

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



October 2023

FREE

DTI - Dreaming The Impossible Youth



Over the summer a group of 19 young people and leaders from Aftershock and Community Church Youth attended the Dreaming the Impossible Summer Youth Festival, held on Staffordshire Showground along with 4000 other young people. It was a brilliant time away spending time with each other and it was great to see the youth from the two groups come and grow together.

Each morning and evening we would come together to worship God, hear some great teaching from the Bible and spend time learning how to pray for each other and hang out in God's presence. Throughout the day, the festival offered a wide array of seminars covering essential topics such as how to read our bibles, the power of prayer, exploring faith with science, understanding mental health, and the art of worship and songwriting.

In the evening, the festival came alive with cafes and venues bustling with activity which the young people enjoyed as they got to charge their phones up! The young people enjoyed a range of activities, including live gigs, film nights, quizzes, open mic sessions, and a talent show. Our group enthusiastically participated in the old skool games night and loved the silent disco on the festival's final night.

At our September H2H the young people shared their experiences and best bits of DTI. As well as their favourite parts they also talked about how DTI has impacted their faith. It was great to hear how DTI has encouraged them in their faith, making their prayer life a priority and engaging more in the worship during the week. The overarching theme was the realisation that they are not alone in their faith journey and that it felt so powerful worshipping with 4000 other young people.

DTI was more than just a summer getaway; it was a life-changing experience that deepened the young peoples faith, nurtured friendships, and made an impact on their lives. It was a great opportunity to grow closer to God and to one another and we look forward to doing all over again next year!

Matt Williamson, Children & Youth Leader

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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 **November** issue is **Sunday 1st October**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024
or the editor:
andy.colebrooke@gmail.com
01799 732970

Advertising:

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

Front Cover: Audley End
by Andy Colebrooke

TEAM RECTOR:

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

ASSISTANT CURATES:

The Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 571023; revellaharris@gmail.com
The Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker: hcwalker55@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)

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St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

October brings with it many changes: Any last vestiges of Summer finally give way to Autumn; the trees start to darken as they approach their final drop; and the shops truly gear up for Christmas. Hot-cross buns also appear in Tesco, but that is a theological conundrum beyond my ken.



In the Saffron Walden and Villages Team we will also be noticing some significant changes. At the end of September we said goodbye to John Saxon, and in October we also say farewell to Alex Jeewan. These two have been a great blessing to the Team and will be greatly missed. I will certainly miss them as respected colleagues. I am sure that you will join me in continuing to pray for them as they settle into their respective "pastures new." We must trust that, as God called them to minister here, in calling them away that same God still has plans for us.

In early September we welcomed Hilary Walker to the Team as she was ordained Deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral. At the very end of September, we were also able to celebrate Ella Harris being ordained priest. I am very excited to be able to work with these two as they are both very able, although in different ways. Please note that they are still in training. Their roles are not to fill all the gaps left by John and Alex's departures. Both will be playing a full part in the life of the Team, but only as it serves their training needs.

Bishop Roger has been to meet with Parish Representatives and help us move the recruitment process forward. Archdeacon Robin has also been part of this, although we will also have said goodbye to him at the start of October as he retires. Before he did so he helped me secure the services of Rev'd Gary Fleming, a final year curate, who will be helping out with Sunday services for a while. Please make Gary feel welcome.

And then there are our retired clergy (although simply "not paid" might sometimes be a better title). When I was ordained these wonderful people with their many years of experience were normally called upon for holiday cover or in case of unexpected illness. Now the Church of England is dependent upon them. Sometimes we ask too much of them, especially with the great number of vacancies this Deanery has and is experiencing.

Nevertheless, I am most grateful for the way they have stepped forward to keep as many services running as possible.

And then there is you. You are the Church. Well, technically, you and everyone else who gathers together when we meet. The real success of this time of clergy vacancy will truly be down to you, and people like you, who pray and offer services in ways small and great, and who together make old buildings come to life with your worship and love. A vacancy, and vacancies, are an opportunity for the local Church to show what it is made of. I am confident that our local church, in all its manifestations, is well built and on a good foundation.

