

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



July 2023

FREE

Thanking Riina Sunday 28th May 2023

The “Coffee Team” presented Riina Driscoll with a card and flowers to thank her for her unfailing support over many years. Riina’s background in school catering undoubtedly helped her in selecting a selection of chocolate and other biscuits which are enjoyed by all sections of the congregation. Riina also kept a wary eye on our cleanliness and supply of cleaning materials. We will miss her, and wish her well in her new career.



Two people will now share Riina’s role and needless to say we would welcome new team members to help in future. The “rota” is not prescriptive but is arranged to suit your individual diary.

Gerald & Mary Gardner, on behalf of the Coffee Team



On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

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- Add Saturday 9 September 2023 to your diary
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Go!

- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church
- **Please join us!**

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PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **August-September** issue is **Sunday 2nd July**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

When I go away, be it on holiday or retreat or training course, I look for helpful resources I can carry with me. The advent of the iPad has made that a much easier task as it can hold a vast bank of books, video, music, etc, and is great, as long as the battery doesn't expire. So, with Summer arrived and the holiday season on the horizon I've dug out an old prayer resource that is easily portable, doesn't require batteries and even a baby can use. Enjoy.



The "handy" prayer resource:

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty".
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the leaders of our Country, leaders in business and industry, and administrators that they may make wise decisions. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. I hope you find this helpful.

Jeremy

A Prayer for July

provided by the Prayer Team

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you;
Deep peace of the shining stars to you;
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you;
Deep peace of Christ.

Scots Celtic prayer



From the Registers

Baptisms

14th May Federica Nicole Kodra



Team Visit to Peasgood & Skeates Funeral Directors

Manager, Lee Wilkins and his team, recently welcomed ministers and administrative staff from Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry to give them an insight into their profession. The team were shown around their funeral home on Shire Hill and invited to ask questions regarding funerals and care of the deceased. Following the tour, the group had a very helpful discussion about the rise of the number of requests for Direct Cremation and also Civil and Humanist Funeral Ceremonies. This was a great opportunity for our teams to engage with each other as we work closely together in arranging funerals for local people who have died -whether or not they have been regular churchgoers.

Judith Hasler

The Precautionary Principle or Exceptionalism and the Bridge

In May the World Meteorological Organisation forecast that global temperatures will most probably exceed the 1.5°C limit of warming set by the Paris Agreement within the next five years. This was supposed to be the decade in which we turned things around, but we are still accelerating in the wrong direction. Years of international scientific research and political debate went into setting that safety guardrail, beyond which the chance of uncontrollable environmental catastrophe increases enormously.

It is easy to pick holes in any of the arguments and strategies around our climate and environmental crises. There are no silver bullets. Almost everything has a carbon footprint attached to it; it is just a case of finding ways to reduce those emissions as quickly as possible. Of course nothing is certain about the future. Nothing can be *proved* about it. We can't grab *evidence* from the future. We have to depend on what thousands of scientists are attempting to predict and model.



So imagine this: You are driving a car with your partner and children or grandchildren securely seat-belted into your air-bag protected car, when you are stopped at a road block by the bridge you need to cross. The police officer advises you that there is a 1% chance of the bridge collapsing into the ravine below if you cross it. The alternative is a 100 mile detour to the next bridge. This would mean that you would miss the special family occasion you had planned for the day. Would you cross the bridge? You've got a 99% chance of surviving and enjoying your day out.... I wouldn't, but maybe you would put your foot hard down on the gas and risk it?

Now imagine the same road-block and the officer saying that the bridge has a more than 50% chance of collapsing as you cross. I can't imagine any sane

person taking that risk, yet we are putting our children at far greater danger by our current lifestyles.

Some people would solve the problem by getting into their private jet. Others would say that their car is so small and light it wouldn't bring the bridge down. These two forms of exceptionalism are serious barriers to action. Some celebrities, politicians and entrepreneurs regard themselves as exceptional because they are so wealthy and important. They feel entitled to their private jets and frequent holidays; it is for the rest of the world to make the difference because their disproportionate impact is still a small percentage of the whole.

Others are exceptional out of humility rather than arrogance. 'I am not wealthy, I only fly occasionally and changing my lifestyle won't make any difference to the planet.' And they are right. All the tiny things I do won't make a difference either. But I don't see that as an excuse for doing nothing. We *all* need to tread more lightly on the planet, with *no* exceptions!

