



# Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

June 2023

FREE



## Ringing of church bells for the Coronation of King Charles III - 6th May 2023

If you were anywhere near a church on Coronation weekend, you might have heard the bells being rung in celebration. (There was quite a lot last year, too, marking in turn the Platinum Jubilee and death of Elizabeth II, and the Accession of the King.)



*Our Bell Ringers on Coronation Day, 6th May (Photograph © Celia Bartlett)*

In order to have the bells rung at as many churches as possible, those in NW Essex were divided into groups so bands could ring at several churches in succession. This benefits those towers that might only have a few ringers or where the bells are not rung regularly. Pictured is the band that rang here at St Mary's at the start of our tour on the Saturday afternoon (photograph: Celia Bartlett), before heading to Littlebury, Wendens Ambo and other towers nearby.

Such landmark events are often a springboard for recruitment (I've rung with ringers who learned in time for the millennium, for example) and you might have seen stories in the news about training new ringers to (in the words of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) "Ring for the King". At Great Chishill, where the bells have recently been refurbished, I found myself ringing with two who I used to sing with in our church choir and who'd only started to learn a matter of weeks before. And at Rickling we were joined by a lady who hadn't rung for twenty years but had heard the bells and came along to see if she could have a go.

As with the events of last year, it is a memory that will last. And, again, I find my mind wandering back to my grandparents who might have rung to celebrate the previous coronation and who lived, at the time, on a Queen Street, before moving to a Coronation Avenue. And they were the parents of my mother, Elizabeth, who married Philip.

Simon Potter

# Contents for June 2023

## THE RECTOR'S LETTER 4

## NOTICEBOARD

Ring for the King	2
From the Registers	5
Calendar	16

## REPORTS

St Mary's Music News	23
----------------------	----

## FEATURES

Prayer for June	5
Let's Weigh Up our Time Scales	6
Book Review: Martin Luther	9
Friends of the Parish Church	11
Gelio	14
Lightning Hits St Mary's	14
The Hundred Parishes Society	18
Celebrating the Coronation	19
You in the Pew	20
Flowers in Church	21
Poem: Foundations	25
Archive Group: 1902	28
It's Groundhog Day!	29

## 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 **July** issue is **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**.

### Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon  
 email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)  
 01799 506024  
 or the editor:  
[andy.colebrooke@gmail.com](mailto:andy.colebrooke@gmail.com)  
 01799 732970

### Advertising:

Email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto: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](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews)

Cover Photograph: Foxgloves in Cambridge Botanical Gardens by Gilly Hayes

## TEAM RECTOR:

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew: 01799 500947  
 Email: [rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

**ASSISTANT CURATE:** The Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 571023  
 Email: [revellaharris@gmail.com](mailto:revellaharris@gmail.com)

## CHURCHWARDENS:

Gill Caswell: 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden)  
 Simon Potter: 07913 898 248 (Saffron Walden)  
 Michael Dean: 01799 523388 (Sewards End)  
 Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523898 (Sewards End)  
 Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524265 (Little Walden)

© 2023

All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.



**St Mary's Church Website:**

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



## The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

I visited an old Puritan Chapel recently whilst on retreat. Lovely place. Simple, even austere, but possessing a serenity through its simplicity; a place to unwind, meditate and pray. The Puritans are regarded as having had their heyday at the time of the Commonwealth – those years following the civil war – and to have provided a legacy that shapes our society even now. Attitudes towards work and play are two very important areas where Puritans are said to have left a lasting influence. But often their story is wrongly told.

In the world of work we hear of the “Protestant work ethic”, supposedly shaped largely by the Puritans, though actually owing more to economic thinkers such as Adam Smith whose celebration of self interest is a driving force in Conservatism even today. His works have fed the concept that work is at the heart of our personal identity and that it rightly demands any level of sacrifice required on its altar. The Puritans themselves had a much healthier attitude, believing that work was to be our servant, meeting our needs and the needs of others, but always remaining subservient to justice and personal freedom.

Likewise, in the world of leisure and play the Puritans have done undeservedly badly. We all remember the tale of how Christmas was banned for a time, and this certainly seems a cut-back too far. This, though, was in the context of a society that celebrated so many high and holy days that nearly half of the year was lost to public holidays. The economy was collapsing through an excessive and not always sincere dose of religion. The Puritans merely believed that religion, work and play should all be held in balance and viewed collectively as our worship of God – God was not just experienced on Sundays and Festivals, but also to be found in our labour and in our leisure. In fact, the Puritans held views on leisure, alcohol, sexuality and many other things that would often seem liberal even by the standards of today: If you have ever wondered why the Prayer Book Marriage Service puts such a heavy emphasis on child-bearing (and who hasn't!), it is because the Puritans encouraged couples to cohabit until the first child was on the way.