Yours

Jeremy

Photographs of Hilary after her ordination can be seen on page 32.

A Prayer for October

provided by the Prayer Team

This prayer seems particularly appropriate as we move through the Trinity Sundays.

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon,
in Reflections. Church House publishing.



Fire and Ice

This summer I saw an amazing combination of erupting volcanoes, icebergs and whales while the world continued to suffer the devastating effects of the climate crisis: wildfires which torched more than 500 sq km of Greece; the evacuation of Rhodes; uncounted deaths in Hawaii; Arizona notching up a record-breaking 31 consecutive days at 43°C or more while despite the rain in England and floods in Norway, July became the hottest month ever recorded in the modern era, adding to the 60,000 heat related deaths recorded in Europe last year.



Apart from the largely benign effects of volcanic eruptions, these events are all connected, including the melting of the polar ice sheets. And yet, as I witnessed when I made landfall in Greenland, humanity is blessed with the most exquisitely beautiful planet. A beauty which inspired this poem:

Tasiilaq.

8th August 2023

Tasiilaq let us in.

Cold sun on our faces

A spotlight skittering across silken seas,

We dropped our sails.

Clouds stretched grey and mauve;

Mountains in soft layers of mist

Split and cracked the horizon.

A bubble beneath our bows!

Then more aligned

Until massive, black, timeless

The humpback rose, blew steamy jets,

Introduced its dorsal fin, curiosity satisfied,

Raised its languorous fluke,

And plunged.

Against the sky's scorching rim

The sun's last rays splintered mountain tops

While icebergs, crisp against deepening layers of purple,

Imperious

Doomed

Carried their centuries of snow

Out to sea.



The melting of the polar ice sheets and permafrost pose deep and massive threats. While we were moored in Port Ellen Bay, Islay, I met Dr Nigel Jollands, the founder and scientist on the yacht Novara, which was moored alongside us. He leads the Novara One World Project, (www.Novara.World) encouraging climate resilience amongst communities in high

latitudes. He told me that a massive 30 cm of sea level rise by 2050 is hard-baked into our models of the climate crisis. The impact of this on world populations is hard to envisage.

But I also learned something wonderful about whales. A blue whale is worth far more alive than dead. It is a massive carbon sink of 7-9 tonnes of carbon which equates to 33 tonnes of CO₂ kept out of the atmosphere. Apparently we can value each blue whale at at least \$3 million at today's carbon trading prices. Far more than the value of its meat! Its poo is also of immense value on its slow journey to the ocean floor, feeding vast numbers of phytoplankton, which globally sequester 37 gigatonnes of carbon. Ref: Ralph Chami on www.ted.com/

These figures are dwarfed by the value of sea grass, which sequesters a total of \$2.3 trillion of carbon each year. All we need to do is put a value on living nature, instead of only valuing nature when is dead: felled, slaughtered or cleared.

By the way, elephants also incorporate \$2.6 million worth of carbon each, while their poo too stimulates the carbon sequestration capacity of the forest. This offers a basis of a solution to African farmers who are devastated when elephants rampage over their crops.

A few days later I set sail to Greenland again on a northerly course this time, aiming to cross into the Arctic Circle and experience my 7th ocean under sail. We were greeted by an awesome congregation of icebergs at the entrance to Scoresby Sound - stunning in their size and purity. In our two days in the remote community of Ittoqqortoormiit, we learned how the snows are coming weeks later, melting weeks earlier and where houses would once commonly have been buried up to their roofs, by Inuit standards there has been 'no snow' since 2010.

This massively affects their livelihoods but has a direct affect on us thousands of miles away to the south because it profoundly affects the behaviour of the Jet Stream. Less snow here is connected to wet summers in England and scorching summers in the Mediterranean. We all share one tiny, delicate, interconnected planet. None of us is an island.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

Photographs by Edward Gildea

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

I came to live in Saffron Walden when I returned from being in Sweden for the most part of three years. I chose Walden because people here speak to you! Also, there were loads of second-hand shops, particularly for books. I might have been out of work, and Walden seemed a good place to be.

