


Parish News

A close-up photograph of a pink, ruffled mushroom growing on a forest floor with fallen leaves. The mushroom has a thick, dark stem and a large, multi-layered, ruffled cap that is a pale pink color. The background is a soft-focus forest floor with various shades of brown, green, and yellow leaves.

October 2021

FREE

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

 <p>TINIES BABY & TODDLER GROUP</p>	 <p>St Mary's Church Saffron Walden <i>Sharing God's Love</i></p> <h1>Relaunch</h1> <p>5th October</p>
---	---



<p>Join us for singing, stories, craft, refreshments and toys.</p> <p>All parents and carers of babies and pre- school aged children welcome.</p>	<p>Tuesdays 9:30-11am St Mary's Church</p>
---	--

Contents for October 2021

NOTICEBOARD

Tinies Relaunch	2
The Rector's Letter	4
From the registers	14
Calendar	16
Saffron Walden Lions	21
Christmas Fair	29

REPORTS

St Mary's Music News	23
Mothers' Union Update	27

FEATURES

As ye sow, so shall ye reap	6
What is the Inter Faith Network?	8
Fearfully and wonderfully made	9
You in the Pew	11
White Poppies	12
Prayer for the month	17
God, you don't seem to make sense	18
Gelio	24
Archive Group: October 1890	28
Repairs to the Chancel Roof	31

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **November** issue is **Sunday 3rd October**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024

Editor: Andy Colebrooke

01799 732970

Advertising:

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

Cover: Waxcap fungi, photo by Gilly Hayes



St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

© 2021

All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.

TEAM RECTOR:

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew; 01799 500947
Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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)
Helen and Dave Nash; 01799 524265 (Little Walden)

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

I've just got back from taking my first School assembly in front of a room full of children since March last year. What a relief! Although you would need to ask the children if they shared this sentiment. Over the last eighteen months I have done Zoom assemblies, recorded videos to be shared, even prepared materials for teachers to use with their own classes; or at least, whatever was left of them. And, I have missed that immediate interaction with young people with fresh minds. They really do ask the best questions and aren't easily fobbed off with a half-baked answer. I enjoy that a great deal and have missed it enormously.

If you are reading this then the chances are that you feel some connection with the local Church, and therefore, that you have missed some of the activities and fellowship of the Church because of limitations imposed through Covid. Thank you for those of you who filled in the survey and answered questions regarding this. Responses have been collated and are to be discussed by the PCC. This is the beginnings of my own response.

These last eighteen months have been a difficult and challenging time for most. As with all other membership-based organisations, we have not been able to meet freely. As a faith-based organisation, we have not been able to enjoy the fellowship that not only supports us but that our Lord requires of us; to not give up meeting together and to continue in the breaking of bread. We have done our best. And, as someone arriving mid-pandemic (somewhat exhausted from providing for my previous parishes), I would like to thank all who have worked so hard to make possible what provision was offered and to ensure our gradual return has been safe. This has required an enormous amount of work by a small group of people. I recognise that their provision did not offer all that some wanted, and I am sure that occasionally things, and worse, people, have been overlooked. This was through no lack of effort. If you feel that you were not well provided for or that you were forgotten, please accept my apologies. In the family of the Church, it is incumbent upon us all to watch out for each other and to raise our hands if we suspect someone has fallen through the cracks. It is all too easy for that to happen in a large congregation at the best of times.

The immediate threat of Covid is receding, but its impact and



consequences will be with us for years. For the Church locally the challenge of providing ministry is exacerbated by several vacancies across the Deanery placing greater demands on clergy, particularly those who are retired (a designation that seems laughable at times). Thankfully we enjoy a great range of skilled and generous people who bring so much more to what we offer. As the Diocese assesses the impact of Covid and formulates its response I suspect that we will need to look to the roots of our faith again. We would do well to recall that through baptism we each receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the call to be ministers of God's Church. For some, that ministry is very public and distinct, such as my own. For most, it is more subtle, but none-the-less significant. The work of God's Church today seems to be moving from an emphasis on people coming to our gatherings, to the Church encountering and ministering to that part of the world God has called us to serve. Our Sunday worship changes back to be the refreshing and encouraging we need for this service, rather than an end in itself. This may well be challenging, but I think it is also exciting and filled with potential. I hope that you will join with the rest of St Mary's, the Team, Deanery and Diocese as we journey on our pilgrim way.

