £12 billion to support it over the next 10 years.

Meanwhile our global emissions continue to rise. From 5 billion tonnes in 1950, 18 billion in 1980, 23 billion in 2000 and 33 billion in 2020. We are still heading in the wrong direction.

COP 26 in Glasgow really is the 'make or break' conference that will determine humanity's survival.

Edward Gildea
Church Eco Team Leader

NICK SHUTES PAINTING AND DECORATING LTD

High quality interior and
exterior redecoration

All woodwork repairs and
replacements including
fascias, soffits and cladding

**01799 542385 or
07885 778213**

www.nickshutesdecorating.co.uk



Kristina Coleman
ARCM

Piano Lessons

Close to Saffron Walden
Town Centre

Children (7+) and Adults

All levels from beginners to
Grade VIII Royal Schools of
Music

Telephone:
01799 526977



Email:
colemansafwalden@aol.com

Ross Nursing Services Ltd.

We are a Clavering based, family owned and run care company that has been running for 20 years. We maintain the highest level of care and support for all our clients by continually monitoring standards and ensuring that all individual needs are met.



We value clients' dignity, independence, privacy, choice and rights

What you can expect from us:

- Well trained, well presented carers who undertake continuous training.
- Carers with DBS checks and good references.
- A close working relationship with local GPs, District Nurses and other Health and Social Care professionals.
- We continually monitor our services using Quality Assurance surveys.
- We can deliver all aspects of personal care, palliative care, specialist respiratory care and other specialist care needs. We also accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP and we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household tasks.

For further information please contact Ros Darton on **01799 551046**

Calendar for June 2021

This calendar is provisional and subject to change with government restrictions, see The Grapevine, the church website or weekly bulletin from Parish Office for the latest information and login details and for services streamed from village churches.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

One service each Sunday is streamed on YouTube [Y] and some on Zoom [Z] - details from the website. Restricted pre-booked congregations can currently be accommodated in church [C] for some services under compliance with current restrictions - see website or contact Parish Office. The church is currently open for private prayer 2pm - 4pm on Sundays and Wednesdays

Thursday 3 June **Corpus Christi**

1pm Service of Prayer for Wholeness and Healing [C]
8pm Solemn Eucharist for Corpus Christi [C]

Sunday 6 June

8am BCP Holy Communion [C]
10am Holy Communion with Baptism [C] [Y] [Z]
6.30pm H2H Youth-led Service for All [C]

Sunday 13 June

8am BCP Holy Communion [C]
10am Holy Communion [C] [Y] [Z]

Sunday 20 June

8am BCP Holy Communion [C] [Y]
10am Family Service [C]

Sunday 27 June

8am BCP Holy Communion [C]
10am Holy Communion [C] [Y] [Z]



Regular streamed weekday services -

See weekly bulletin for sign in details.

Tuesdays

5pm Evening Prayer [Z]

Wednesdays

9.30am Holy Communion [Z]

St James', Swards End

Sunday 13 June

9.30am Holy Communion [C]

Sunday 27 June

9.30am Morning Praise [C]



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 13 June

11.15am Family Service [C]

Sunday 27 June

11:15am Holy Communion [C]



Prayer for the month of May

provided by the Prayer Team

God of all beauty, whose will it is that all your creatures should enjoy the world and the life you have given us; we know that many are unable to do this through hunger, poverty, disease, oppression, ignorance or sin. Let us never rest content in your joys until we have done everything in our power and by your grace to help others to share them also. Amen.

George Appleton

News from the 'Daughters'

St James' Swards End & St John's Little Walden

Once a quarter there will hopefully be news, views and reflections from the 'daughter' churches in Swards End and Little Walden, starting in the joint August and September issue of this Parish News.

Paddy McKeown



WALDEN
Sweeps

- ◆ Services offered include:
- ◆ Chimney and Flue Sweeping
- ◆ Wood Burning Stoves
- ◆ Open Fires
- ◆ Aga/Rayburn
- ◆ Bird Nest Removal
- ◆ CCTV Examinations

t: 01799 599981
m: 07956 099788
e: paddy@waldensweeps.myzen.co.uk

WWW.WALDENCHIMNEYSWEEPS.CO.UK

JOB HUNTING?

