

# Parish News

**St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden**

**St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End**

**Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry**



**April 2023**

**FREE**

## Join us for our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations



Photograph by Iain Walker



### **Only Jesus**

*(John 19:17, 1:4)*

Carrying the cross by Himself  
He went out.  
Sent out,  
Yet choosing to go.

Word of life,  
Choosing death,  
Knowing the end from the beginning,  
Carrying the cross by Himself  
He went out.

The only one who could,  
The only way He could,  
He went out  
To the Skull Place,  
For me.

*Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)*

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## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **May** issue is **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**.

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

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**St Mary's Church Website:**

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

# The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

Dear All

The story of Easter is the beating heart of the Christian story. Without its message Christianity is simply a hollow vessel, albeit with good intentions. We follow its story through Holy Week; with acclamation, communion, betrayal, and death as darkness increases, and hope diminishes. Then, the pause; a hiatus, from Friday afternoon, after the Temple curtain separating God and humanity is torn in two, until just before dawn on the following Sunday. A breath is held. Disciples hide, waiting for they know not what. Then, on the third day, dawn brings resurrection, new light, and new life. Easter has come.



It took those early disciples generations to truly make sense of what had happened that day and all that it meant for them and humanity. I doubt we will ever know the full meaning this side of heaven. But something had changed, and the incarnate God, now represented by the Church on earth, began the centuries long task of revealing the Kingdom and discovering its riches.

Christianity spread slowly, but it gradually gained a momentum, as people saw that these Christians were different. They had compassion and a great communal identity that spanned the divides of wealth, culture and gender, and they had a great story to share.

That task is not finished yet. God's Church is still discovering more and more of God's grace and what it means to be "Church". And so I invite you to do three things this Holy Week and Eastertide:

- I. I invite you to enter into the season, through our services and activities that retell and explore its stories. To allow it to shape, reshape, and refresh your faith. This is the call to be disciples.
- II. I invite you to respond to the season and the messages it brings. There

is a place in God's Church for you, and there are tasks in that Church that you are well suited to carrying out. This is the call to service.

- III. I invite you to allow this season to change you, and to wear that change for the world to see. The Church is called neither to follow the culture around it, nor to oppose that culture, but to reflect and live out the teachings of Jesus and the values we derive from the story of Scripture. This is how God's Kingdom is revealed in this world. British culture that has been historically shaped by Christianity, and yet has never been truly Christian. What does it mean to be a Christian today? The answer is only something we can work out together. This is the call to mission.

The story of Easter has lost none of its power or hope. I hope and pray that you will enter into it fully in 2023.

Yours,  
Jeremy

### **A Prayer for April**

*provided by the Prayer Team*

Come to us, risen Lord Jesus.  
Come to us, in the stillness of dawn,  
in the brightness of noonday,  
and in the quiet of evening.

Walk with us, we pray, on the road of life,  
in our anxieties and sorrows,  
hopes and dreams.

Turn us into your Easter people,  
so that we may bring the joy  
of your resurrection  
to those we meet.

Come to us, we pray, risen Lord of life.



## Minds over Matter

Eco Church has 5 dimensions: Worship, Buildings, Land, Community Engagement and Lifestyles. Very often, concerns about Church Buildings dominate our thinking. Old churches present huge challenges: how can they be insulated? Draught proofed? Heated and lit using clean energy? And how can we possibly afford all those actions?

The Church of England has set the massive challenge of reaching carbon zero by 2030. It is a noble ambition and we are trying to map out our journey to get there in St Mary's starting by measuring our existing carbon footprint. But if you ask me, I would argue that it is the least important of the five dimensions.

The greatest dimension of them all is Lifestyle. Changing our personal lifestyles is essential if we are to love our neighbours as ourselves, to care for God's creation and to give hope to younger and future generations. But in order to change lifestyles we need to change our hearts and minds: the ways we think; our assumptions and perspectives. The challenge humanity faces is enormous and the solution can only start with us, in our heads.