Yours

Jeremy

THANK YOU

For many years Ruth Lucy organised a team of willing volunteers to deliver paper copies of Parish News and collect subscriptions. We are very grateful to her and her team for fulfilling this important service.

(Currently the Parish Office posts the magazine to those who cannot attend church to pick up a copy or are unable to view it on the parish website.)



Also Gillian Brace has been in charge of Advertising since Parish News was relaunched in October 2019. She has now stepped down, and the Editor and his team wish to express their thanks and appreciation for her invaluable service.

As ye sow, so shall ye reap

I have greatly enjoyed acquiring a new skill this year: that of scything. Indeed, the first thing I learned is that you don't 'scythe' with a scythe; you Mow. The 'One man (who) went to mow, went to mow a meadow...' went with his scythe and the four, five, six or more of them mowed in a staggered line across that meadow.

Another verse, as I mowed the wildflowers I planted in the churchyard, has also echoed in my mind: 'As ye sow, so shall you reap'. The full line in Galatians has some added fierceness: 'God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap'.

As we have faced a summer of extreme weather events across the globe, the line acquires an even stronger relevance: are we now reaping the consequences of our accelerating abuse of the planet over the last couple of centuries?

The suffering caused by extreme weather events has been appalling. The widespread destruction in the USA, with Hurricane Ida spreading devastation from Louisiana to New York while record wildfires scorched California, prompted Joe Biden to admit it was, 'Yet another reminder that the climate crisis is here'.

The massive storms battered states on the Gulf coast and all the way up the north-east, killing at least 48 in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, the Caldor wildfire in California has burned over 200,000 acres, threatened over 35,000 structures and become one of the few wildfires to rage from one side of the Sierra Nevada to the other.

Day after day, throughout our rather disappointing summer, we heard of devastating events in Germany, China, Greece, Spain and even London, until 'extreme' started to become the new norm.

Indeed, extreme weather events are now five times more likely than in 1990. A Met Office study has shown that an extended period of extreme winter rainfall in the UK is now about seven times more likely due to human-induced climate change and the chances of this year's record-breaking heatwave in France have increased 100 fold since 1900.



The bad news is that it can only get worse. Since we are still releasing 50 billion tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year, and things will only start to subside after we reach net zero and then become dramatically carbon negative.

We are leaving an appalling legacy. Our children will reap the most of what we have sown, but the immediate injustice is that the poor of the global south are already the ones reaping the consequences of our selfish addiction to fossil fuels.

This year's IPCC report, after being quite reserved for decades, pulled no punches. 'Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with additional warming,' said Co-Chair Panmao Zhai. And the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the IPCC report was nothing less than 'a code red for humanity'. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable'.

Have we 'Mocked God'? I'll leave you to decide. But I know that the planet can only ever be in perfect balance with itself, and that distorting the heat of the oceans and the atmosphere in one side of the scales can only result in consequences on the other.

Let us hope that COP 26 brings this self destruction to an end.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

Real-life extracts from church notices that didn't quite work!

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Jumble sale: The ladies of our church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

What is the 'Inter Faith Network for NW Essex'?

I am always struck by Jesus' words: 'As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me' (Mt 25:40). We are to greet the stranger, as we would Christ, for once we too were the stranger. Pope Francis spoke of this at the beginning of his papacy, when he visited a hospital in Rio De Janeiro, and memorably hugged a drug addict, to the delight of the crowd. At that time, I was working with addicts and much appreciated the Pope's efforts to reduce stigma and reach out to help others. Although we may not understand someone else's behaviour or beliefs, I feel it is essential to *try* to understand, in order to achieve greater tolerance and acceptance.