Need help with CV writing, job search & applications?

We offer a **FREE**, confidential virtual service to anyone seeking work.



Call us any day, 10am - 4pm on 07901 173763 to speak to an experienced volunteer or email swtransitionproject@gmail.com

www.transitionproject.co.uk



Unit 39, Shirehill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AQ



Telephone: 01799 513782
E-mail: sales@rightpricekitchens.co.uk
www.rightpricekitchens.co.uk

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday by appointment only (8:30am - 12:00pm)

Congratulations Rachel!

I'm delighted to say that I have been appointed the Rector of Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne near Braintree. Sam, Magdalene and I will be moving in the summer, dates TBC. After almost four wonderful years with you, it will be very hard to leave but we are excited for all that lies ahead. Many thanks for all your support.



Rachel Prior

INVITATION

Thanksgiving Memorial Service
for Rev'd Jeremy Collingwood

This event has had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions

SATURDAY 26th JUNE 2021

5pm Service at St Mary's Saffron Walden
6pm Cake and fizz in church
7pm Garden Hog Roast and Salads,
in Margaret's garden

Margaret, Olivia, Elizabeth and Emma
welcome you to this celebration
Please come!

PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Serving the Community since 1847

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest

Arrangements can be made in the comfort of your home

Pre-paid funeral planning

Free professional bereavement support
available to all our clients

SHIRE HILL & HIGH STREET
SAFFRON WALDEN
TEL: (01799) 523314

45 MOORFIELD ROAD
DUXFORD
TEL: (01223) 833463

617 NEWMARKET ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
TEL: (01223) 415255

12-14 QUEEN STREET
HAVERHILL
TEL: (01440) 840140

***A personal, caring service from
a local business, day or night***

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



Ask us about...
Funeral Plans



Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.



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

Call **01245 496347**

Email: **info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk**

Registered Charity Number: 1113498

Hearing Help Essex is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number: 5664873



P+H Body Repairs

LIMITED

Motor Vehicle Accident Repair Specialists



Private and Insurance repairs undertaken

Established 1965 Tel: 01799 527189

www.phbodyrepairs.co.uk Email: info@phbodyrepairs.co.uk

4 The Shires, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden. Essex. CB11 3AN



St Mary's Music News

On 30 April the SMMA held its first AGM with Rector Jeremy Trew as its new President. He may have been somewhat surprised to learn that he had acquired this role in addition to all his parish, team and Deanery responsibilities, but of course rose impeccably to the situation. The AGM was attended by 26 devices (what a strange world we live in now!), equating to around 30 participants, which was quite an increase on the 24 people physically present at the AGM in 2020. It will be interesting to see whether, sometimes perhaps, meeting remotely is easier for some people than physically attending, and whether we should in future consider some sort of hybrid event.

Following the departure from the Committee of Gill Gibson and Karen Goddard, as reported in the previous Newsletter, Maureen Pullen and Francoise Mouchet-Davis were elected as new members. Peter De Vile, whose 3 year term had expired was re-elected. Peter of course has been tending to the organ for many years, and more recently has been stitching together the choir's home recordings. No doubt, based on my own experience as a relatively recent joiner of the SMMA Committee, Mo and Francoise will find themselves with new roles shortly! Meanwhile Anne Cass has stood down from successfully running Joyful Noise, the group for our youngest musicians, and the Brass Group has been in abeyance during lockdowns, so the SMMA will be looking to renew, rebuild and revive as the country moves forward.

Steve Cass, as Treasurer, reported a relatively quiet year in terms of both income and expenditure. The SMMA was unable of course to run any fundraising events in 2020, but ended its financial year on 31 December 2020 in a slightly better position than at the end of 2019 due to some generous legacies and retiring collections from funeral services of former choristers, and the receipts from David Hoy's annual stamp sale. However, church music cannot run for ever on fresh air, so the SMMA is beginning to consider fundraising events for 2021, subject to the continued easing of lockdown.