So even if you have not been persuaded by my articles in the Parish News over the last 4 years, do give a thought to that bridge and the precautionary principle!

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

Ethical Consumer

FREE ACCESS TO THEIR WEBSITE (30 places left on our membership) and access to digital editions of Ethical Consumer Magazine - Signing in details from the parish office. All the information and inspiration you need to revolutionise the way you SPEND, SAVE and LIVE. Learn how to use your spending power to help change the world for the better.

Please speak to Edward Gildea or Alison Trew for further details.

To sign up please speak to the parish office
01799 506024 or
email office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org



ETHICAL CONSUMER is an independent, not-for-profit, multistakeholder, co-operative with open membership.

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TouchPoint Touches a Nerve

If you go down to the Baptist Church on a Friday morning at ten o'clock "you're sure of a big surprise". It isn't a picnic for teddy bears but an All-for-Free selection of Come-Again food with coffee and cake in a warm and welcoming place. All credit to Touch Point, a charity that rescues left-over unsold food from the local supermarkets to save it from filling up precious landfill sites and thus helping the environment.

TouchPoint is the brainchild of Paul Chambers and operates in Stansted, Elsenham and Saffron Walden. He was concerned that after the pandemic it had become harder to go out and mix and socialise. He seems to have touched a real need. He has dozens of willing volunteers - some caring about saving food from waste and helping the environment, some welcoming and serving hot drinks and cakes caring about others.

In the queue there are pushchairs and walking sticks - a wonderful mix of ages and backgrounds, chatting amicably to strangers about more than the weather. Of such apparently innocuous things are community, and church, built. Regular meeting and socialising is an anti-dote to loneliness, enjoying the company of neighbours you never knew you had.

Some mornings there's a long queue, other times just a steady trickle. It's all very orderly and the volunteers thank you for taking the food. You never know what you might get, which is part of the fun. Over the weeks I've been given tomatoes, potatoes, lychees, ham and bacon, mushrooms, parsnips, rhubarb, carrots, lettuce, milk, peppers, broccoli, rolls and bread. We are just asked to take not too much and only what we can use in the next day or two.

I personally have benefitted as it has made me cook proper meals with vegetables. I daren't waste them! Another lady has met a new friend and now they go for walks together. Several Dads come regularly, some are grateful that a free loaf of bread means there's something for supper. One lady uses the money she has saved to buy nappies for a young mum.

We are all welcomed with a smile, and made to feel we are making a big contribution just by coming along. There's neither pride nor shame in receiving something for free.

Experts are now telling us that loneliness is as bad for our health as obesity. The decline in pubs and church means there are less places to meet and chat. The free food is a wonderful way of bringing us together - and with inflation, a real bonus to the budget.

Is there a hidden whiff of the early church who shared what they had, and ate together? There's certainly a loving atmosphere and folk leave with overflowing plastic bags, filled not just with food but also with having been touched by kindness and generosity.

Margaret Collingwood

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

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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

We hope you like our new logo!



Date for you Diary

Saturday 23rd September 2023

The Friends are holding an

Open Day 10am to 4pm

To celebrate 90 years since their formation

Do visit and learn something of our history and see some of the projects that have been achieved by, or with the help of, The Friends and meet some of our members.

Light Refreshments available

Why not join

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 tranquillity 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

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

**Hearing
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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

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.





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www.saffronlaundry.com



The Jubilee Hub in Saffron Walden - a place to connect.

A joint venture between Enterprise East and Saffron Walden Town Council.

The Jubilee Hub is a community centre with a focus on family, older people, children and young people and the community as a whole. The partnership brings together a programme of inclusive activities. These initial activities are the ones requested by residents

Monday morning – *Meet Up Monday* – 10 am to 12 pm

The Jubilee Hub is open each Monday morning as part of the national “Meet Up Mondays” campaign to promote inclusion and reduce loneliness and isolation. We provide free tea, coffee, biscuits and chat, and the chance to make some new friends and share your life experiences.

Monday afternoon – *Singing for the Soul* – 2 pm to 3pm

Join us each Monday afternoon for a sing along. If the weather is nice, we’ll gather outside around our beautiful band stand. Selection of music styles and no particular singing ability required – we are singing songs we love just for the fun of it. Light refreshments available to attendees for a small donation.