At the moment affluent lifestyles and economies simply do not fit on a single, healthy planet. They only exist on our planet on the basis of escalating exploitation and pollution. The most affluent are the worst. Following the SuperBowl in Los Angeles last month no fewer than 140 private jets took off to fly their millionaires back to New York, Florida, Seattle, Texas and further. Millionaires who use their jets to get to any number of sporting events, concerts or restaurants as their fancy takes them. It is the most gross violation of their duty to God and the rest of humanity.

I don't imagine that any readers of the Parish News are in their league, but there may be some frequent flyers and SUV drivers amongst us and we are still members of the fifth richest nation in the world (albeit with wealth spread increasingly unfairly). Having benefitted from 250 years of fossil fuels, we should take the lead.

So your Eco Church team cordially invite you to fill in their Environmental Lifestyle questionnaire. This will enable us to establish a baseline and in future years will enable us to track our progress. It should be fun to complete and I hope that it will make you think about your legacy as you answer the questions.



It is very easy, especially if you can do it on your phones or computers, although paper copies are available.

Then get your friends to do it. The more the merrier. Because we don't just want to change the lifestyles of our congregation alone. It needs to be our whole parish. Our deanery. Our diocese. People of all faiths and none... the whole world!

That is why it is bigger than our buildings!

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

The Eco Questionnaire can be found here: -

<https://forms.gle/b9uxFqYLGZsd1xC6>

or here:



*Photograph by Milad Fakurian on Unsplash*

## The Bugs Matter Survey

As the weather warms, we look forward to an abundance of flowers offering food for bees, hoverflies and butterflies. A report by the Essex Wildlife Trust indicates that such sightings may be much reduced. During 2022, members of the Trust participated in the UK citizen science Bugs Matter Survey, recording 'bug splats' on vehicle number plates to monitor flying insect abundance. The numbers of insects recorded on 277 journeys across Essex suggested that insect numbers have declined by 60% since 2004.

This is a worrying trend as it has implications for the survival of many other organisms. The majority of plants rely on insect pollinators to set seed including wild and garden flowers and three quarters of our food crops. Many song-birds feed on insects, and seed eaters such as skylarks and house sparrows nourish



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their young on insects.

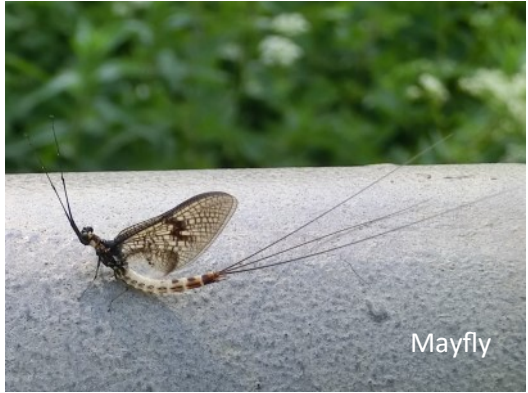
The reasons for this decline are complex, but as most arable crops are grown without any weeds this reduces the variety of food supplies for caterpillars, aphids and bugs. Fewer flowers mean less food for bees, adult butterflies and moths.

Fortunately, many insect species are resilient, and we can help with the survival of some. I encourage you to plant up your gardens with native hedgerow shrubs, a tree or two and install a bug hotel as these provide many habitats where insects can over-winter. Accepting flowery lawns and planting a wide selection of flowers is not only attractive to us but provides nourishment for an abundance of insects too.

There are many helpful guides to creating a wildlife garden; the RHS website is helpful as is *Gardening for Wildlife* by Adrian Thomas published by Bloomsbury in 2017.

To get involved with the survey see <https://www.buglife.org.uk> Visiting local gardens for helpful tips is fun too - see the What's On page of [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).

Tricia Moxey, Trustee  
The Hundred Parishes Trust



Mayfly

## From the Registers

### **Funerals**

2nd February	Kathleen Warner
7th February	Walter Smith Jennifer Hawkes
8th February	Helen Carrington
13th February	Doreen Johns
15th February	Sandra Jackson
24th February	Jessie Gunter
27th February	Kevin Fitzpatrick

## How about advertising in Parish News?

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Muniments Room

## Archive Group

**A monthly record of pieces of interest from our past Parish Magazines**

### **April 1941**

My Dear Parishioners

March has brought rejoicing as well as sorrow. It has given us President Roosevelt's great speech and the hope it has brought to our cause and to the Nazi-ridden Countries. It has also witnessed in Walden a most successful War-Savings Week, inaugurated in the Parish Church, on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at a special Service when the Divine blessing was asked on this special effort. Truly our prayers have been richly answered above all we could ask or think, for instead of the £40,000 which was the original goal, £180,000 was subscribed and more is coming in as I write. The result is a splendid proof of local patriotism and its realisation of the fiendish nature of Naziism and of the coterie of crooks who seek to impose it in the world.