In the event, I was not out of work, and I settled into living here very quickly. I started church bell ringing, under the tutelage of several excellent teachers who rung the bells in Saint Mary's. English church bells are unique (the whole ring is tuned as a set. As a result, if rung well, they meld together and sound very good indeed). I was also able to pick up my church attendance. Sweden is Lutheran, which is quite like CofE, but without much of the ritual. I try and ring the bells wherever I am staying; every set is unique, and bell ringing is an artisan craft. Fellow ringers tend to be welcome wherever there is a band.

My Irish grandmother had me taught by catholic nuns in my early years, so the mysticism of church matters comes quite naturally to me! In later life I attended various courses on theology; I sometimes refer to myself as an "Old Testament Christian" which makes vicars look uncomfortable.

One of the things I greatly value about being part of a church is its solidarity; the way people work together, and the fact that we have a common ground in the Faith. It is something I particularly like about St Mary's. The choir and the music are lovely, and there is always something going on.

Since moving here I became involved in the local councils. First the Town Council, and then the District. In a curious way, it links to St Mary's. English representational democracy was invented here, in Saffron Walden, during the debates which took place in the church during the English Civil War. The Levellers (an activist group within Cromwell's New Model Army) hit upon the idea of choosing one individual to represent many. It became the basis of the new Parliament and has been followed ever since across our governmental systems.

I don't look for permanence. I like the Arabic approach to passing (I worked in Saudi Arabia for a while). A high-ranking Arab may not have a tomb. They can elect to be buried in the desert, and only the wind knows where they lie. I like that!



How about advertising in Parish News?

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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

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

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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.



What is a PCC and should you join one?

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the PCC? It is one way to serve God and it helps our community to flourish. Without one St Mary's could not even legally exist! The PCC (confusingly, not the same as a Parish Council) is composed of members of the clergy licensed to the parish and members of the laity, including two representatives of the daughter churches, Deanery Synod representatives, and the co-opted Director of Music, also the youth worker. PCC's cooperate with their Rector to carry out the Church's mission, and their work is useful to the church and wider community.

Almost everything that happens in a church, including setting mission statements, organising worship, pastoral care, the use of the buildings, mending the roof or the organ, advertising new posts, events, and liaising with other groups, is ultimately planned and co-ordinated through the PCC and it is important that as a charity all our legal boxes are ticked so that we can fulfil our calling. As a charity, St Mary's is accountable to the Charities Commission, so the PCC, Rector, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary keep records and write an official report each year. We hold elections at the Annual Meeting (actually three meetings on the same day) to decide who our Trustees will be and who will do what, and we draw up budgets. The work itself is done principally through subcommittees, which are composed both of members of the PCC and other members of the church.

The PCC has had five regular meetings a year in addition to its Annual Parishioners' Church Meeting. At the meetings it receives reports and proposals from the subcommittees and committee reports from St James' Swards End and St John's Little Walden, as well as dealing with matters relevant to the whole PCC. This might sound quite boring but it is actually quite fun to find out what is going on, to help decide our future and to meet with friendly faces.

The PCC representatives are just that, they represent the church on behalf of others, so if anyone has any issues or concerns they can raise them by contacting any member or writing to the Secretary. PCC members can suggest agenda items ideally ten days before the meeting but, as Any Other Business, at least two days before the meeting. The dates of PCC meetings get posted on the noticeboard outside churches. The current members are: Rev'd Jeremy Trew, Chairman; Rev'd Alex Jeewan; Rev'd Ella Harris; Tracey Nicholls; Churchwardens: Gill Caswell and Simon Potter; Treasurer: David Birchall ; PCC Secretary: Anna Martin; Marisa Baltrock; Lisa Brook; Patrick Li; Oli King; Bronwen Ferland; Richard Freeman; Edward Gildea; Judith Hasler; Steve Hasler; Martin Hugall; Shawn Martin; Helen Nash; Robin O'Neill; Hannah Razzell; Noel Starr; Denis Tindley; Matt Williams.