Thursday Afternoon – *Warm Welcome* 12 - 3pm

Friday Morning – *Digital Buddies* – 10 am to 12 pm

Join Ali and Adam each Friday morning for help and guidance with making the most of your technology! We have a particular focus on how to use your smartphone and tablet to access online health service and apps, including how to use the NHS app to make appointments, request medication and access your medical records. This is a drop-in session – no appointment needed. Light refreshments available to attendees for a small donation.

Friday Afternoon – *Art Group* 2pm to 4pm

Price £3 per person

An instructor-led weekly art group. This is an inclusive group open to all ages and abilities – you don’t need to be a skilled artist – just have the desire to be creative and express yourself through painting. Light refreshments available for attendees for a donation. There is a small charge of £3 per person per week to attend, to cover instructor and material costs.

We provide free soup and a roll plus unlimited tea, coffee, biscuits and chat, and the chance to make some new friends and share your life experiences.

Pop in and see us! Be Part of Our Community



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



Kristina Coleman
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For further information please contact Ros Holder on 01799 551046

Calendar for July 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.

Saturday 1 July

3pm Organ Concert with Anna Lapwood, Director of music, Pembroke College; Resident organist, the Royal Albert Hall.
Free entry, retiring collection.

Sunday 2 July

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
inc. Celebration of Canon Chris Bishop's 50 Years of Ministry
Motet: *A Celtic Prayer*, by Whitbourn; Organ: *Festal Flourish* by Jacob
6.30pm H2H - led by Youth Group - All ages are most welcome

Tuesday 4 July

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 5 July

8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Pupils from SWCHS Music Academy

Thursday 6 July

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

Sunday 9 July

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y]
Motet: *O nata lux* by Tallis; Organ: *Allegro from Concerto del Sigr Vivaldi* by Walther
6.30pm Choral Evensong
Anthem: *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem* by Howells; Organ: *Midsummer Serenade* by How

Tuesday 11 July

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 12 July

8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Arwen Newband *Violin*; Anna Le Hair *Piano*



Sunday 16 July

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
Motet: *Justorum anime* by Stanford; Organ: *Veni Creator Spiritus* by Scheidt
4pm Living Stones Service at All Saints Ashdon CB10 2HG

Tuesday 18 July

- 5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 19 July

- 8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Diana Hoy *Contralto*; Wendy Watts *Piano*

Sunday 23 July

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

Tuesday 25 July

- 5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 26 July

- 8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 July

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
Motet: *How lovely are thy dwellings* by Brahms; Organ: *Finale from Symphony No.1 in D, Op.14* by Vierne
6.30pm Celtic Service



St James', Sewards End

Sunday 16 July

- 10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 9 July

- 10.30am Family Service

Sunday 23 July

- 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.

Conservation Areas were introduced in 1967. District councils are responsible for designating them. The area must have special architectural and/or historic importance that merits protection. The aim is to protect an area rather than single buildings. Within each Conservation Area, there will generally be individual buildings that have additional protection, classified as Listed Buildings. There may also be a Scheduled Monument, or trees with a Tree Preservation Order, or buildings or spaces that have been designated as Assets of Community Value. There are varying degrees of protection for each of these designations, all aimed at preserving our heritage for future generations.

Uttlesford District Council covers around half of the Hundred Parishes area. The Council has designated 33 Conservation Areas within the area. For each, it has published an appraisal that defines the area covered and explains the reasons for designation. (<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/conservation-area-appraisals>)

These appraisals are often a helpful source for the kind of information provided in the route descriptions for walks that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

East Hertfordshire has the second biggest representation within the Hundred Parishes and this district council has designated 26 Conservation



Finchingfield



Great Easton

Areas here. Their appraisals are also available and provide valuable insight. (see <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-areas>)

Similar appraisals are available from the other district councils which are represented within the Hundred Parishes: South Cambridgeshire, Braintree, North Herts, Chelmsford and Epping Forest.

Within South Cambs, Linton has the only "Outstanding Conservation Area"

designation, including Linton's long High Street and some lanes on either side. Much of this area is explored on Walk 182 whose route covers less than 2 miles.

Our towns and villages are usually best explored on foot and each is included in at least one of the Hundred Parishes routes. If you are able to get out and about, I encourage you to try them.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.