### **April 1942**

We all felt very proud of our local citizenship when we heard of its splendid response to the appeal of Warship Week when the amount asked for was more than doubled. I hope the Church in Essex will also liberally support the Bishop of Chelmsford's appeal of an X Ray Mobile Unit for the Russian army which has so richly earned our gratitude and admiration, standing as it has done between us and Hitler's legions. The cost is £1,500 a unit and the Bishop is authoritatively informed that several such are among the army's most pressing needs and he is not without hope that such a gift from the Christian Church may dispose a government which officially is atheistic to deal more kindly with the religion of Christ.

Yours sincerely

L. Hughes

**Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist**

## Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

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If you are looking for a final resting place for a loved one, please bear in mind Radwinter Road Cemetery where the gates are always open and there is tranquility within. For further information please contact Elaine Baynes, Cemetery Officer, at Saffron Walden Town Council, Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HR. Telephone: 07769 167 179 or email [elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk](mailto:elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

<https://saffronwalden.gov.uk/services/cemetery/>

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## **Mothers' UNION Meeting Report - February 2023**

St Mary's Mothers' Union AGM was held in the north chapel of St Mary's Church on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Fifteen members attended. The meeting began with the hymn 'Be, Thou My Vision' and a Bible reading and intercessions. This was followed by a report that Wendy Linney was making progress in Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The AGM was chaired by Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop. The usual procedure for an AGM was followed. Thanks were expressed to Mr Alan Hawkes for examining and auditing the accounts. The branch leader thanked the clergy who had been involved in leading worship at MU services and for giving their support and encouragement. Interesting meetings had been held throughout the year and also some enjoyable social occasions.

Brenda reported that after 6 years as branch leader she was no longer able to continue, and no one had come forward to replace her. Today, members needed to agree how the branch should go forward. She concluded by paying tribute to the committee and members for their support and friendship.

A committee of 7 was re-elected but without a branch leader. A committee meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the future of the MU branch with our chaplain present. It was suggested to put forward a proposal at the AGM for the consideration of the members.

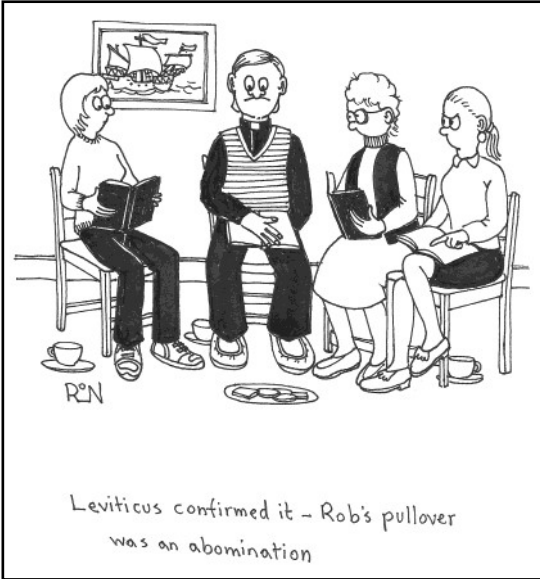
It was proposed that the branch be run by the committee. Our chaplain Rev'd Chris Bishop is willing to assume the role of 'Master of Ceremony' or 'Conductor of the Team' and run the meetings. The committee will be responsible for organising a rota of essential tasks for ensuring that meetings run smoothly. This will be a trial for 1 year when it will be reviewed. The proposal was put to the vote of members present and was carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded with refreshments and Helen Eyles was presented with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also, 'Happy Birthday' was sung for 3 other members with birthdays in February.