If you would like to contact the PCC you can email the secretary at

stmaryssaffronwaldenpcc@gmail.com, phone 07562 506867 or send a letter via the Parish Office. We have a page on the Church Website, under the 'other' section, where you can read our papers.

Now you know what this group is and what we do, you can pray for us, please. We need discernment, openness to the Spirit's guidance, love and also a new member or two.

Anna Martin, PCC Secretary



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!



BIG THANK YOU to all our members for helping on Open Day. More information in the November issue. Did you see the Friends display in the TIC window prior to the event? Thank you Tessa it was amazing.



We hope you like our new **Noticeboard** where we can show everyone all the things we do during the course of the year. The Open Day display was brilliant, thank you Sandra.



Have you noticed some new **brass badges** on the Welcomers for first and second Sunday 10.30am services? Both of those teams are Friends members which is fantastic. We have calculated that over 25% of members play an active part in the life of the Church as well supporting St Mary's financially where we can.



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For further information please contact Ros Holder on 01799 551046

The Calendar

This calendar is provisional and subject to change. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information particularly for streaming of services.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

One service in church each Sunday is streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website. Coffee is served after the Sunday 10:30 services

Sunday 1 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm H2H - Service for all led by Young People

Thursday 5 October

- 10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel

Sunday 8 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 15 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
- 4pm Living Stones Team Service - all welcome

Sunday 22 October

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

Sunday 29 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Team Holy Communion [Y]
- 4pm Celtic Service



Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Prayers for wholeness and healing will take place on the first Wednesday of each month during the 9.30 am communion service starting on 4th October. This takes the place of the monthly Thursday healing service.

Tuesdays

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom, see weekly bulletin for login details

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion



St James', Sewards End

Sunday 1 October

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 October

10.30am Harvest Festival

St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 8 October

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 22 October

10.30am Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

29 July Brodie Alexander Flack

13 August Natasha Ann Banks
Carlotte Suzanne Marie Morris

20 August Willow Elizabeth Allardyce
Millie Violet Allardyce

Funerals

4 July Francis Moule

My Visit to Assisi

Earlier this year we went to Umbria, which had long been on my 'wish list', and spent the last couple of days in Assisi. It is a fabulous city, built on a hilltop rising above the Vale of Spoleto so there are wonderful views in all directions. The streets and squares are irresistible, a photographer's dream. But at heart it is the city of St. Francis.



We visited the Basilica of St Clare, on the site of the earlier Church of St George where Francis went to school, which houses the font where Francis was baptised. At the other end of the town is the Basilica of St Francis. There is no doubt that it is a spectacular building. It conveys the special relationship between Christ and Francis by presenting scenes from both their lives on opposite walls. You cannot help thinking, however, that it is probably not what Francis had in mind as his final resting place. Indeed, the tomb of St Francis was remodelled in a simpler style in the 1920's.

Despite the splendour of the Basilica the church that I will remember the most is the Church of San Damiano, situated halfway down the hillside (a steep descent and an even steeper return!). Francis restored the church around 1206 as a dwelling place for Clare, his friend, and her fellow sisters (The Poor Clares). He did this in response to a calling from God whilst he was praying to 'go and repair my house, which as you can see is falling into ruin'. Incidentally, it was only in later years that Francis came to realise that God was not referring to his house the building, but his house the people.

San Damiano is a beautifully simple building which speaks volumes of the spartan existence of Clare and her fellow sisters. The chapel itself is a wonderful place to sit awhile and reflect. Here there are several features of interest; the niche where Francis left the money he had raised for the repairs, a fresco of Francis praying and, above the altar, a replica of the crucifix Francis was gazing at when he received God's instruction. The self-guided tour continues through the choir of St Clare where Clare prayed; the oratory where the Eucharist was kept; and the dormitory where Clare and her sisters slept on straw mats. Clare's own place, and where she died, was in the corner and

is nowadays marked by a crucifix and flowers. Then came the refectory with its hard wooden benches. The cloister too is very simple, but very peaceful.