So, maybe we should give the Puritans the credit they deserve; for thinking around the problems their culture faced to seek to build a healthy



and just society; for encouraging a balanced and rewarding lifestyle; and for recognising that true Christianity is found in the workplace and on the beach as much as in the chapel. Amen, and pass the cork-screw.

As a side note: A couple of people have suggested that they might like to be confirmed, as a means of exploring their faith. I'm more than happy to do that, and suggest we form a group to begin meeting after the Summer holidays. If you would be interested please do send me your contact details and I'll work on setting some dates and times.

Jeremy

### **From the Registers**

#### **Baptisms**

16th April            Lily Catherine April Scott

#### **Weddings**

22nd April            Matthew Wilson & Jessica Gray

#### **Funerals**

5th April            Vera Pettican

13th April            Ronald Butler

21st April            Jean Smith

### **A Prayer for June**

*provided by the Prayer Team*

In June, on Trinity Sunday, the Church celebrates God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Here are two verses of a favourite hymn: -

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

## Let's Weigh up our Time Scales

The sudden and dramatic changes in the balance of Earth are sometimes attributed to the vast natural cycles of our planet. In order to distinguish them, we need a sense of scale. If we turn years into inches:

- Man started using fire in the 'Old Stone Age' 1.6 million years or roughly 25 miles ago
- The Neolithic Era or New Stone Age, when we became farmers, started just 333 yards ago (12,000 years)
- The Bronze Age started 147 yards ago and the Iron Age 89 yards ago
- Jesus lived about 55 yards ago
- The Industrial Revolution started 7 yards ago
- The Machine Age of internal combustion and electrical engines started just 3.8 yards ago
- The Atomic Age began 2.16 yards ago and
- The Internet Age started a mere 33 inches ago.

This gives us a sense of the astonishing acceleration of our technology following an incredibly long period as cavemen! At school I assumed that the Old and New Stone Ages were roughly equal. They never told me that the whole of human history since the start of the New Stone Age adds up to less than 1% of the Paleolithic era!

**More astounding still is the fact that half of all the Green House Gases in the Earth's atmosphere were put there since Boris Becker won Wimbledon in 1985, just 38 inches ago!**



This breakneck acceleration of our fossil-fuelled lifestyles is what places the problem in a different order of magnitude from the natural cycles of the planet, such as the Ice Ages.

The first Ice Age, the Huronian, was 2.3 billion years; roughly 35,000 miles ago. The fourth, Late Paleozoic Ice Age, when the continents started to drift, was 360-250 million years ago; roughly 5,000 miles ago. The most recent, Pleistocene Ice Age started 2.6 million years, approximately 40 miles ago and is notionally still with us.

These cycles of the planet are on a totally different scale from the 38 inches in which we have so radically altered the balance of the planet. As a species we have enjoyed a largely benign and balanced climate. We have learned how to adapt to snow and ice as well as desert. But never has one generation brought about such sudden changes which so profoundly affect the life chances of the following generations.

There are other theories that the accelerated melting of the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are due to volcanic activity. There were indeed an amazing 85,000 earthquakes in Antarctica in 2020 due to the activity of the previously dormant Orca Seamount volcano. But while a NASA-led study helped explain why the ice sheet collapsed rapidly in an earlier era of rapid climate change and why it's so unstable today, the researchers emphasized that the heat source isn't a new or increasing threat to the West Antarctic ice sheet, but rather has been going on over geologic timescales, and therefore represents 'a background contribution to the melting of the ice sheet'.\* The Marie Byrd Land geothermal plume, which melts ice and creates lakes under the ice, was formed 50-110 million years ago, 790 – 1,700 miles ago. Far longer than Boris Becker's 38 inches!

These vast, natural events in their massive timescales are way beyond man's control, but we should not use them as excuses to continue our 'business as usual' lifestyles. As with everything in life, we should take responsibility for those actions that *are* within our control, and, if we have faith, pray to God for those that are not.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

\* <https://climate.nasa.gov/explore/ask-nasa-climate/2982/fire-and-ice-why-volcanic-activity-is-not-melting-the-polar-ice-sheets/>

*Photograph by Matt Boitor on Unsplash (used with permission)*

# PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

*Serving the Community since 1847*

SHIRE HILL  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
01799 523314

66B HIGH ST  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
01799 513513

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

Also in Duxford, Sawston  
Haverhill and Cambridge

**[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)**

**[enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)**





## Book Review

**Martin Luther: Catholic Dissident by Peter Stanford**

**Published in 2017 by Hodder & Stoughton £12.99 (paperback)**

On 5 January 1521, Pope Leo X excommunicated Martin Luther from the Roman Catholic Church. In practice, this was a death sentence. How did it come to this and how was Luther able to live a comparatively normal life before his death from natural causes, in 1546?

Peter Stanford, a practising Catholic and former editor of the Catholic Herald, has written a full and sympathetic biography of the man who triggered the Reformation.