Brenda Sheath

### **Quote, unquote ...**

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought. C S Lewis



Kristina Coleman  
ARCM

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# Calendar for April 2023

*This calendar is provisional and subject to change. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information particularly for streaming of services. Coffee is served after the 10.30am services at Saffron Walden.*

## St Mary's, Saffron Walden

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

### Holy Week

#### Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday

- 8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] - *Chilcott: Jesus, grant me this I pray and Jesus my Leman*  
6.30pm Choral Evensong - *Byrd: Second Service; Greene: Lord, let me know mine end*

#### Monday 3 April

- 9.30am Holy Communion  
7.30pm Bible Study and Compline

#### Tuesday 4 April

- 9.30am Holy Communion  
5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom  
7.30 pm Bible Study and Compline

#### Wednesday 5 April

- 8am Morning Prayer  
9.30 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Bible Study and Compline

#### Thursday 6 April Maundy Thursday

- 9.30 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Choral Eucharist - *Merbecke; Anerio: Christus factus est*

#### Good Friday 7 April

- 10.30am Walk of Witness from the United Reformed Church in Abbey Lane  
2pm Hour at the Cross  
7.30pm Devotional Offering - *Chilcott: St John Passion*

#### Easter Sunday 9 April

- 6am Dawn Communion  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Easter Communion [Y] - *Mozart: Laudate Dominum;*  
*Wood: This joyful Eastertide*  
6.30pm Choral Evensong - *Brewer in D; Ley: The strife is o'er*

#### Tuesday 11 April

- 5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom





**Wednesday 12 April**

8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 16 April**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
4pm Living Stones service in the Parish Rooms

**Tuesday 18 April**

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

**Wednesday 19 April**

8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 23 April**

8am Holy Communion (BCP) [Y]  
10.30am Family Service  
6.30pm Taizé service

**Tuesday 25 April**

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

**Wednesday 26 April**

8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 30 April**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
6.30pm Celtic service



**St James', Swards End**

**Sunday 2 April**

10.30am Holy Communion

**Good Friday 7 April**

12pm Hour at the Cross

**Easter Sunday 9 April**

10.30am Easter Communion

**Sunday 16 April**

10.30am Morning Praise

**St John's, Little Walden**

**Easter Sunday 9 April**

10.30am Easter Communion

**Sunday 23 April**

10.30am Holy Communion

## The Lighting in St Mary's

During 2022 the PCC agreed that we should ask a small team to assess the state of the church lighting with a view to replacing it. Why, you may ask, are we looking at this?

The existing lighting is very old and is now failing and it is the units into which the bulbs are placed which are the problem not the bulbs themselves. A significant portion of the nave lighting has failed in this way. You will also have noticed that the cross above the screen is no longer lit up, now you know why!

The Church of England has, as you will have heard, the target for buildings run by the church including schools, parish rooms, clergy houses etc. to be carbon zero by 2030. By a long way the largest consumption of electricity in the church at St Mary's is the lighting. To make it more carbon neutral and cheaper to run, LEDs need to be installed but they won't fit in the existing units even if they weren't failing. Installing LEDs would reduce the carbon which our lighting generates by between 50% and 80%.

LEDs will also reduce our running costs. We have calculated from the size and number of bulbs that each Sunday in the winter with the nave, north and south aisle and chancel lights all on, we consume 57kWh of electricity. What does that mean? On the basis that a standard domestic kettle takes 3 minutes to heat up to boiling from cold, boiling approximately 400 kettles would use the same amount of power. That's a lot of cups of tea! We estimate that running the lighting in St Mary's, allowing for the much lower usage in the week and in the summer, costs around £1200 per year at current prices. Thankfully, we don't pay the current price because David Birchall, our Treasurer, put us on a 3-year fixed price contract for our electricity and gas a couple of years ago. (Hats off to David.) But when this contract ends.....

Next, there's the maintenance. How many people does it take to change a light bulb in St Mary's? At least 3, one to pick up and deliver the cherry-picker which is needed to get up that high, another to help manipulate it around the church and a third to go up and change the bulb. So at present we replace all the bulbs at once every 5 years. LEDs last up to 15 years which would reduce this burden which is becoming increasingly difficult because the availability of the right kind of cherry-picker is reducing year on year. The cherry-picker won't go into the north and south chapels nor the chancel which is why so few of the lights in the chancel work at the moment. It's a brave, if that's the right adjective, person who would change those bulbs from a ladder. Re-designing the lighting could allow the bulbs to

be changed without the need to ascend to a great height.