It is difficult to say what started me thinking about an Inter Faith initiative in this area, other than my sheer horror and despair at the attitudes prevalent in the world I grew up in the 70's & 80's, and now, of course, tragic events of more recent times: the Twin Towers, the London and Brussels bombings, the Bataclan massacre, the murders of Jo Cox MP and Fr Jacques Hamel. In contrast to this, I noticed the diversity evident at the Churaching of the Mayor, Sarfraz Anjum, in May 2016, and felt the need to reach out to all. I welcome people, but the treatment of refugees/migrants, and some extreme Brexit attitudes, have made me want to counter them with love and understanding. So I wanted to form a group welcoming people of all faiths and none.

I myself was accepted into the Roman Catholic Church in November 2015 (the same month as the Bataclan massacre) and confirmed in March 2016 (the month of the Brussels bombings). In December 2015 Brentwood Cathedral's Door of Mercy was opened – a symbol of internal renewal, which begins with the willing desire to make peace with God, reconciliation with neighbours, and the reshaping of the heart through conversion. Exactly a year on from the door opening, I launched, via Facebook, the 'Inter Faith Group for NW Essex'. I had done lots of research and identified the need. The Facebook page was reviewed after four months and the first official meeting of the Group, was held on the 6th May 2016. We had five people attend, ranging from atheist, Pagan, and Catholic to Anglican, with varied faith backgrounds. Now we meet at least monthly, on the first Tuesday of the month, and have had numerous visits to other faiths, denominations, etc. We work closely with B-DIFF (Braintree District Inter Faith Forum).

It has been a huge effort and I thank all those that attend meetings, discuss issues and comment on Facebook. Also, a huge thank you to Fr David and 'Our Lady of Compassion' for the suggestions and support.

Shawn Martin

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

In this context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs or internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the right way. The master-genes that control the whole process are called homeobox, or Hox genes for short.

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes are organised into several clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development *and* the order in which they appear on the body.

As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”* The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.



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

Advertising space available

Contact

office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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.

Margo Selby images by Alternative Flooring



B&R

CARPETS & FURNITURE

Tuesday to Saturday 9 - 5

8 Station Street

Saffron Walden

Essex CB11 3HE

01799 522328

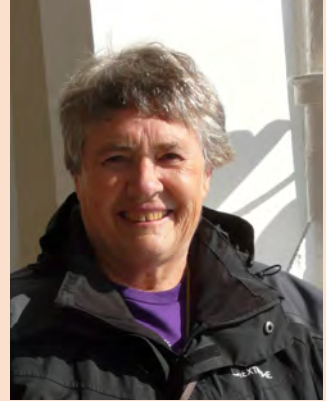
www.bandrcarpets.com



Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop**Lesley Green****Where are your roots and when and why did you come to live in Saffron Walden?**

I was born in Romford and brought up near Chelmsford. In the long summer holidays my Mum and I used to have days out together. My favourite place to visit was always Saffron Walden. From a very young age I decided that if I was ever in a position to buy my own home, it would be in Saffron Walden. I bought my cottage in 1979 and have lived in it ever since. Saffron Walden has certainly not disappointed!

**What brought you to St Mary's?**

I was brought up an Anglican and was educated at a Church of England school, so my first "port of call" was St Mary's and I found the wonderful church family.

Apart from being a member of the congregation, what other areas of church life have you enjoyed or still enjoy?

When I first arrived at St Mary's there was an all male choir. I have always sung in church and been a member of the choir, so was disappointed. When the new mixed choir was formed, I was a founder member and sang at St Mary's for 33 years and for four of these years I was Chairman of the St Mary's Music Association. Church music has always been very important to me. There have been many choir concerts and events that have moved me over the years.

What event in Saffron Walden sticks in your mind as being most enjoyable?

I was a PE Teacher for 22 years, so the arrival of the Olympic Torch on a very wet July day in 2012 was a real thrill. The town came out "en masse" and lined the streets. Clare Parry (now Thompson), whom I have known since she was a schoolgirl, ran down the High Street carrying the torch. Afterwards she allowed me to hold the replica for a photo shoot! The other event was the arrival of the Tour de France, which had similar support from the town.





If you had a family coat of arms what motto would you like on it?