Little Hadham

Events at All Saints Church, Wimbish

Saturday July 15th 7.00pm in the Church followed by refreshments
A Talk by Martin Stuchfield M.B.E., J.P., D.L., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Martin will be speaking on the Monumental Brasses of Essex and Suffolk with particular reference to the nationally important brass commemorating Sir John de Wautone, 1347, and wife Ellen.

Saturday July 29th 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Quiet Afternoon at the Church followed by tea and cakes

We are delighted that the Rev'd Susan Sayers will lead our Quiet Afternoon which will have an 'Eco' theme.

Susan is a teacher by profession. She was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church and before retirement her work was divided between the parish of Westcliff-on-Sea, the local women's prison, writing, training days and retreats. Susan is the author of many popular resource books for the church.

Both these events are free but donations for refreshments and the upkeep of our Church would be welcome. If you are interested in coming to either or both events please let Dawn Saxon parishofficesaffronwalden@gmail.com know so we can keep an eye on numbers.

YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by
Chris Bishop

Hannah Razzell

Born in Harston, Cambridgeshire, in 1981, Hannah has always lived relatively locally to Saffron Walden. Her roots, however, lie in part slightly further afield. Hannah's Mother, Françoise, is from South Burgundy, France, where Hannah has a large, loving and vibrant family! Her Father, John, is a Londoner, having been born and raised in Herne Hill. Hannah has memories of a charmed and happy childhood and, as she gets older, her feelings of gratitude towards her parents for the values they instilled



from an early age increase almost daily. Since Hannah's Father was in education, the family were able to spend all the school holidays very happily in Burgundy with the French family – Hannah and her sister, Emma, are both fortunate to enough to have been raised bilingually.

Hannah always had a love of music – she began playing the French Horn at the age of 9 and has never looked back. After her A levels, she was undecided as to whether to apply for Music College or to go to University; eventually, she decided to go to University to read Classics. It was while studying for her degree that she met her future husband, David. Their first home was in Great Chesterford, but they have lived in Saffron Walden since 2005 and they both love living in such a vibrant, busy and historic town. Particular occasions they have enjoyed are the Tour de France and the Olympic Torch coming through the town!

Hannah was brought up as a Roman Catholic, but her Father was an Anglican, so she was in the habit of attending both churches throughout her childhood. Hannah and David attended the Catholic Church in the earlier part of their marriage, but when their son, James, began singing with Joyful Noise and subsequently the Junior Choir, they were drawn to St Mary's and were tremendously grateful for the welcome they received and have worshipped here very happily. Hannah's daughter, Poppy, and son, James, are both currently members of the Junior Choir.

Various events in Hannah's life have tested her faith. In her third year at University, Hannah was diagnosed with cancer. This was, naturally, a difficult and uncertain time, but Hannah was introduced to the Franciscans at St Benet's Church in Cambridge and she attended several healing services there – she

found a godliness and calmness in that church and a stillness in the words of those Franciscans which carried her through some of the most desperate times. Her faith was again put to the test when Hannah and David lost their second child Lily Beatrice at the age of nine months: a dark and tragic time. There were obviously days when Hannah questioned, 'Why?', and this has still to be one of the things which tests most often – in quiet and reflective services, in the jubilant ones, at Christmas, and all those other occasions – but whilst the answer in those moments is not forthcoming, Hannah has come to find that God finds a way to show his love. The love is shown through the actions of those who rally to help, who offer a hug, who light a candle. Those who are there, by your side. After graduating, Hannah was PA to conductor Christopher Hogwood until James was born. Hannah currently enjoys supporting the SMMA as Chair and works part time in the music department at Saffron Walden County High School and spends much of the rest of her time looking after her family, and walking their lively Springer Spaniel, Hector.

If she could choose a motto for her family?... 'Amor vincit omnia', Love conquers all. Hannah is of the mind that there should be just one church – a church which loves.

Some Observations on Life

'Progress comes from discontent, not complacency.'

Henry Ford II

'Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction.'

Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

'What is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves.'

Goethe

'If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone; one should keep his friendships in constant repair.'

Samuel Johnson

'We spend most of our lives conjugating three verbs: to want, to have and to do. But none of these verbs has any ultimate significance until it is transcended by and included in the fundamental verb – to be.'