Our current lighting controls are not flexible and are located all around the church. Also, the current lighting, while it would be adequate if fully working, does not create an ambience or atmosphere which supports our services and activities. The Lighting Team are, therefore, looking at the possibility of redesigning the lighting when seeking to solve the problems mentioned earlier.

The team are now developing a project brief to engage lighting experts to assess our options, including the simple option of replacing everything we currently have with LEDs in the same position. As you would expect the team reports to PCC and PCC will decide if this initiative can move ahead alongside other projects and necessary repairs. We will keep you informed as progress is made and the team will consult on a new lighting design if it is decided to go in that direction. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please do talk with me or Denis Tindley.

Steve Hasler  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

A Chinese Proverb about bereavement :-

'You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from  
Flying over your head, but you can prevent them  
Building nests in your hair'.



*Following that, an English Proverb about HOPE*

'If it were not for hope the heart would break'

**YOU in the PEW** interviewed by  
Chris Bishop

**Jennifer Kirkaldy**

Jennifer's roots in Saffron Walden and St Mary's are over four centuries deep! Her maternal ancestor, Jeremy Adams, was baptised here in 1583! Her grandmother, Elizabeth Downham, was the fifth of ten for her Adams parents, who lived in Thaxted Road. William, a younger brother, who died in action in World War 1, is the first name on the town War Memorial.

Jennifer was born in July 1941 in the family home in Victoria Avenue, bought - new, by her grandparents, Arthur & Alice Shepherd, on moving from Colchester in 1902, with Charles, 2 and Muriel, 5. Their youngest, Edwin, arrived in 1904. Arthur sang in St Mary's choir and taught in the Sunday School until his death in 1922. Charles, after a full marine engineering apprenticeship, stayed at home to care for his mother, now nearly blind, and to work as a motor engineer. He re-joined the choir, took leading roles in three early Gilbert and Sullivan productions in the Town Hall from 1923, sang in the Choral Society, Madrigal Group and died of cancer in 1993.

Jennifer's mother, born in 1905, preceded her and sister Diana at Herts and Essex High School. She played the organ for services at Little Walden and, after her father's death in 1925, taught at Museum Street School until the mid-30s.

Hymns, prayers and Bible readings at home, Sunday School and St Mary's, Scripture lessons and daily Christian assemblies at South Road School and High School, all fed Jennifer's faith journey. In early 1955, while being prepared for Confirmation, she responded to a Billy Graham sermon, relayed in the Baptist Church, to receive Jesus and serve Him. Uncle Edwin (by then founder-conductor of the 150-voice London Emmanuel Choir) sent her Isobel Kuhn's book, "By Searching" – her first "prompt" to mission overseas.

At High School Jennifer loved Latin, French, German and English, which clashed in the exam timetable with R.E. and Music. She therefore chose to study Music as her main subject in the last ever two-year course at Bishop Otter College in Chichester, while enjoying the variety of subjects for the junior school curriculum. She acted in college productions, sang in the choir in the college Chapel, became a server, and enjoyed singing Messiah in Chichester Cathedral in



a massed choir!

Returning home, Jennifer spent four years teaching juniors and music at Thaxted Primary from 1961. Headmaster George Scrivener, a great mentor, also loved acting. "St Mary's Players" staged plays in the Parish Room and, after acting in three, Jennifer took part in the Studio Theatre productions in the Town Hall of "The Cherry Orchard" and - with her headmaster - in "A Man for all Seasons" - in her father's footsteps!

At that time, a curate at St Mary's, Richard Blackie, formed a branch of the A.Y.P.A (Anglican Young People's Association) for teens and twenties, having a lifelong impact on many. When he joined the Anglican Society of St Francis in 1965, Jennifer also moved on, to teach in High Wycombe. The vicar at All Saints' Parish Church, Eric Hague and his wife had served with the China Inland Mission and opened their home on Sunday evenings to a "19 plus" group, inviting mission partners and others to share their stories. This, plus worship and home groups at St Andrew's Church, a powerful experience of Renewal in the Holy Spirit and a call to mission via Brother Andrew, "God's Smuggler" at an early Fountain Trust meeting, led Jennifer in 1969 to apply to London Bible College, to study for a three-year Theology degree. Once accepted, as her savings would not stretch to three years' fees, she switched to their two-year Diploma in Theology, hoping to teach in a Bible School overseas.