Incidentally, it was not peaceful on the two separate occasions that Clare confronted invading troops, the Saracens in 1240 and then, just under a year later, imperial soldiers. On both occasions Clare persuaded them, in Christ's name, to leave them and Assisi in peace.

Throughout the building, as far as has been possible, all has been preserved as it was ... and is very humbling. When I returned to the sunshine outside, I had to sit again for a while to bring myself back to the 21st century as I had become totally caught up in the life the sisters had there.

Lesley Lancaster

Photograph: Achim Ruhnau on Unsplash

A Visit to Southwark Cathedral

On Tuesday 25th July I was a one of those on the coach day trip visit to Southwark Cathedral. When it came to the time to leave we were at the designated bus stop, but our coach took about another half an hour to reach the pick up stop. Suddenly, during this waiting time, one of our three grandsons suddenly appeared in front of me and greeted me with "Hallo Grandpa!". I was utterly surprised and confused. We embraced before chatting. He then returned to his office. It so happened he worked in the office two floors up from where we were standing.

There is nothing surprising about this except that: He had no idea I was even in London, let alone Southwark. Whilst the window was some way from his desk he walked over to it and not only looked out, but looked down at the pavement below, which is not a natural reaction on walking to a window. Then he suddenly spotted me. Took a photo on his phone, and ran down the stairs to greet me. I knew he had an office somewhere in London, but had no idea where.

Why did he think of getting up from his desk, walk to the window and not just look out, but look down at the pavement below? The only thought is that he was inspired to look out of the window. He is still amazed at the coincidence that we were so close, when neither of us had any idea where the other was.

This just shows that, even today, God moves in a mysterious way.

Joe Hordern

Photograph: iSAW Company from Pixabay



Extracts from the PCC Meeting June 2023

At the June PCC meeting, it was agreed that selected summaries of extracts from the PCC minutes could in future be included in *Parish News*.

After discussion whether to proceed with the proposal to move the Audley tomb to a position by the entrance to the North Chapel, it was agreed that a new project leader was required.

New sidesmen Julia Smith, Julie Daker, Vivian Falk, Sonia Palmer and Bella Nguyen Hoang Auh Thu (known as Bella) were appointed. Richard Freeman was appointed as a Deanery Synod Representative.

Following the lightning strike, our insurers have been contacted about repairs to the power supply cable and on the alarm itself costing £920. Repairs to sound and live streaming equipment had been quoted at over £4,000. Some of the organ pistons connected to electronics have also been damaged. The PC and simulators used for silencing the clock striking at night have been affected. With regard to finances, the first 3 months of the year showed a deficit of £8,755 (£3k worse than budget), mainly due to stewardship income being lower than budgeted. The number of regular stewardship givers has dropped significantly over the past few years, it was agreed that a Stewardship Sunday would be held.

It was agreed to move the prayer board and associated candles to the North Chapel for a trial period.

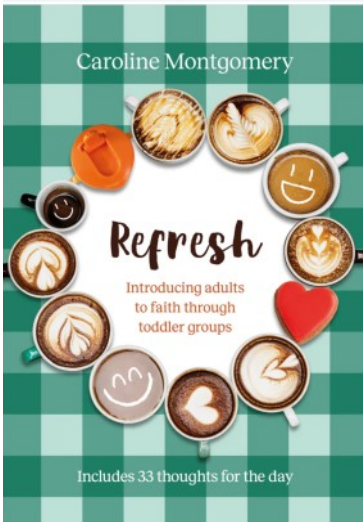
It was agreed to form a group to investigate the layout of the church, including the possibility of installing a semi-permanent nave altar on a dais which could also accommodate the choir.

The PCC approved the Area Dean's plan to use a Deanery Project allocation for 2023 to fund a Children's Worker for 2 days per week in order to establish and train local parish/benefice teams to take "Open the Book" into local primary schools.