Stanford identifies three significant events leading to Luther's excommunication. In 1510, as an ordained priest, Luther made his only visit to Rome. He was already troubled by his own sense of unworthiness before God and thought that a visit to Rome would refresh his faith. Instead, he was appalled by the cynicism and worldliness of his fellow-priests and the extravagance of the Pope's palaces.

On his return to Germany, Luther continued his study of Paul's letter to the Romans. "Justification by faith" became the cornerstone of his thinking. This ran completely counter to the doctrine of Rome, whereby indulgences (which had to be bought) and good works would reduce the time spent in purgatory, itself a 12C invention of the church, "...with little scriptural underpinning...".

The third event was the arrival of Johann Tetzel. A fundraiser for Pope Leo X's building projects in Rome, Tetzel resorted to extreme and dubious theology to boost the sale of indulgences. This was the trigger for Luther's 95 theses, roundly criticising the entire concept of indulgences. According to Stanford (and to spoil a good story) they were not nailed to the church door but sent to his archbishop, Prince Albrecht, who ducked the issues and forwarded the letter to the Pope for "clarification" who in turn dismissed Luther's theses out of hand and set in train the events leading to his excommunication.

Luther's survival is attributed by Stanford to German politics. Many of the German states resented the constant demands for money from Rome and were only too happy to protect Luther and the nascent Lutheran Church. The responsibility of seizing Luther lay with the Emperor Charles V but he was preoccupied with holding off the Ottoman army threatening Vienna, fighting the French and involving himself in various wars in Italy.

A well-researched, informative biography. And a very good read.

Ian Sutherland

## How about advertising in Parish News?

Available in

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden  
St John's Church, Little Walden  
St James' Church, Swards End  
The Tourist Information Centre  
and online at [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

Annual subscription rates:

Full page: £200  
Half page: £120  
Quarter page: £70

For more information email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto: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](http://www.chimneys.demon.co.uk)

**01763 838360**

### 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](http://www.Rothwells.biz)

## **FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH**

St Mary's Friends is a very active group who are The Friends of the Parish Church and have been working hard for almost 90 years. We are able to help financially with minor and major projects, the last major funding paid for the beautiful oak Welcome Furniture that greets you at the West door.

We have a bookstand offering postcards, prints and books for sale to our many visitors. We visit Cathedrals around the country twice a year. Why not join us and feel part of the process and feel that sense of pride in the work we carry out. There are application forms on our bookstand, and on the website so **come and join us**. Watch this space for update news and activities.

Chairman: Denis Tindley, Sec.: Pamela Mugliston Treasurer: Sandra Marsh

## **Newsflash ... The Friends Cathedral Trips**

The trip to Southwark Cathedral is now fully booked but, note for your diary, we are going to Norwich Cathedral in November. There will be a tour of the Cathedral in the morning and free time for sightseeing or Christmas shopping in the afternoon. Watch this space for further details.

## **For Sale**

Regarding the left hand print on the wall in the back meeting room of the Parish Rooms, copies of this beautiful print are available for sale through the Friends for £5, they would make a fantastic present at a reasonable cost. Ask any Friends Council member and they will access a copy for you

## **Newsflash to members ... Summer Event**

Don't forget to sign up to help with a Summer Event, it's your opportunity to be involved in Fund Raising to help with the many projects requiring funding at St Mary's. See note in the latest Newsletter.

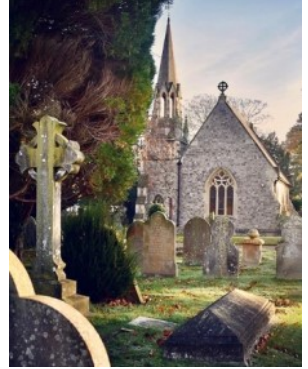
Contact Pamela : [pjmteddybear@btinternet.com](mailto:pjmteddybear@btinternet.com)

## **Moth spraying**

You may be aware that we have a continuing moth problem in the Church particularly attacking carpets and fabrics but the Friends Council members are taking it in turns to carry out a monthly spray, so if you spot one of them with a mask on and a can in hand that is what they are doing. This is a particular problem around the altar areas. If you do spot them stay clear for a few minutes to let the spray settle.

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

A peaceful space which offers a natural environment for all types of wildlife and as a result is an important nature conservation resource in the town. Daily maintenance and gardening are carried out which ensures the space is both clean and tidy, where residents and visitors can visit for peace and reflection. The Cemetery is divided into different areas; Lawn cemetery, Traditional area, Garden of Remembrance, scattered ashes, and areas for children and young people. There is a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



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/>

**Hearing  
Help** Essex

**NHS Hearing Aid Support  
Sessions 2022**

### **NHS Hearing Aid re-tubing, cleaning and basic maintenance**

We are able to offer appointments for NHS hearing aids maintenance, or if the tubs are brittle, cracked, blocked or damaged.