Jennifer then applied to BCMS Crosslinks, who sent her In Autumn 1971 to Mwanza, on Lake Victoria in Tanzania, to teach in the Diocesan Primary School, paid locally! What was God doing? Still leading! By 1975, a Diocesan Bible School had been built and opened, seven miles away, at Nyakato! BCMS then sent Jennifer for their required year's Mission Studies at All Nations Christian College. Finally, in 1976, she returned to Tanzania as a full-term mission partner, to teach students, aged from late teens to sixties, in Kiswahili, at the Bible School, for the next twenty years. She was generously partnered and supported throughout by St Mary's Team Parish, St Andrew's High Wycombe and other churches across the country.

Jennifer returned in 1996, to care for her 90-year-old mother, and to work until 2011 for "CBM: the International Disability Charity" in Cambridge. Her mother died on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2000, the family home for 98 years was sold that Autumn, and Jennifer found her present home.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001, the most memorable event for her in Saffron Walden took place: her marriage to Tony Kirkaldy, after which Andrew Malcolm commented, "I've never heard such hearty singing at a wedding!" Her family motto would therefore be "Sing to the Lord with all your heart!"

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## St Mary's Music News - April 2023

There are some months when submission of copy on the first Sunday of month A for publication 3 to 4 weeks later in month B does not cause too much of a problem for the writer or the reader. March/April is not one of them. It is always a particularly busy time for the SMMA, both on the choral side supporting Lenten and Easter worship, and administratively, with its annual AGM, so inevitably much happens during March after copy is due in but well before publication. This Newsletter therefore refers to many events retrospectively, but cannot report on what actually happened. This does, however, make for a comparatively easy time for the May report!

One very lively event has already taken place though – the annual outing for the Junior choir, organised by Alison Lawrence with a doughty band of responsible adults. This year they visited Ely, first stop the fascinating Stained Glass Museum containing a collection of glass from 1200 up to the present. “Theophilus the monk” taught the Juniors how to make stained glass, and they then designed their own creations onto acrylic squares.

After a refreshment break the Juniors attended Choral Evensong, sung by the Girl Choristers. This group was set up in 2006, a mere 11 centuries or so after the Boys' Choir School was founded, but since 2022 both choirs have sung equal

numbers of services each week. Alison collected many appreciative comments about the Museum and the Girls' Choir, but the most unusual reflection on the Cathedral itself was “I loved noticing there were 27 dead people under my feet”!

Back at St Mary's, the full choir has of course been supporting worship during Lent, starting with Choral Eucharist with Ashes on Ash Wednesday. By the time you read this newsletter, it will also have led the singing at Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday, at Choral Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, and will



have performed a Devotional Offering of Bob Chilcott's St John Passion on Good Friday. The choir first sang this Passion in 2019, ably supported by the congregation who had been learning the communal hymns during Lent, as is also happening this year. Rehearsals in preparation for reprising this beautiful piece were underway for Easter 2020, but were – like so many other plans – derailed by Covid. Singing it again this year is therefore particularly poignant.

Reports of important elections and other decisions taken at the SMMA's AGM on 12 March will follow in the next Newsletter.

Meanwhile, we hope that many readers will have enjoyed the SMMA's new venture of 3 short Wednesday morning coffee concerts during March.

Finally, the choir said a (we hope temporary) farewell to Noah, who leaves after more than 9 years in various stages of music making at St Mary's, starting with Joyful Noise, progressing to the Junior Choir, and most recently singing as a tenor Choral Scholar.