Clifford Want, on behalf of the PCC



Book Reviews

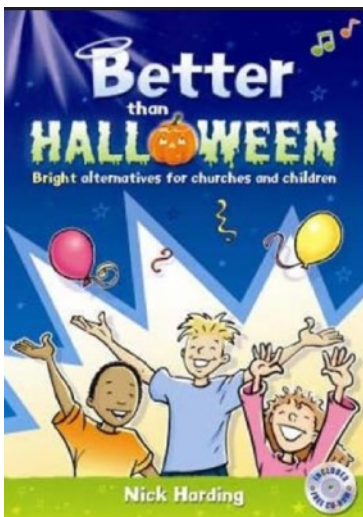


Refresh: introducing adults to faith through toddler groups

By Caroline Montgomery, BRF, £7.99

This book is a fun and effective way to build fruitful relationships with parents and carers in your community. It's stay-and-play turned on its head: the children have fun, but we focus on refreshing the adults with time to talk, fresh coffee, pastries and most importantly our key ingredient: a five-minute 'thought for the day' where we share something of God in a gentle, relevant and accessible way. All this in a welcoming play space for the children.

The book shows you how to run Refresh, and includes 33 'thoughts for the day' to use in your setting.



Better than Halloween – bright alternatives for churches and children

By Nick Harding, CHP, £1

This book will help you to transform 31 October into a fun and meaningful Christian-themed event for children aged 5-11.

It includes: an explanation of the origins of Halloween, and why many Christians choose not to celebrate it; detailed instructions and practical suggestions for planning and running Bright/Light parties; a wealth of supporting resources, such as photocopiable fun sheets, party invitations, sheet music and sources of further advice and guidance; and a free full-colour CD-ROM of all the supporting resources.

Source: Parish Pump

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St Mary's Music News - October

On 7 July we were delighted to welcome 4 new children to sing in the morning service, each wearing a smart new St Mary's Junior Choir polo shirt. It is always impressive to see them adapting to their new "front of house" roles, and this time they had to sing a motet in Latin, which must have been especially challenging. The service was followed by a concert given by more established members of the Junior Choir to an enthusiastic audience of friends and family.

Concerts were indeed a feature of the summer. The SMMA's well-established lunchtime concert series raised in the region of £2000 after expenses, and there is a waiting list of performers who were unable to find a slot earlier this year, which is very good news for the future. Watch this space to find out when the next series begins, whether as morning coffee or lunchtime events. In addition, Anna Lapwood's organ concert raised £1,500.

After all the hard work put in by the choir, the brass group and behind the scenes, the holidays started with a party kindly hosted by Jim and Siong Siong. We were able to sit in their garden and enjoy their hospitality in the sunshine, just before summer apparently disappeared for the year.

Moving on to current events, Ziyi Wang, a student at SWCHS, has just started her term as the third Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar. We hope that she will enjoy her scholarship as much as the 2 previous holders. The scholarship was established in memory of Rev'd Canon Michael Swindlehurst, a very committed supporter of music at St Mary's, who died in 2017. The training Ziyi will receive is not just in organ playing, but also in many other aspects of life as a young church musician, for example learning how to conduct the choir.

Of course, there is always preparation to be done for the future, so at the last rehearsal in July we were also looking ahead at music for the autumn and beyond, including motets, psalms and even a Christmas carol, albeit adapted for the Patronal Festival on 10 September! As this is the same day as Festal Evensong, the choir is happy to be back and busy again.

Meanwhile, the Choral Scholars are rehearsing for their annual concert. This is always fun, and showcases their musical talents beyond the formal singing in church services. More on this in the next newsletter.

Ottilie Lefever



Storage Space Required for Guide's Camping Equipment

We have a thriving Guide unit which is sponsored by St Mary's Church and the Ranger Guide unit has just reopened. Camping has always been an iconic part of Guiding and we are in urgent need of somewhere to store our camp equipment. Up to now it has been stored at the Scout Hall but now the Scouts require the space for their own equipment. Please let us know if you can offer, or can suggest, anywhere which would be suitable to store a marquee, several tents, and general camping catering equipment. A garage would be ideal, but any space which is dry and easily accessible would be suitable. We currently pay a small annual rent and would be prepared to negotiate.