Saffron Community Link, 1b Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HX

Appointment only. To book please contact us on:

Tel: 01245 496347 / Text: 07950 406173

You can also book appointments online at [www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk)

If you are housebound, please ask about our home visits service.

*As usual our service remains completely free of charge, but as a small charity working hard to support Essex residents living with hearing loss, all donations are appreciated.*







# **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](http://www.saffronlaundry.com)



## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs



Here are some interesting proverbs on the subject of **Wisdom**

There is an **African** proverb that says 'Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet'. There is another **Latin** proverb which says 'There is often wisdom under a shabby cloak', and finally, it's back to **England** for 'Wise men change their minds, fools never'

## Lightning Hits St Mary's Church Tower

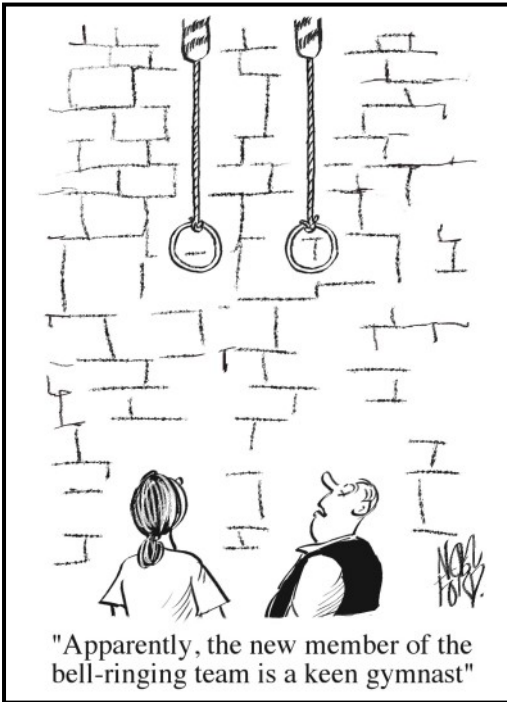
### The clock chimes have temporarily been stopped

During the thunderstorm in the town on the morning of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, lightning appears to have struck the tower at St Mary's or to have been very close to the church.

The lightning conductor on the tower ensured that there was no damage to the structure of the building, although a number of electronic items were affected and will need to be replaced.

One of the items damaged was the electrical mechanism which stops the church clock from sounding during the night. Jeremy Trew, Rector of St Mary's, said, "It has taken us a few days to identify all of the items that have been damaged and I would like to thank those local residents who informed us that since Friday the clock has been chiming at night. To avoid this, and until a repair is completed, we have had to stop the clock from chiming at all, which, regrettably, means it will also be silent during the day. The clock is owned and maintained by the Town Council and we have informed them that a repair is required."

Clifford Want



**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](mailto:colemansafwalden@aol.com)

### **Ross Nursing Services Ltd.**

We are a Clavering based, family owned and run care company, covering north west Essex. We maintain the highest level of care and support for all our clients by continually monitoring standards and ensuring that individual needs are met.



**We value client's dignity, independence, privacy, choice and rights.**

#### **What you can expect:**

- \* 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.
- \* In addition we can accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP, we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household management.
- \* We also have someone who can help with tasks such as setting up the internet.

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

# Calendar for June 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.

### Thursday 1 June

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel  
1pm Service with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

### Sunday 4 June **Trinity Sunday**

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
Motet: *Save us, O Lord, by Bairstow*; Organ: *Festivo by How*  
6.30pm H2H - led by Youth Group

### Tuesday 6 June

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

### Wednesday 7 June

8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion  
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Krassimira Jeliaskova: *violin*, Elizabeth Mucha: *piano*

### Thursday 8 June **Corpus Christi**

7.30pm Choral Eucharist - *Cook in E minor*  
Motet: *Ave verum*; Voluntary: *Rhosymedre by Vaughan Williams*

### Sunday 11 June

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y]  
Motet: *Verleih uns Frieden*; Organ: *Hamburg by Bovet*  
6.30pm Choral Evensong - Great Ringing Day: Bell ringers' 400th anniversary  
*Sumsion in G*; Anthem: *Let all the World by Vaughn Williams*; Organ: *Bells by Langlais*

### Tuesday 13 June

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

### Wednesday 14 June

8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion  
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Joanna Lam: *piano*



## Sunday 18 June

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
Motet: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace by Wesley*;  
Organ: *Sanctus by Tabakova*  
4pm Living Stones Service at Wendens Ambo Village Hall, CB11 4JX

## Tuesday 20 June

- 5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

## Wednesday 21 June

- 8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion  
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Philip Sunderland: *organ*

## Sunday 25 June

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

## Tuesday 27 June

- 5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

## Wednesday 28 June

- 8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion  
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - St Mary's Brass Quintet



## St James', Swards End

### Sunday 4 June **Trinity Sunday**

- 10.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 18 June

- 10.30am Morning Praise and Baptism



## St John's, Little Walden

### Sunday 11 June

- 10.30am Family Service

### Sunday 25 June

- 10.30am Holy Communion

## The Hundred Parishes Society

*Editor: The Hundred Parishes Society aims to increase awareness, enjoyment and care of the Hundred Parishes (450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire). It is not a church-orientated organisation - "Parishes" referring to administrative parishes. The Society is interested in all things historical and local.*

The Hundred Parishes area has been home to many creative people. The People section of [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) includes introductions to a number of artists, composers - and also authors.