Otilie Lefever



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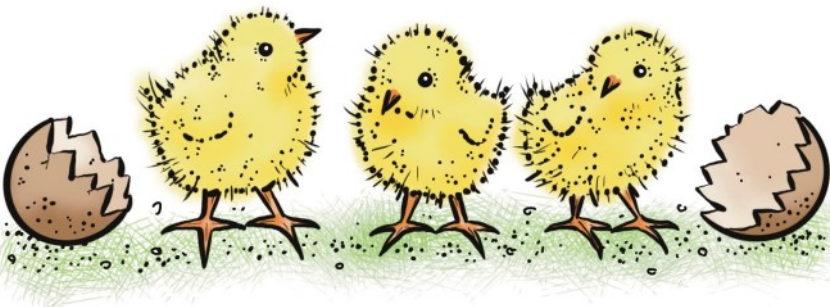
## The QuinquaQuiz

The QuinquaQuiz held on Saturday February 18th raised £315 towards the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The winning team receiving the QuinquaQuiz Cup came from Ashdon. Many thanks to the nine teams who took part.



Chris Bishop  
Quiz Master

*Details of this year's Lent Appeal can be found on page 27.*



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

## The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal 2023



The 2023 Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal is raising funds to support St Andrew's College of Theology and Development in Kabare, Kenya.

The College plays a key role in providing residential training for new clergy and lay leaders for all five of our partner dioceses in Kenya. The College also serves its local community with courses in theology, business and ICT.

Chelmsford Diocese has a long history of supporting the College dating back to the 1980's when we were able to support the construction of the library, which was then named the Chelmsford Library. More recently, our Lent Appeal in 2019 supported the installation of a gravity-fed freshwater system for the campus, which was no mean feat as the college stands on the top of a hill!

Making use of the reliable water supply, this year's Lent Appeal seeks to raise funds to improve the shower and toilet facilities for students. The current accommodation blocks are old and have very basic facilities with no hot water. The college had only nine students when these facilities were built and now there is overwhelming demand with more than one-hundred and fifty students using them.

Chelmsford Diocese Website

Donations can be made online at  
<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal> until 1st July 2023.

## Pilgrims to Pass through Saffron Walden

Pilgrims will be walking from London to Walsingham on 11-25 April 2023, including walking from Stansted to Withersfield via Saffron Walden on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

This newly resurrected route has now been given official recognition by the Confraternity of St James, better known for their organisation of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. That means that any pilgrim who walks at least 25km of it will be able to use that 25km towards the total of 100km that must be walked in order to get the official credencial on reaching Santiago.

The 178 mile route is in 13 stages, each averaging about 14 miles, and passes through Saffron Walden, where St Mary's Church is one of the 19 churches en route that now has its own pilgrimage stamp for pilgrims to use to stamp their passports, which can also be used on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.

Andy Bull (author of the London to Walsingham Camino) will be walking from Stansted to Saffron Walden on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April and from Saffron Walden to Withersfield on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone interested in joining Andy on this or any section of the route can email him for details - andybull@gmail.com



The section shown on the map is 14 miles and will take about 5 hours. More information can be accessed on St Mary's Church website at [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/pilgrimage](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/pilgrimage)

Clifford Want

## God in the Sciences

### How Can a Christian be a Scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered, who could make it in the world of science and still hold onto their faith? Soon enough I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, some of whom were at my own university. So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges that a life in science holds for a Christian?



Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things in the world, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. Exploring the world is a great thing to do to express our gratitude to the Creator. There is a sense of awe and wonder that comes when we expand our minds and our horizons by discovering things about the universe which can feed into our worship.

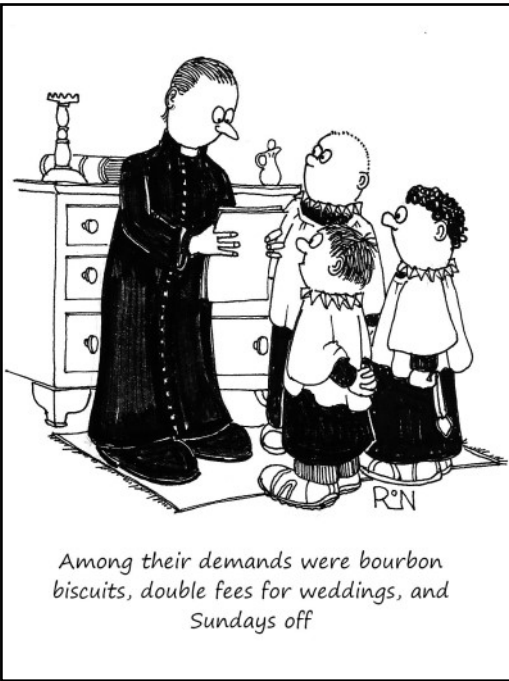
Of course, there may be things in science that some Christians don't want to get involved in because of what they believe. But there should also be ethical issues that make them want to get stuck into new research that will help people, protect creation, or tackle injustices. I am glad to see that many senior scientists do their best to find appropriate ways to make their own faith visible, so that people like my younger self can find role models and mentors.