Evelyn Underhill

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



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St Mary's Music News - July 2023

Choral singing requirements calm down a little at this time of year, but to balance this out the SMMA's Wednesday lunchtime concert season is in full swing. As always, refreshments are available from 12.30 pm, and the concerts start at 1.10pm, each lasting around 40 minutes. Even if you missed the first 5 highly enjoyable concerts running from 31 May to 28 June, there is still time to catch the last 3. On 5 July we welcome students from the SWCHS Music Academy, on 12 July the musicians are Arwen Newband on violin with Anna Le Hair on piano, and on 19 July contralto Diana Hoy sings with Wendy Watts on piano. We hope you were also able to enjoy Anna Lapwood's organ concert on 1 July.

For a quiet evening service, Choral Evensong on Sunday 9 July at 6.30 features music composed by Herbert Howells, including the very topical "O pray for the peace of Jerusalem".

Meanwhile, the adult choir is already starting to rehearse pieces to sing in Birmingham Cathedral in November, where we have been invited to sing at a service of Choral Evensong.

Another, perhaps livelier, event is in the early planning stage, ie a performance of Noyes Fludde with children from local schools taking the part of the animals on the ark, supported by professional soloists as Mr and Mrs Noah. Philip Sunderland has been co-opted onto the Committee to work on this project, and Patrick Li is also assisting.

Sticking with the theme of young musicians, by the time this newsletter is published, the taster sessions for Joyful Noise and the Junior Choir will have taken place. If you know of any young singers who might be interested in joining either of these groups but were unable to attend the sessions, please contact Oli King (Director of Music) or Hannah Razzell, St Mary's Music Association email music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org.

The SMMA is also part way through the exciting process of choosing the next Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar and the recipient(s) of the SMMA bursaries. Watch this space.

Ottilie Lefever

The draft Minutes of the AGM can be found in the Music News section of the St Mary's Church website:

https://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/Articles/631148/SMMA_AGM_Sunday.aspx



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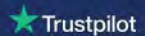
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Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Here are two Proverbs on the subject of Family.

An English Proverb

'Children suck the mother when they are young,
and the father when they are old'

A Chinese Proverb

'Nobody's family can hang out the notice
'Nothing the matter here'.





This year sees **Saffron Walden Street Pastors** tenth year Anniversary of patrolling the streets and public places, Caring, Listening and Helping the people of Saffron Walden.

Saffron Walden Street Pastors patrol on Friday nights in the streets of Saffron Walden serving the night-time economy and there is a Daytime

Patrol where they visit out community at various times on weekdays. They support the vulnerable through listening, caring and helping , offering reassurance and working together with other partners to make our community safer.

They are well trained and fully equipped, and aim to provide a listening ear, practical help and Christian concern for all people, whether they are upset or sick, going through issues or just needing someone to talk to or help in any way. Street Pastors are non-judgemental, care and have concern for everyone they engage with.

A street pastor is someone who is...

- a Christian and is part of a local church;
- concerned for society and their local community;
- willing to engage with people, whatever their perspective on life and wherever they hang out;
- happy to work in a team and in collaboration with other agencies and projects, both statutory and voluntary.

There are also Prayer Pastors who are a vital part of what Street Pastors do. A Prayer Pastor is someone with a desire to make a difference through prayer in Saffron Walden, and willing to invest in the lives of others.



If you would like to know more or would like to volunteer and come out with us as an observer, contact Dave Law: David.law16@btinternet.com

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Suffering and the Image of God

During the cost-of-living crisis, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions, from relief, happiness, and hope, to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the *potential* for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge



Muniments Room

Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop

July 1904

The Sunday School was favoured with a perfect day for the annual treat, as well as a perfect place; for no place could be better than the Deer Park which Lord Braybrook kindly lent us: and we made the most of it, as we were all in the Park ready for tea at 4 o'clock, and it was 9 before we left, for the parents of scholars were admitted at 6 o'clock and were loath to leave when the National Anthem was played. The Town Band headed the procession of children into the Park and played with intervals until the end of the day. As usual we found many kind helpers in preparing the ground and in entertaining the children, and in bringing the Seward's End and Little Walden children to and from the Park. Altogether we mustered about 440 children.

The Saffron Walden Society of Change Ringers kept their 281st anniversary on June 27th, in accordance with the will of Thomas Turner, Mercer of this town who died in 1623.