For the last seven years of my teaching career I was at Friends' School here in the town. I really like the school ethos of "Seeking that of God in everyone".

White Poppies - actively seeking and praying for peace

As Remembrance Sunday approaches we will buy, and proudly wear, our red poppies as a sign of respect for our military of past and present wars – over 1,346,000 in WW1 & WW2 and over 11,000 since.

It is a great sadness that with advanced technology, conflicts across the world are not solely played out in the battlefield but now in cities, towns and villages, which all directly affect men women and children and their homes. United Nations High Commission for Refugees believes that at the end of 2020 there were 48 million people displaced in their own countries and 20.7 million refugees as a result of conflict or persecution.

We live in an interconnected world and as Christians we should work and pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation in the name of Christ. In our services we offer one another a sign of peace and as we go out into the world we take with us the prayer and blessing that peace may be amongst us and remain with us always.

Since 2018 – 100 years since the end of WW1 – a white poppy wreath has been placed at the Cenotaph and at our Memorial in Saffron Walden. The children's author (War Horse) Michael Morpurgo said, 'I wear a white and a red poppy side by side because – they died for my peace, our peace - and I believe the nature of remembrance is changing, and will change, as the decades pass since those two World Wars'.

The white poppy has been worn as a symbol of peace over the Remembrance period for nearly 90 years. Please feel free to collect yours, free of charge, from the west and south doors on both Sunday 7th November at 10am and Sunday 14th November at 9.30am services.

"Mankind must remember that Peace is not God's gift to his creatures; Peace is our gift to each other" – Eli Wiesel – Nobel Laureate

Diana Hoy



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



From the Registers

Baptisms

11 July Savannah Maggie-Sue Fox
Artemis Rose Forman

Weddings

24 July Jonathan Irving and Sophie Parkin
6 August Matthew Counsell and Helen Pugh
7 August Gregory Shaw and Roseanne Jackson
12 August Christopher Bulgen and Emma-Jayne Clark
28 August John Revell and Leanne Hardingham (St James', Swards End)

Funerals

28 July Richard Pennington
29 July Patricia Brobyn
30 July Julia Tillett

Memorial and service of thanksgiving for Mary Knight

at St Mary's Parish Church Saturday 9th October at 2.30pm
followed by tea in the Parish Rooms.
All Mary's many friends are very welcome.

Memorial Service for the Rev'd Tim Hardingham

at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on Saturday 30th October at 3pm
Refreshments will be served after the service
and there will also be a retiring collection.

We look forward to seeing you – in a combined spirit of joy and sorrow.
“Those who are righteous will be long remembered “ (Psalm 112:6)

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 October 2021

This calendar is provisional and subject to change due to Covid restrictions. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

All services now take place in church unless shown otherwise. One service in church each Sunday is also streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website.

Sunday 3 October

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

Thursday 7 October

1pm Service of Prayer for Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 10 October

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion [Y]
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 17 October

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
10am Family Service
6.30pm Deanery Service (Clavering Church)



Sunday 24 October

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion [Y]
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 31 October - All Saints Day

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion [Y]
4pm All Souls Service

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

5pm **Tuesdays**

Evening Prayer in church on first Tuesday, 5th October, otherwise by Zoom - see weekly bulletin for sign-in details

9.30am **Wednesdays**

Holy Communion

St James', Swards End

Sunday 10 October

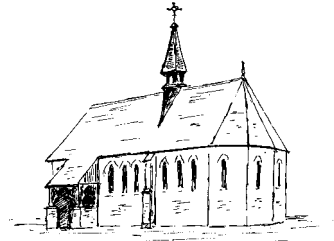
9.30am Harvest Festival

Sunday 24 October

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 31 October

4pm All Souls Service



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 10 October

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 24 October

11:15am Holy Communion



Prayer for the month

provided by the Prayer Team

Lord of Creation,

we praise you for the beauty of this world; for trees and fields, for streams and mountains, for the night skies and the depths of the oceans.

We thank you for the changing seasons and the bounty of the earth in crops and minerals. May we, who have plenty, not forget those who live in need; give us compassion for others and the desire to bring love and hope to all those we meet.