Another helpful thing about science is that although our beliefs may at times affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they shouldn't affect the outcome of experiments themselves. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of that worldview.

In my work at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, and my involvement with Christians in Science, I have the privilege of meeting a great number of scientists who are also Christians. One of the most famous living biologists is Francis Collins, who was Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA. He wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." (Francis Collins, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, Simon and Schuster, 2007)

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge



*Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off*



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

## Christ in the Carpenter's Shop

This painting by Millais caused an uproar. Charles Dickens led the assault: "Here is a kneeling woman so horrible in her ugliness ... she would stand out from the rest of the company as a monster in the vilest cabaret in France or the lowest gin shop in England." Victorians were horrified to see the icons of their faith treated with such realism.

The painting expressed the heart of the revolutionary ideals of the new Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Their aim was to return art to the simple honesty of painting before the High Renaissance: before the dramatic lighting effects of Caravaggio, the dramatic compositional devices of Titian and the idealised perfection of Raphael, which gave rise to so much of the dark, brooding art that decorates Catholic Churches across the continent.

Here the light is plain and simple, with no dynamic shadows; the composition is made of unsophisticated horizontals and verticals, and perspective is captured by the cross braces of the door on the bench, their strong angles pointing to their allotted vanishing point on the centre line of the canvas like the broken spears and bodies in an Early Renaissance battle scene by Uccello.

Mary is no longer the innocent virgin, but an ageing mother deeply, in fact disproportionately, distressed by the cut on her son's hand, which she recognises as foretelling his crucifixion. Joseph is not strong, thickly haired and bearded, but

a wiry, barefooted carpenter, in vain denial of his age with a few strands of hair combed over his glossy bald head. Even the depiction of the young Christ as a red-head shocked enraged Dickens who described him as, “a hideous, wry-necked, blubbering, red-headed boy, in a bed gown.”



It is painted with the attention to minute detail which is an integral part of the style we associate with the Pre-Raphaelites: every wood shaving on the floor is painstakingly rendered.

But there is fun to be had in deciphering all the details and symbols which prefigure the story to come. Jesus has cut his hand on the head of a nail (one of three) and a drop of blood has fallen onto his foot exactly where the stigmata will eventually be. The young John the Baptist, clothed in traditional goat-skin, is nervously bringing water to bathe the wound rather than to baptise.

And there is more: the set-square hanging on the wall symbolises the Trinity; the ladder is presumably Jacob's with a dove resting peacefully on it prefiguring the dove that appeared at Christ's baptism. The sheep outside foretell of the flock of which we are to become a part. In the centre of the flock is a ram: perhaps the ram caught in the thicket when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, or the ram in Leviticus which serves as a guilt offering? Maybe even the door they are making prefigures the door to eternal life...

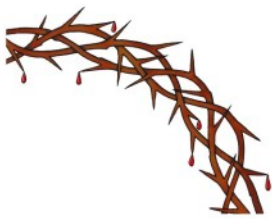
One additional detail intrigues me: there is another splash of thematic red just outside the door in front of the penned sheep. It is the exotic flower on a cactus. The cactus symbolising Jesus' time in the desert, I presume and the flower – the beauty that was born of that suffering?

You can find this masterpiece in Tate Britain and make up your own interpretations as you enjoy it!

Edward Gildea

Photograph taken by the author. See also: -

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-christ-in-the-house-of-his-parents-the-carpenters-shop-n03584>



April  
2023

THE HEAD THAT  
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CROWNED WITH THORNS

IS CROWNED  
GLORY  
WITH  
NOW