The SMMA is also planning to recruit a new Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar to commence in the autumn. The closing date for applications is 1 July 2021, with auditions and interviews on 11 July. The scholarship is worth £752 plus lessons. If you know of anyone who might be interested, further details can be obtained from Oli King, email domstmaryssw@gmail.com. Elliot, who was our first scholar, progressed from beginner level to being awarded a place to study at the Royal College of Music Junior Department in just 2 years. Here is

how he described his experience:

“Overall the scholarship was amazing and I learned a great deal about not only organ playing, but how the church runs and how the music can support the service. I think the amount of organ lessons was great and after each lesson I actually felt like I had learned lots! The extra-organ things like the conducting and singing were great and I really enjoyed doing them, it also forced me to be bit more confident in leading the choir and be able to make decisions about how I wanted the piece to be played which was really fun! When I first started, I found the Wendens Ambo services quite hard but once I had learned how to play hymns and lead a bit more, the services became much easier.”

Normally this Newsletter would be reporting on a surge of music for the Easter period. This year has been very different. The choir’s main contributions were the Daily Reflections of Words and Music for each day from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, reported on in last month’s Newsletter, and the continuation of the provision of cantor(s) for each service. But from 25th April 6 members of the choir have been permitted to sing at each service for the first time this year. I was privileged to be in the first group. 5 of us had not sung in church since December, and without exception we were all very nervous. I now appreciate the work done by those who have been singing solo or in pairs even more than I did before. Happily, with the continuing progress along the lockdown roadmap, it seems likely that choir numbers will be increasing gradually to 8, 10 and more, and that even real life practices may be possible shortly. We may be rehearsing in our very smart new “public speaking” masks, sourced by the Hoys, and we may be shivering outdoors in the cold winds of an English summer, but we shall get there.

Why do we do this? Because, as Jeremy Trew reminded us at the end of the AGM, music has powers to move us in ways that the spoken word just cannot. He spoke of his experience as a young treble in his small village church choir, which, like the neighbouring parish choirs was given music by their diocese to rehearse for choral evensong. The day came when all the choirs met to sing together in the cathedral combining in a congregation of what seemed to a small boy to be around 1000 people. For 2 bars it was magical – till the conductor made everyone stop and start again. But it is such experiences which keep us all making music, through lockdown and beyond.

We want all of us at St Mary’s to share the joy set out in 3 verses from Psalm 98 which Oli King quoted at the end of his Music Report: “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn – shout for joy before the Lord, the King”.

Ottilie Lefever

Bentens

Chartered Certified Accountants Registered Auditors

Friendly, well established local firm dealing with all your audit, accountancy and taxation matters.

For a short free consultation (without obligation) please contact

Abbey House 51 High Street Saffron Walden

Telephone : (01799) 523053

info@benten.co.uk

www.benten.co.uk

www.SAFFRON WALDEN MOTORS.co.uk
CAR SALES - SERVICING & REPAIRS - M.O.T. TEST CENTRE

QUALITY LOW MILEAGE CAR SALES

Fully inspected - Serviced - 12 month M.O.T - Cleaned & Valeted

*** £10.00 off M.O.T. tests for the life you own the vehicle ***

TOWN CENTRE M.O.T TEST CENTRE

Book a while-you-wait appointment or leave your car with us

**SERVICING
REPAIRS
MOTS**

**DIAGNOSTICS
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
AIR CONDITIONING
TYRES - EXHAUSTS - BATTERIES**

Family owned business Est. 1938
66 HIGH STREET - SAFFRON WALDEN

Tel: 01799 523597
info@saffronwaldenmotors.co.uk



The Grange Care Home

The Grange Care Home in the picturesque village of Newport close to Saffron Walden will provide affordable luxury care with a warm family feel. As a family-run company, our care is the kind we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. Set in the grounds of Debden Grange retirement village the care home will specialise in residential care, short-term respite care and specialist dementia care for up to forty people. To find out more call our friendly team today.