Give wisdom to our leaders as they prepare for COP26; give understanding and courage to all the nations as we face the climate crisis. And may we journey through our present days trusting in the sure knowledge that our times are in your hands.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

'God, you don't seem to make sense!'

Have you ever read the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk? I imagine not many churchgoers have. You can find it amongst the dusty recesses of the minor prophets, towards the close of the Old Testament, sandwiched between Nahum and Zephaniah. It is only three chapters long, but in the past it has been a significant book, both for the community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls and, more importantly for us, in the theology of St Paul: 'The righteous live by their faith' (Habakkuk 2.4; see Romans 1.17; Galatians 3.11). Who was Habakkuk and why might he be worth reading today?

In fact, we know next to nothing about Habakkuk; it is usually assumed that he lived in the sixth century BC, a contemporary of Jeremiah during the lead up to the Babylonian invasion and destruction of Jerusalem, which resulted in the exile of many of the Jewish people. His book is worthy of our attention because it touches on a number of themes central to the Bible, raising questions that all thinking Christians ask themselves from time to time: why does God appear so slow to act; is he unmoved by the suffering of good people; how should we live when God and his ways don't seem to make sense?

What makes Habakkuk an unusual prophet is that whilst other prophets speak God's words to us, he speaks our words to God. Habakkuk is brave enough to question the Almighty, to give voice to our perplexities, our confusions, and our disappointments. In the first chapter we see that Habakkuk knew there was much wrong with his country, its leaders were corrupt, and he wonders why God is slow to deal with the transgressors. However, when God tells him he intends to use the Babylonian invasion as his way of executing justice, the prophet is deeply shocked. How could God possibly use a godless, pagan nation to punish his very own people? It could only lead to further wickedness and greater innocent suffering.

Habakkuk struggles to understand God's way, in fact he is mystified. He seeks answers but God doesn't offer explanations. However, Habakkuk remains committed to understanding God better, so he decides to wait patiently and prayerfully upon God. In doing so the prophet learns a vital lesson: when God's ways bewilder us and we don't possess the answers to our questions, the righteous will live by faithfulness to God. God is always working towards the good and the right, even in the most devastating and unfathomable situations. Habakkuk discovers that he can be content with this knowledge, and responds in joy and praise, expressing his trust in God in the midst of trouble and confusion:

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines;
 though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food;
 though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls,
 yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation.
 GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
 and makes me tread upon the heights. (Habakkuk 3.17-19)

In the end what makes Habakkuk worth reading is his determination to trust God, even when life doesn't make sense. God's plans and God's ways can be mysterious, but with St Paul we can echo the words God gave Habakkuk: 'The just shall live by faith'. In other words, we need to trust God even when our loyalty is tested and the future is unclear.

This drawing, by Johann Wolfgang Baumgartner (1709-1761), is in The National Gallery, and is entitled: *The Angel Carrying off Habakkuk by His Hair*. It is a depiction of a story not found in the Bible, but in a non-canonical book called 'Bel and the Dragon'. Daniel is in the lion's den in Babylon. An angel visits Habakkuk at home where he has just made a stew. The angel says: 'Take the food that you have to Babylon, to Daniel, in the lions' den.' The prophet says that he has never been to Babylon and knows nothing of the den.



'Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head and carried him by his hair; with the speed of the wind he set him down in Babylon, right over the den.'

Daniel gets something to eat, survives his time among the lions, and Habakkuk is safely returned to his home.

A moment's googling will show that this story has been a popular subject for the artists and sculptors of past generations.

Andy Colebrooke

(Photograph: Public Domain)

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





Have you spotted a Lion in Saffron Walden ?

You probably have but they are disguised in yellow t-shirts with a Lion logo and not quite as much hair and they don't bite!! Seriously though Saffron Walden Lions are now back in business at the **Appliance Loan Store** which is behind Radwinter Road Hospital.

Many of you will have been there before to borrow a wheelchair, a commode, crutches or many other useful items that you may need on a short term loan, no hire charge but a donation would be appreciated as all funds go to local charities. Like so many outlets we had to close during lockdown, which we were sad about, but we have been cleaned and thoroughly sanitised and are ready to help again where needed. Please phone **07761 602678** to arrange a pick up and drop off time, we are there for you.