Probably our best-known author was HG Wells (1866-1946) who lived for 18 years in Little Easton at 18th-century Easton Glebe. He was a prolific writer, best remembered for his science-fiction novel "*War of the Worlds*" which was written before he came to Little Easton. A later novel, "*Mr Britling Sees it Through*" was set in Little Easton.



"*The Hundred and One Dalmatians*" was written by Dodie Smith (1896-1990). From 1934, she lived in Finchingfield at The Barretts, a 16th-century thatched house in the tiny hamlet of Howe Street. Her children's novel, written in 1956, was made into a highly successful Disney animated film. An earlier novel "*I captured the Castle*", written in 1948, was adapted into a film in 2003. Smith's former home is marked by a blue plaque.



Another blue plaque, on 17th-century Rose Cottage in Stebbing, identifies the former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole (1863 -1951) who was also a prolific author. He lived there for about 10 years in the early 1900s and during that time completed his best-known novel, "*The Blue Lagoon*". It has been made into a feature film several times.



Horham Hall in the parish of Thaxted was the home of novelist Evelyn Anthony (1926 – 2018) from 1968 to 1976 and then from 1982 until her death. Sixteenth-century Horham Hall is Grade I-listed and the cost of upkeep forced Evelyn and her husband to sell it, but they were able to re-purchase it when her royalties increased. Of her many novels, "*The Tamarind Seed*" was the best known. It was published in 1971 and made into a film in 1974, starring Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif.



Ken McDonald, Secretary.

## **Celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III Bell ringing and a special Holy Communion Service**

On Coronation Day the bells at St Mary's were rung at 2 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes and then the Saffron Walden ringers assisted with ringing the bells in twelve of the surrounding villages.

The Communion Service at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May included special elements relating to the Coronation. There were official prayers for the King and all the Royal Family, for the United Kingdom, and His Majesty's other Realms and Territories, and for the whole Commonwealth of Nations. The choir sang the anthem '*I was glad*' by H. Parry with words taken from Psalm 122. This was originally written for the coronation of Edward VII in Westminster Abbey. The voluntary '*Praise him*' by JS Bach, played by the St Mary's Brass Group. This special service can be viewed on YouTube at [https://youtube.com/live/J9mmd-0\\_cXI?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/J9mmd-0_cXI?feature=share)

Finally, as is traditional on such a significant event in the life of our country, a full peal lasting approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes of continuous ringing, was rung at St Mary's Church on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 10 a.m.

Clifford Want

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

**Diana Golding**

Diana, who had two brothers, was born in Chrishall in 1937 where her mother ran the village shop. Her father ran 'Weeden's' local bus services with the reputation, 'Never leave anyone behind', especially on the first route to London during the war! She remembers especially Community singing in the garage during the war.

She was christened in Chrishall church and then moved to Whittlesford, where she eventually enjoyed community activities within the church, which included bell ringing. She attended the Friends' School in Saffron Walden, became a member of the Girl Guides and, later, formed a Brownie Group, becoming Brown Owl. She married Jack in Whittlesford church in 1961, their first home being in Saffron Walden, where they have been ever since.

Attending St Mary's, Diana became part of the flower arranging team, the Baptism team, and helped with what was then the Pram Service group. Diana and Jack had three children, two sons and a daughter. Jane and Ian were both christened in St Mary's church. Their sons were in the choir for several years; Ian, the younger, became interested in the organ, gaining an Essex scholarship to Trinity College Saturday Junior Department.

In 1985, Diana volunteered with Homestart and, in 1992, helped to set up a confidential local PARENTLINE (helpline) for parents with problems, becoming co-ordinator for 5 years.

In 1987, she joined Harlow Victim Support, part of which involved working with a group of other volunteers as a back-up team, supporting the work of the airport Chaplain, Chris Bishop, when they had emergency exercises. One actual crisis they were involved in was to meet two emergency flights of refugees fleeing from Sierra Leone, in the early hours of one morning.

She worked with Jack as co-ordinators for the local group for 35 years and was given an Uttlesford Community Award in 2000 and an Uttlesford Community Award for Victim Support in 2003. Having been a volunteer for 35 years, in May 2019, accompanied by Jack, she was thrilled to be invited to the Queen's Garden Party.