Julie Lester

7th saffronwaldenguides@gmail.com

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

There seems to be a lot of Chinese Proverbs, and here are two on the subject of **patience**.

*'One moment of patience may ward off great disaster,
one moment of impatience may ruin a whole life'*

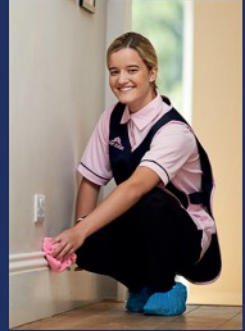
And.....

*'Patience is power; with time and patience the
mulberry leaf becomes silk'*

So, to conclude, we come back to England with

'Patience is a plaster for all sores'





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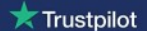
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Muniments Room

Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop

October 1885

The Harvest Thankgiving Services will be on Sunday, October 4th, at the usual hours. There will be a Children's Service in the afternoon, and the collections during the day will be divided between the Saffron Walden Hospital and the Agricultural Benevolent Fund. It has been suggested that the singing during the day should be accompanied by stringed instruments, in addition to the small American organ which has been in use during the last few months.

The Harvest Thankgiving at Sewer's End took place on September 25th, when the little Chapel was, as usual, decked by loving hands with the greatest taste.

All things – even summer holidays – come to an end, and the children are once more at school after running wild in the harvest-field and elsewhere. So far, the attendance at the National Schools has been by no means satisfactory, or encouraging to the teachers. A thin and irregular attendance is at all times serious. At Sewer's End, where the visit of H.M Inspectors is due in a few weeks, it is a very grave matter indeed.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

Deanery Synod

Next meeting: Wednesday 18th October 2023 Debden Village Hall
PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED DATE!

A date for your diary: Saturday 9th December

The Rev'd Ella Harris will lead this year's **Quiet Morning** in St Mary's Parish Rooms, on Saturday 9th December. Watch out for details later in the year.

The Prayer Team, hazel.colebrooke@gmail.com



Anglican International Development (“AID”)

Earlier this year, a number of St Mary’s folks kindly sponsored me to cycle 500 miles¹ for AID’s work in South Sudan. The total amount raised by cyclists around the country was £7,700, to support healthcare training at the Jonglei Health Sciences Institute (JHSI) in Bor, the second city in South Sudan. Your contribution was £765 – thank you!



The need in Bor is overwhelming. The infant mortality rate in South Sudan is 40 per thousand live births, compared with just 3 in the UK. Around 1% of women die during pregnancy or while giving birth.

JHSI exists to change these statistics by training high quality midwives and clinical officers. Clinical officers do many of the same jobs as doctors and also have a managerial role in health clinics. They form the basis of many successful health systems in neighbouring East African countries. The JHSI focuses on this lower level of health worker as they are quicker and cheaper to train than doctors but also much more likely to stay in the country once qualified.

Drs Anil and Shalini Cheriaan run the JHSI. Anil is a consultant paediatrician and Shalini a consultant obstetrician; both trained at Vellore Medical College in India. Their aim is to offer ‘transformative education’ by showing the students the profound change they can bring about as godly, servant-hearted healthcare professionals. There are around 60 students studying at the JHSI. Each course is three years long and uses the South Sudanese medical curriculum. Courses also include



plenty of practical experience in hospitals and Primary Health Care Centres and writing research projects. Besides this, student life is filled with extra-curricular activities such as volleyball, sports days, drama competitions and an annual Bible retreat. There is also a weekly Bible study for students who wish to go along. Once they graduate, students must work in healthcare settings to complete their medical qualifications.