The number of visitors from different bell ringing centres who attended testifies to the fame of the Walden Great Ringing Day.....Touches in various methods were rung throughout the day, not omitting the Surprise methods for which our own ringers are famous. A short service was held at 1.45 pm, at which the Vicar was the preacher: dinner was served at the King's Arms: and the bells were finally rung down shortly before 9 pm.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

400th Anniversary of Great Ringing Day

On the weekend of 10th - 11th June 2023, the bell ringers of St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, once again celebrated "Great Ringing Day" (GRD). This event is held annually and results from a bequest by Thomas Turner, a local mercer and benefactor, who died in June 1623.

The story goes that Turner became lost whilst walking in woods near Saffron Walden but later managed to find his way safely home by following the sound of the church bells. In gratitude for this, he left a legacy which provides 33s 4d to the ringers every year. In early times the money was sufficient to feed about twenty ringers for a full day, although it would buy rather less today.

GRD became a prominent event in the Essex ringing calendar and attracted ringers from other towns and villages in the region, peaking at over 100, although residents might be glad to know that the event is not quite as big as it used to be. In the early 20th century ringing could start at 9 in the morning and, save for meal breaks, keep going until 9 in the evening!

Rather than ringing the church bells continuously, this year the ringers chose to go 'on tour' and spent Saturday ringing at towers along the route of the guided busway in Cambridgeshire. On Sunday 11th June there was ringing at the church followed by a special service of Choral Evensong, at which the Rector, Rev'd Jeremy Trew, preached a sermon on the theme of GRD. Drinks and nibbles were provided for all after the service.

Clifford Want



Great Ringing Day 27 June 1914, marking the addition of the 4 bells to make a ring of 12 at St Mary's Church.

Lamentation at the foot of the Cross

Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo 1755-60 National Gallery

This small painting in the National Gallery immediately caught my eye. As I approached it from a distance, I assumed that it was a painting of the crucifixion with Christ in the centre of the canvas, but soon realised that it was a painting of the deposition, with Christ's body slumped on the ground being lamented by his mother and Mary Magdalene, while the two criminals are still on their crosses.

Mary looks heavenwards, as if berating God for what He has done; Mary Magdalene is passionately clasping Jesus' arm, in a pose taken directly from Rembrandt's sketch of the same subject. John has covered his face in his red cloak in a pose I hadn't seen before, as if his world has come to an end and he cannot face the collapse of everything he believed in and hoped for. He just wants to hide from reality. His highly expressive cloak dominates the centre of the canvas.

Christ's body, with the white shroud being drawn about him, lies limply, drained of blood and is the brightest element of the lower canvas. It is an ironic parallel to the paintings of the birth of Christ, where the baby is the source of light in the composition.

To the right stand Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, looking wealthy and very well fed. Joseph will provide the tomb and the linen while Nicodemus, a popular pharisee who was also a thoughtful supporter of Jesus' preaching, is about to supply sufficient myrrh and aloes for a royal burial.

Set harshly against the skyline is a raised claw hammer. Presumably the one that has just been used to remove the nails but held by a soldier as if to deliver a blow. It seems to indicate that the cruelty of the Roman army has not abated.

But none of this is exceptional. It was the criminals that really captured my attention. They are the key to the painting. You can immediately tell which of the criminals railed at Jesus and which will be joining him in paradise; the clouds are the clue. Dark storm clouds are gathered around the shadowed form of the former, while the latter is bathed in light and surrounded by blue sky with a bird flying overhead. He has been crucified in the most agonising position, bent backwards over his cross, so that his head, which we cannot see, is fixed heavenwards.

I then realised why I had made my original mistake! The cross of the redeemed criminal is at the apex of a compositional pyramid. It starts with



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Mary Magdalene and the feet of Christ, rises to the hidden face of St John and continues upwards to the tortured body of the redeemed criminal bathed in light.

Tiepolo has given us something new and profound to consider. His lamentation of Christ carries as much depth of emotion as any painting of the deposition, but additionally he poses a challenging question: With the painting dominated by the two contrasting criminals in their tortured death throes, where do we see ourselves?

There is a boy staring out of the canvas directly at us from the shade. It is always worth pondering what such characters are asking the viewer. Maybe the boy is asking, "What choices are you making in your own life that will result in you following the condemned criminal, or the redeemed one?" It is a stark choice.

Edward Gildea

Artwork by Francesca Ross



Mark 10:45
The Son of Man
did not come to be
served but to serve
and give his life as a
ransom for many

God chose what the
world thinks is foolish
to baffle the wise and
what the world
sees as weak to
shame the strong
1 Cor 1:27

Artwork by Francesca Ross