Are you aged between 11 and 18 and looking for a challenge? Lions run a **Young Leaders in Service** Scheme which some of Saffron Walden District Rangers, who met in the Parish Rooms, signed up for, before Covid, along with several students from the County High. It is all about volunteering in your town in a variety of ways. You have a year to complete your challenge and you will be awarded a bronze, silver or gold certificate and badge depending on the number of hours you complete. These awards now run in line with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, open to all in that age category, so maybe join with a friend. These awards are really useful to have on your CV especially for University applications. For more information please contact Pamela Mugliston **01799 521697**.

When everything is back to normal again keep an eye open for us in the town at charity events and give us a wave or come over and chat and who knows, you might actually catch sight of the Lion himself!



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.

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

'What a Grandmother is' by an eight year old.

'A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's little girls and boys.

A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys and they talk about fishing and tractors.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything but be there. They are old so they shouldn't play hard or run. They should never say, 'hurry up'.

Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie children's shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear and they can take their teeth and gums off. They don't have to be smart, only answer questions like why dogs hate cats and why God isn't married. They don't talk baby talk like visitors. When they read to us, they don't skip bits or mind if it is the same story over again. Everybody should have one, especially if you don't have television, because grandmothers are the only grownups that have time'.

Submitted by Graeme Walker



St Mary's Music News

During the first half of July, the Senior Choir continued to rehearse outdoors. Not all of these practices were as idyllic as the June event in the last newsletter before the summer break, though we did enjoy the sight and sound of the local peregrine falcon swooping from the spire. Our activities have been chronicled as part of a future photographic work on Uttlesford in lockdown by Celia Bartlett.



The Juniors had the privilege of rehearsing indoors for 6 weeks, while the Adults and Choral Scholars had just 1 practice inside the church before the summer break, complete with singing masks. We have now started the autumn term with another rehearsal in church. Fingers crossed that this will continue.

Sunday 25 July was a big day. In the morning the majority of the Senior Choir with Choral Scholars sang in the first Holy Communion service after the unlocking of Step 4. It felt strange, but also wonderful, to be part of a large group singing not only hymns but also Palestrina's beautiful motet "Sicut Cervus" (As pants the hart).

In the afternoon more than 40 singers, including both members of the choir and visitors, took part in a "Come and Sing" Fauré Requiem to celebrate music making together and to raise funds for the church. It was very uplifting, certainly until rainwater started pouring through the roof onto the cupboard containing all the electrics for the church! The instrumental accompaniment was provided not only by the organ, but also by a harp, cello and violin. Moving solos were performed by two of our Choral Scholars, Helena and George. Indeed the enthusiasm and skill of our Choral Scholars in various areas of achievement is a happy theme of this newsletter.

The next joyful event was the wedding of two choristers, Helen Pugh (soprano) and Matt Counsell (bass), on 6 August. The music started outside the church where the pipes skirled enthusiastically, followed by the first of many organ pieces played by Oli King. St Mary's choir then joined forces with members

of Southern Spirit Singers and other friends of the bride and groom. The combined choirs nearly blew the roof off in a spirited rendition of Charles Woods' "O Thou the Central Orb", then the visitors sang a more contemplative *a capella* piece, "This Marriage" by Eric Whitacre, conducted by Andy King.

After a year without an organ scholar, the SMMA is very pleased to announce the appointment of Yechan Yun as the second recipient of the Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholarship. He starts at St Mary's in September, and will be supporting services there in due course. We are also very happy that Eleanor Game, another Choral Scholar, has been awarded a privately funded bursary to assist her in developing her skills as an organist and church musician. We hope that she will be supporting other local churches during this year. Many congratulations to them both.

Finally, Tilly, yet another of our Choral Scholars, is delighted that she and her fellow rowers won Bronze in the national rowing championships in July. She is now heading off to university to read architecture. And/or maybe the 2024 Olympics beckon?