## Flowers In Church

This year I celebrate forty-one years of arranging flowers in the church and I am in my twenty-third year as Flower Co-ordinator. I lead a small team who willingly give their time to create the most decorative, suitable and appropriate arrangements throughout the year excluding Advent and Lent. In planning major church festivals liturgical colours need to be taken into account. Flowers enhance the church services and are welcoming to visitors.

Once the flowers are in place the work does not stop there, they have to be kept looking fresh and vibrant. This necessitates daily checking, watering, and replacement of fading blooms.

The team undertakes wedding flowers under the care of Jane Knight to whom I owe a big thank you. Jane liaises with brides if they wish us to provide flowers. Some colour schemes can be challenging. A competitive sum is requested for wedding flowers and other requested occasions and this helps the team to be self-supporting of any financial help from the church. The cost of flowers has increased over the past few years. Just as a matter of interest this year the Easter flowers cost was £230.

All the arrangers donate the cost of their flowers when it is their turn. Easter is the exception when donations in memory of loved ones are asked for.

When there is a request for an arrangement in the Remembrance Chapel a donation is asked for to cover the cost of the flowers.

Pam Russell



# The Grange Care Home

## Our family caring for yours

The Grange provides the kind of care we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. Our home is beautifully furnished, whilst retaining a warm family atmosphere that makes The Grange feel extra special. If you're concerned about how your relative is coping and would like them to have more support, The Grange provides family-led care in a luxurious and homely environment.



For more information about life at The Grange Care Home contact us on **01799 243005**



01799 243 005



Fallow Drive, Newport, CB11 3RP



[www.countrycourtcare.com](http://www.countrycourtcare.com)



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



Tuesday to Saturday 9 - 5  
8 Station Street  
Saffron Walden  
Essex CB11 3HE  
01799 522328  
[www.bandrcarpets.com](http://www.bandrcarpets.com)



# JOB HUNTING

## The Transition Project

is back with Remote Working 

Get free practical help with:

- Job searching
- CV writing
- Job applications

Our drop-in sessions are suspended but experienced volunteers have re-organised to provide phone, email, or Zoom support.

To learn more about this free service

**Email:** [swtransitionproject@gmail.com](mailto:swtransitionproject@gmail.com)

**Call:** 07901 173 763

**Web:** [www.transitionproject.co.uk](http://www.transitionproject.co.uk)

## St Mary's Music News - June 2023

Music this month was book-ended by services combining the choir and the Brass Group. The Easter Sunday morning service (not the 6am Sunrise Holy Communion – your Easter correspondent does not get up that early, even on a day of celebration!) started with a rousing rendition of *The Heavens Are Telling* from Haydn's Creation by the Brass Group, and culminated with congregation, choir, brass and organ belting out the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's Messiah. The musician who described it as "sensory overload" was spot on. In the calm before the storm, Assistant Organist Jeremy Allen emulated the "Wild Isles" photographers with a bird's eye view of the rehearsal.



The Brass Group and choir joined forces again for the service on 7 May celebrating the Coronation. The choir - of course - sang Hubert Parry's "*I was glad when they said unto me*", based on Psalm 122. Parry's version was composed for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 and has been sung not only at subsequent

coronations and Jubilees but also at the wedding of the then Prince William and Catherine Middleton. The organ voluntary was J S Bach's *Praise Him*.

Other notable services have included choral evensong on second Sundays, and the Solemn Eucharist for Ascension Day on 18 May. The next choral evensong is at 6.30 pm on Sunday 11 June. This is always an uplifting and meditative service – an excellent way to reflect on a busy week.

Recruitment is under way for new members of Joyful Noise and the Junior Choir. Joyful Noise is a group for children in school years 1-3 where they learn action songs, rounds and sing music from around the world. The Junior Choristers range from 8 to 12. On Friday 9 June there is a taster session for Joyful Noise from 4-4.45pm, followed by a taster session for the Junior Choir from 6-7.30pm. Our younger musicians are the foundation of all music at St Mary's. They learn a lot, while having fun. If you know of any potential recruits, please encourage them to apply. Even if a youngster is unable to attend a taster session but is still interested in singing, do get in touch. For more information, please contact Oli King (Director of Music) or Hannah Razzell, St Mary's Music Association email [music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org).

And in more Junior news, we are very pleased to report that Angus, one

of our Junior Choristers, has been accepted into the Bury St Edmunds Cathedral choir, following in Jeremy Allen's footsteps. Half a century ago Jeremy worked his way up through the ranks to become Head Chorister at the Cathedral.

June is the busiest month for our 40 minute lunchtime concerts at 1.10 pm on Wednesdays, with refreshments available from 12.30. Even if you missed Titika Maragoula singing with Richard Carr on piano on 31 May, there is still time to enjoy Krassimira Jeliakova on violin with Elizabeth Mucha on piano on 7 June, Joanna Lam's piano concert on 14 June, Philip Sunderland playing the organ on 21 June and the St Mary's Brass Quintet on 28 June. There are 2 further concerts in July, details in the next newsletter.