The Grange Care Home, Saffron House,
Fallow Drive, Newport, Saffron Walden CB11 3RP



01799 282 093

YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop**Denis Tindley**

Where were your roots and when and why did you come to live in Saffron Walden? I was born in Banstead, Surrey and my family lived in the Croydon area. My roots were Christian and strongly ecumenical. My mother's family were C of E, my father's Baptist, I went to a Congregational (URC) school and I married Elizabeth, a Roman Catholic. My three years at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, confirmed for me my beliefs in independence of thought and that all should be welcomed at the Lord's table. We moved to Saffron Walden in 2008 to be close to our daughter who lives in Audley Road and to help with looking after our two grandchildren. We also wanted to move north of the M25 as our younger son and family live in Harrogate, and our elder son and daughter-in-law in Wendover.



What brought you to St Mary's? I had been a regular worshipper at my parish church in Surrey, and naturally turned to St Mary's. I arrived during the interregnum, but I did not feel warmly welcomed and when one Sunday I was asked to move by a lady who claimed I was sitting in her seat, I gave serious consideration to going down the road to the URC. Although I have never been entirely comfortable with the C of E hierarchical structure, I felt at home with the liturgy and gradually slipped into feeling I was becoming a member of St Mary's family. After rector David visited Elizabeth and myself, and warmly welcomed us both, I was encouraged to become a server, reader, intercessor and PCC member. St Mary's has become a very large part of my life particularly in my roles as churchwarden and lay chair of the PCC during the recent interregnum.

Apart from being a member of the congregation what other events etc have you enjoyed or still enjoy here? I have enjoyed house groups and was privileged to lead one for a number of years. Through house groups we have made some strong friendships. We always try to attend concerts and musical events in St Mary's – the standard is remarkably high. I find ecumenical events very moving, particularly the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the annual Agape meal. Elizabeth and I were so fortunate to have found a house in the centre of town.

We frequently meet people from St Mary's and the other churches in the shops and market, and also at Saffron Screen and Saffron Hall. What a wonderful menu of concerts, films, and other cultural activities is available to us and so easily accessible!

What event in Saffron Walden sticks in your mind as being the most enjoyable/ thought provoking/or moving since you have lived here? I found that the selection process for the new team rector demanded so much prayer and thought. Although in my business career I had been responsible for many senior appointments, I felt entirely green when trying to assess applicants and what God's will might be. Yes, it was enjoyable, thought provoking and moving, culminating in Jeremy's induction. I learnt a lot.

If you had a family coat of arms what motto would you like to have on it? Elizabeth and I have been blessed with a close family of three children and six grandchildren. I would want them all to remember us for love, hugs and kindness.

Gelio



' During lockdowns I didn't need DVDs, I just re-read the Old Testament – battles, intrigues, Super-heroes , dysfunctional families and lots of begettings.... and the like !'

The Ancient Church

Sometimes I sit within my pew
And gaze upon an ancient view
Of stones, which, set by mason's line
Have stood through centuries of time;
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright
Have told their wondrous tales of light
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years
God's servants preached to faithful ears;
The lectern and its Bible read
Aloud to both the quick and dead;
The feet, which down that aisle have trod
To worship everlasting God;
The angels, as they downward gaze
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries
As they gathered to baptize,
Songs of love and celebrations
In marriages and confirmations,
Songs of sadness and of loss
Sung before the Saviour's cross.
So many lives have come, then flown
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how
Such history should guide me now?
Such faithful worship through the years
May move me to shed humble tears.
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear
I know I'm just a tenant here
And in one way they are my guide –
They keep me free from pompous pride!

Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump)



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 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!

Please note:

1. The opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the authors.
2. The Editor reserves the right to edit, or exclude, any article submitted. Please be aware when submitting articles 400 words fits comfortably onto a page and that any article over 800 words will need to be edited to ensure readability.
3. Illustrations and photographs are the property of the copyright holders and should not be reused without permission.
4. The Parish News cannot accept responsibility for the goods or services advertised in this magazine - advertisements are accepted in good faith.

God in the Arts: 'I do not know the man', the fearful Peter said

At the end of this month, on 28th June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

That episode is recorded by Duccio in the painting, 'Christ before the High

Priest and the Denial of Peter.’ Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

Our picture is the first painting to depict Jesus’ trial and Peter’s denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio’s work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio’s painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.



The Rev'd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)

Parish News

News, views, and interviews



Available
in Church

from Saffron Walden Library
or The Tourist Information Office
and

on our website: www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org