Otilie 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



MOLLY MAID Braintree

Keeping your home Healthy

The **HomeSafe** cleaning system puts the health and safety of you, your family and our team of maids at the core of how we work.

- Uniformed and professionally trained staff
- 100% guaranteed and fully insured
- Regular and occasional cleans
- Free in home estimate
- All materials supplied
- No contracts



Call us today to learn more about **HomeSafe** and why you can trust MOLLY MAID in your home.

Please call: **01376 349419**

or email: julie.ward@mollymaid.co.uk



See what our customers say at uk.trustpilot.com

Excellent



★ Trustpilot

MOTHERS' UNION UPDATE

Mothers' Union Re-building

Due to a cancellation of the published programme, Mothers' Union members met in St Mary's Church for their Meeting on 8th July. The meeting was kindly led by our Chaplain Rev'd. Canon Chris Bishop and based on the MU theme for this year 'Rebuilding Hope and Confidence'.

He presented us with a map of the Mediterranean and quizzed us as to where several dots on the map were located. Then the story of Nehemiah began. He was released from serving King Cyrus of Persia to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the ruined walls. He achieved this in record time by persuading every family living opposite the ruins of the walls to be responsible for rebuilding a section.

We were given little brick shaped boxes on which we wrote the qualities we thought were important to rebuild Hope and Confidence and that are necessary to help others to do so. Then our Chaplain built them into a wall. The boxes were then returned for us to use for keepsakes and to remind us of the qualities we had written on them.

Our choir sang two hymns, 'Christ is made the sure foundation' at the beginning of the meeting and 'Bind us together' at the end. A prayer, written by our Worldwide President Sheran Harper, for worldwide members, was offered in our intercessions.

We will endeavour to rise to her challenge to Rebuild Hope and Confidence.

Brenda Sheath
Branch Leader

A Mothers' Union Invitation

If you think you would enjoy the friendship and company of others who share your faith, especially after the isolation of Lockdown, come and try a few Mothers' Union meetings. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation which helps and supports members across the world in many different countries. We welcome young or older, ladies and gentlemen and are united in prayer and worship and in love and service.

Why not give us a try?

If you are interested or need further information, please contact Brenda Sheath or Gwynneth Nicholas via the Parish Office (email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org; tel: 01799 506024), or speak to us directly in church.

Archive Group *findings...*

October 1890



From churches within the Saffron Walden Deanery

Great and Little Chesterford

It is a good thing sometimes to see ourselves as others see us, and in a general way faults are seen which are thus corrected, but in this instance a working man from Lincoln spent a Sunday at Chesterford and expressed astonishment at the size of the congregation in Church, which he said was larger than he saw in many places which in the course of his work he visited, and he was well pleased with the whole service. This appreciation of our Church by a stranger, and comfort and pleasure afforded by our services is a twofold good, and we hope it may always be found. It only remains to be said that the man spoke of the Bishop of Lincoln's good influence, which he said where he lived was felt so much, and he was one of the workers of a large firm where the Bishop had been invited to give an address, the good resulting from which was perhaps shown the more by this incident which is certainly worth recording.

September 7th 1890. Rickling

...all the children in Rickling and Quendon came to tea at the Rectory, and enjoyed an afternoon's play in Mr Dixon's field. Though a good many were kept away by whooping cough, we counted about 120.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

See the Angels in Littlebury Church

on Saturday & Sunday 9th and 10th October

11.00 am - 4pm

children's activities - refreshments

in aid of Holy Trinity Littlebury

Keeping each other safe - please bring your mask



Christmas Fair Sat 27th November 2021 the theme this year is *The Joy of Christmas!*

Only a few weeks to go and lots to plan!! We are still looking for an official Organiser, someone to gather us all together, if you are that person please talk to Denis asap.

I know that some people have been busy sewing and generally making items in readiness for the Fair which is fabulous. If you haven't already done so could you please let me know what exciting things you have been planning. We will be looking for quality stalls again and will **not** be including White Elephant type items this year which will give us more space for people to move around and create a great and exciting atmosphere.