And finally, at 3pm on Saturday 1 July there is a very special one-off organ concert by Anna Lapwood, who is not only the Director of Music at Pembroke College Cambridge, but also resident organist at the Royal Albert Hall, and a popular conductor and broadcaster. We look forward to welcoming you to all and any of these events.

Otilie Lefever



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



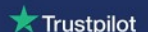
Call us today to learn more about **HomeSafe** and why you can trust MOLLY MAID in your home.

Please call: **01376 349419**  
or email: [julie.ward@mollymaid.co.uk](mailto:julie.ward@mollymaid.co.uk)



See what our customers say at [uk.trustpilot.com](http://uk.trustpilot.com)

Excellent





## Foundations

(Matthew 7:24-29)

What will happen to my house Lord,  
Now that the rain is falling,  
Now that the floods are rising,  
Now that the wind is blowing  
And beating, beating upon it?

Sunday by Sunday  
I hear your Word  
With interest,  
With conflict,  
With questions.

I hear your Word  
As I build my house.  
But will it stand, Lord,  
When the rain and the floods  
And the winds challenge?

Are my foundations  
Sunday sand of hearing only,  
Or daily rock of hearing *and* doing your will,  
Living your Word,  
Strong in the storm?

Lord, Lord,  
Help me to hear,  
Move me to act.  
Let my house stand.

Daphne Kitching  
(From Parish Pump)

**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

# **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](mailto:info@benten.co.uk)

[www.benten.co.uk](http://www.benten.co.uk)

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

# Ashdon Open Gardens



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

*(All Payments Cash only)*

**Sunday 11th June 2023**  
**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 - **CB10 2HG***



Muniments Room

## Archive Group

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

**Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop**

### **June 1902**

This month bids fair to mark two epochs of great importance to the British Empire: the one, the approaching Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>, the other, the decision of the Boers either for the continuance of war, or the establishment of peace. (*Peace came in South Africa but what of the second epoch?*)

### **July 1902**

That which seemed to be as certain as anything in human affairs can be, was the Coronation of our King and Queen. Month after month brought all the preparations to a stage of efficiency and splendour, which promised to eclipse all former displays: from all parts of the world flocked the representatives of authority and empire; teeming thousands from foreign lands had come to join our millions at home: princes and nobles, armies and fleets assembled to celebrate the occasion: every item of high ceremonial was arranged, town and country vied with each other in order to do honour to the day, and make it one to be hereafter remembered with thankfulness and joy; there remained but two days before the expected pageant; did any doubt or misgiving cloud the prospect of success, save in the uncertainty of our climate? And yet scarce forty-eight hours before the King would have started in procession to Westminster Abbey, every arrangement was cancelled, for His Majesty was seriously ill. (*The King had appendicitis.*)

### **August 1902**

The continued improvement in the condition of the King.....justifies the hope that the Coronation may take place on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **September 1902**

Great reason has every subject of the British Empire to rejoice and to thank God for His abundant mercy in restoring the health of our King, and enabling him to undergo the fatigue of that most impressive, religious service by which he was solemnly anointed, crowned, and enthroned on August 9<sup>th</sup>, in Westminster Abbey, together with our gracious Queen.

## It's Groundhog Day!

Type the phrase 'Groundhog Day' into a search engine and you'll get millions of results. A cursory look will find news reports like these: Boris Johnson warns MPs against 'getting into some hellish Groundhog Day debate' about the European Union; the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, comparing debates in General Synod to scenes from *Groundhog Day*; and an Aussie cricketer falling victim, yet again, to a New Zealander's short ball is reported as 'Groundhog Day again for David Warner'. There are millions more where these came from. It's become the phrase people reach for when they want to describe life's repetitive moments, times when boredom and frustration reign. It has now passed into the vernacular and into our dictionary.



February 2nd is Candlemas in the Christian Calendar, but in parts of Canada and the USA it's also Groundhog Day - the day when a groundhog is awoken from its nest early in the morning and quizzed as to when winter will end. It's asked (in groundhog-ese) if when it opened its eyes, the first thing it saw was its shadow. If it wasn't, then winter will end early, but if it was, then there'll be six more weeks of winter. It has become a cause for partying in towns where this bizarre ceremony takes place and has now become well known the world-over through the 1993 film-comedy *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray and Andi MacDowell.

Murray is weatherman Phil Connors, who works for a local TV station in Pittsburgh. He is sent, along with his new producer Rita (MacDowell) to the small town of Punxsutawney to cover its own groundhog ceremony. (Punxsutawney is indeed a real place in Pennsylvania, and has a pet groundhog, called Phil.) Weatherman Phil is totally wrapped up in his own ego, far too important, in his own mind, to be working for such a minor station and reporting on such a silly ceremony. He is also a womaniser who has his eyes on Rita. He is rude and cruelly sarcastic, someone who has never quite grown up.