OTHER PROJECTS

AID supports other initiatives in South Sudan, including training bible teachers at Bishop Gwynne School of Theology, supporting agricultural projects and provision of clean water. For more information on AID's ministry, go to www.anglicaninternationaldevelopment.org

Ian Sutherland

¹ *Confession: I only managed 497 miles. My failure was down to a puncture near Cambridge on the last day of May; and a lack of a spare inner tube.*



The QuinquQuiz and the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023 Thank you!

Readers will be aware that our annual QuinquQuiz has, over the years, raised funds for the Bishop's Lent Appeal which supports St Andrew's College of Theology and Development in Kabare, Kenya. The College plays a key role in providing residential training for new clergy and lay leaders for all five of our partner dioceses in Kenya. The College also serves its local community with courses in theology, business and ICT. The Bishop's appeal has now closed and the total funds raised were £7,712.20. Thanks to everyone who has taken part in our quiz or has contributed to the diocesan fund in other ways.

Chris Bishop

The Whittlesford Window

On a summer evening at the beginning of August two of the St Mary's homegroups arrived at the parish church in Whittlesford. We were there to view the recently installed stain glass window, commemorating Whittlesford's 1000th year—as a church and village. It all began at an open meeting at the school in January 2020 and the plans continued despite lockdown, but using the events of Covid-19 as an inspiration for the theme of this beautiful window—'caring'.

As we entered the church through the south door, I was immediately struck by the amazing colours of this extraordinary window on the opposite side of the church: the blues and the greens seemed to 'pop' out in an explosion of colour in the evening light; blue on the left, depicting Whittlesford in winter/darkness and green on the right, set in spring and full of life.

We were welcomed by the Rev'd Olivia Coles, daughter of Margaret Collingwood and vicar of St Mary's and St Andrew's, who served us with drinks and biscuits, before we settled down around the window to hear of its origins and meanings. It was designed by artist Ben Finn, who has produced a beautiful and fascinating work of art, which incorporates both symbols of Christian faith and details of village life. So much to take in and interpret! For example, at the bottom left we can see someone with a bag of shopping knocking on her neighbour's door (an echo of Holman Hunt's famous painting 'The Light of the World?'), standing for the care given and received by so many during the pandemic. And on the right, the main figure of a woman, a universal image of a young mother, who might represent all carers and the concept of caring.

This window is packed with imagery, unusual for much modern stained glass, which is often abstract. The detail is sometimes difficult to see, as the window is above the observer, but the church is going to produce an explanatory booklet which will be a great help to visitors.

However, visible to everyone is the dove of the Holy Spirit in the topmost light of the window, and written clear for all to see are the beautiful words from Isaiah: 'When you go through deep waters I will be with you' (Isaiah 43.2).

I recommend visiting this window yourself—it will speak to each of us in a new and meaningful way. 'A man that looks on glass, on it may stay his eye; or if he pleaseth, through it pass, and then the heav'n espy.' (George Herbert).

Hazel Colebrooke

Whittlesford Church is open during daylight hours.



You can see more of Ben Finn's work at www.benjaminfinn.com

Hilary's Ordination as Deacon - 10th September 2023

Dr Hilary Walker was ordained Deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral by the Rt Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford.



Top: Rev'd Nikki Horsley, Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker ; Rt Rev'd Roger Morris; Rt Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani; Ven Robin King; Rev'd Tayrina Ferguson. Bottom: Gill Caswell, Rev'd Jeremy Trew, Jan Siewertsen; Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker, Pam Russell.

Hilary's initial training was as a teacher and she taught predominantly upper primary pupils for over thirty years, before retraining as a counsellor specialising in teenagers. She says that, in her spare time, she managed to fit in a few degrees in history culminating in a PhD on the life of 18th century artisans – the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker etc. – with a focus on Saffron Walden. Before the service, Hilary said, "I view my upcoming ordination as a deacon with equal degrees of excitement and trepidation. It is the culmination of one stage of my journey towards priesthood and the beginning of a new one. I am very much looking forward to being part of the team in my benefice and to having the opportunity to serve the people of the area in whatever ways I can."

Clifford Want