The following stalls will be looking for donations please:

Books, Bric-a-brac (quality items), Grand Draw (Quality items), Jewellery, Jigsaws, Wine for the Mulled Wine stall, Plants (**and someone to run the stall**), good quality Toys for the Guides stall, assorted items for the Tombola

If you have an idea for a stall, especially any new ideas, they will be most welcome. If you are prepared to help on a stall (we are currently looking for 9 volunteers) if you can help with set up and put away or refreshments that would also be really welcome.

We will be putting up the usual lists closer to the date so that you can see exactly where assistance is required and who is collecting what for their stall but in the meantime don't be afraid to come forward and take part in what is our biggest fund raiser each year as well as being a showcase of our very special Church and as always it will be great fun!!

Looking forward to hearing from you

Pamela Mugliston - Stall holders
Sue Birchall - Refreshments

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

Right Price  

Kitchens

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)

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Repairs to the Chancel Roof – Started on 20th September

I am sure that you will have noticed that scaffolding is being erected over the chancel to construct a temporary roof while the metal on the roof is replaced. The Faculty for the works was approved on 11th August and the scaffolding work started in week commencing 20th September. It will take 4 weeks to build the “new” roof after which the roofers will get to work. The roof repairs will take approximately 6 weeks and the scaffolding will be removed afterwards over a 2 week period. All being well, everything will be completed by 17th December and we’ll be back to normal.

What does all this mean about services and access to the church and churchyard during the work? I am sure that you will already have noticed that vehicular access to the Parish Rooms from Museum Street is not possible while the scaffolders are working and this will be repeated in December when the temporary roof is taken down. To park on the north side of the church opposite the Parish Rooms, access is up Church Path from Church Street. It is possible to drive into the churchyard from Museum Street and go down the roadway on the south side of the church. As usual during major work on the church, we advise the contractors to park their cars in the disabled spaces near to the south porch. The contractors will only work on weekdays and weekend services will not be disrupted. They will need to stop work for funerals, there will be times when the hammering on the roof will sound quite loud inside St Mary’s, and we will assess other services as the work proceeds. My aim will be to halt the work as little as possible to keep costs down. Please do keep an eye on The Grapevine which will be used to give up-to-date information as much as possible.

My article in the August Parish News mentioned that we are to replace the copper on the chancel roof with lead. This will be the metal on the main body of the roof and the gutters will be made of terne-coated steel (TCS). TCS is stainless steel which has been coated to look just like lead and it has the advantage that it can be laid in longer sheets which minimises the number of joins between sheets in the gutters. We could have sought approval to make the whole roof TCS but it has the disadvantage that it is noisy when it rains, think about being inside a building with a corrugated iron roof in heavy rain.



Jeremy inspecting the Chancel Roof

Continued on the back cover...

Repairs to the Chancel Roof - *continued from previous page*



Photograph: © SkyTech Cambridge

The noise can be lessened to some extent by installing sound proofing under the TCS but this is only partially successful and the additional cost to re-design the roof to allow for the sound-proofing offsets the lower cost of TCS against lead. Having said that, we will be installing heat insulation under the lead to do a little bit for the climate, this can be done without needing to re-design the roof.

Exactly how long the work will take and how much it will cost depends on the state of the wood panels under the copper and whether and how much of these need to be replaced. To get an initial idea on this, Bakers of Danbury will be lifting a sheet of copper in the south east corner of the chancel (above the space to the right of the main altar as one looks from the chancel) during the middle of September.

The cost of the work is approximately £120,000 plus VAT, we will be able to reclaim the VAT. The work is being paid for from our Restoration Fund, the money in this was raised for roof repairs some time ago, and from our Fabric Fund which is presently at a healthy level. If you live in the town and are starting to wonder whether St Mary's will come knocking to collect funds from you for a repair to the chancel roof, you need not be concerned. Following a review in 2012-13, which all parishes were required to carry out to decide whether they would continue to collect funds under the Chancel Repair Liability provisions, St Mary's took the decision not to collect such funds in future.

If you have any questions about the works, please do not hesitate to ask me or the churchwardens. We will keep you updated through The Grapevine, the church website and a display in church.

Steve Hasler