Phil, Rita and their cameraman arrive the day before in order to be ready early next morning to cover the 8 o'clock ceremony. That done, they start to drive back to Pittsburgh, but a blizzard strike forces them to return to Punxsutawney to stay another night. When Phil wakes up in his hotel bed the next day, he finds it's not the next day, but the beginning of the day he has just



had - February 2<sup>nd</sup> again, Groundhog Day! To add to his confusion, nobody else is experiencing his déjà vu; he meets the same people in the same places, at the same times, all unaware of Phil's predicament. He is confused and anxious, then, when he wakes the next morning, he is panic stricken - because it's still Groundhog Day and he must go through it again!

Caught in a never-ending time-loop of one day what is he to do? Phil being the kind of guy he is, he decides to exploit the situation. He uses his days to gather information about people, especially about Rita - what are her likes and dislikes, what's her picture of the perfect man. Armed with this information he tries repeatedly to seduce her, each time ending in failure. The question the film poses is: can such an egotistical person, one so immature, ever live long enough, to change for the better? Would one lifetime be enough? Indeed, for a person so full of his own importance and so abusive towards others, would even eternity be sufficient?

It's a question the film handles with great humour, but also surprising depth. Each new day (although it's the same day) he meets with only failure and frustration because of the flaws in his character. Depressed he attempts suicide, only to wake in his bed again to find it's Groundhog Day. It is ultimately a story of redemption as Phil comes to recognise goodness through the person of Rita. After multiple attempts to kill himself, Phil recognises that things will only get better if he confronts his flaws and begins to think of others rather than himself.

Bill Murray is perfectly cast as the obnoxious, but charming Phil. In the 30 years since its release, it has become a classic of the cinema. I like it because, in spite of its absurdities, its several anomalies, and its need for the suspension of disbelief, it's a brilliant comedy that morphs into meaningful fable - love wins out in the end. There's a scene where Rita purchases Phil at a Bachelor Auction, reminiscent of God winning back the lost. If you haven't seen it, I recommend you do (DVD or your favourite streaming platform), and if you have seen it, why not watch it again - you are bound to see something in it you have not seen before. It has recently been given the musical treatment: *Groundhog Day - The Musical*, which opened for a second run in London at the Old Vic in May.

Andy Colebrooke

*Illustrations by jull from Pixabay*





St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden  
Taster Session  
4 – 4.45pm Friday 9 June 2023



## Joyful Noise

Come and try out our fun singing group, 'Joyful Noise' at the Parish Rooms, St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. Sing action songs, rounds and songs from around the world.

This is a free group, funded by St Mary's Music Association open to all children in school years 1–3

We meet regularly in term time Fridays 4 – 4.45pm

*If unable to attend this Taster Session but still interested in singing, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

*For more details, contact Oli King (Director of Music) or Hannah Razzell St Mary's Music Association Email: [music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)*

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden  
Taster Session  
6 – 7.30pm Friday 9 June 2023



## Junior Choir

The Junior Choir at St Mary's Parish Church is looking to recruit new members in the 8–12 age group.

We offer a great opportunity for a sound musical education; you get to have fun and make new friends whilst learning some wonderful music!

*If unable to attend this Taster Session but still interested in singing, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

*For more details, contact Oli King (Director of Music) or Hannah Razzell St Mary's Music Association Email: [music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)*

## Do you play the organ or piano?

The churches of St Mary's Saffron Walden and Wendens Ambo invite you to apply for the **Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholarship** £752 plus lessons

Full details available from St Mary's website ([www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)) or contact Oliver King *Director of Music and Organist* (email: [domstmaryssw@gmail.com](mailto:domstmaryssw@gmail.com))

**Closing date 21 June 2023**

Auditions and interviews  
2 July 2023



St Mary's  
Wendens Ambo

## SMMA Bursary

St Mary's Music Association offers up to £250 to support the musical training and education of a young musician in St Mary's parish in full time education. It can be used for music lessons, training courses, sheet music or towards the purchase of a musical instrument or accessories. Preference is given to applicants who use their skills in music-making at St Mary's. Applications must be received by 1st July 2023 and the bursary runs from September to August. For further details, conditions and/or application form, please contact the SMMA Chairman, Hannah Razzell- Email: [music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

**Full details can be found on [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)**

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

# Organ Recital



ANNA LAPWOOD

*Organist, Conductor and Broadcaster*

*Director of Music, Pembroke College Cambridge*

*Resident Organist, The Royal Albert Hall*

**Music to include works by Zimmer, Bach and Debussy**

**Saturday 1 July 2023, 3.00pm**

*Free admission, retiring collection*