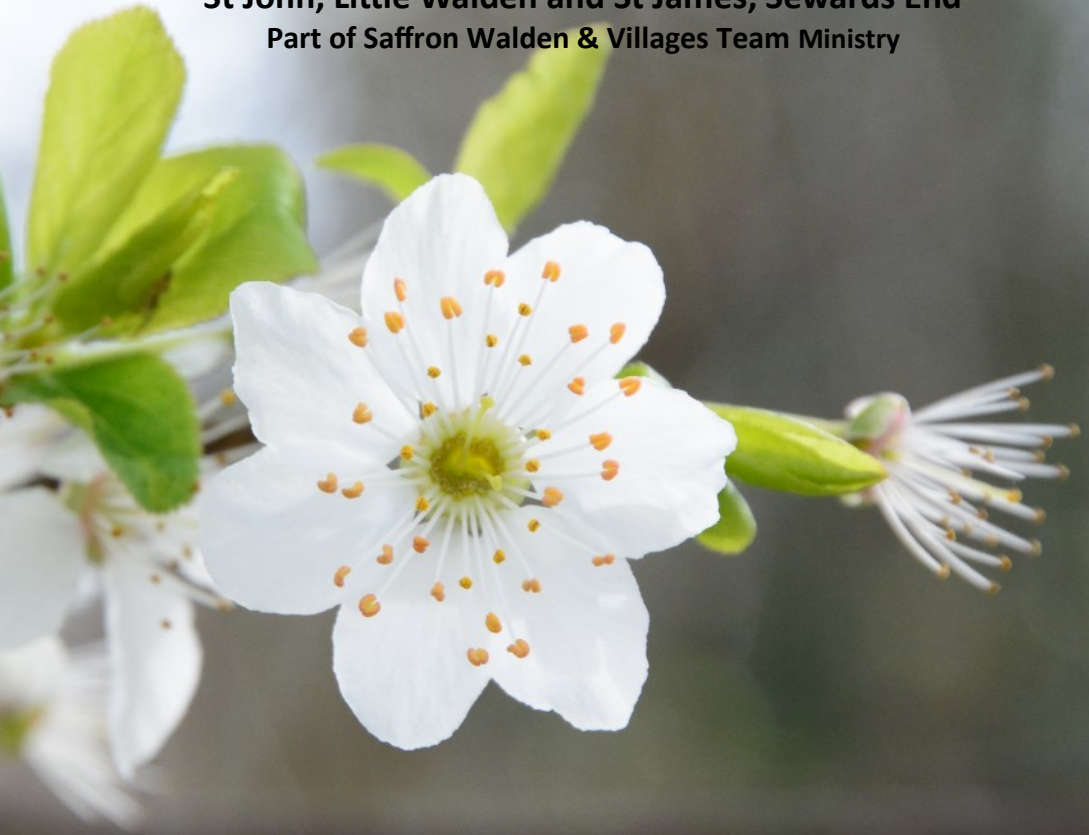


Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



April 2024

FREE

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

Saturday 1st June 2024

18:00

Jonathan Scott



International Concert Organist

Free entry with retiring collection

Littlebury Plant Sale

Sunday 14 April - 2 - 4pm
at the church

Teas
Books

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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 **May** issue is **Sunday 7th April**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org



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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

By the time you are reading this we will have celebrated Easter, the clocks will have gone forward lengthening our evenings, and Spring will most definitely be in the air. So, I'd like to take this opportunity to mention our Annual Parochial Church Meetings. Meetings for each Parish will take place around this time of year. These meetings are a chance to hear reports on the life of our church communities, ask questions, and to elect people to help with the leadership of the church for the



following year. They are an important part of the churches' year and I encourage you to come along and take your part.

My grateful thanks go to all who have so capably steered our churches through this past year. I recognise that, with clergy vacancies, this is not an easy task. It's not necessarily easy with clergy in post either, to be honest. However, it is a task that needs doing if we are to fulfil our task to "proclaim afresh the Gospel in each generation." This is also a time to thank all those who labour, often behind the scenes, in caring for our church buildings and ensuring they continue to run and be available to their communities. Thank you all.

There is a lot that goes in to the proper leading of a church. The Vicar is paid to play a part in that admittedly, but there's just no way a Vicar can carry out that leadership effectively without the help of a committed group of people; that's the Parochial Church Council. Anyone who is on the Electoral Roll can become a member of the PCC, either as a general member or as a churchwarden, secretary, treasurer or Deanery Synod representative. Each role requires a different commitment but offers a different reward. With shared responsibility no one role need become too onerous, and there's always support on offer from the Diocesan Office.

I would like each person who is on the electoral role of our churches to consider and pray whether they ought to become involved in the PCC in a

particular role. I am available to explain what each role entails and how you could be supported in it.

It was at that first Easter that Jesus handed over responsibility to his followers and made their success possible. For reasons known only to God he did not choose experts, nor those who together would make the perfect team. He chose ordinary people, plus a few troublemakers, and did something extraordinary through them. He still works that way it seems.

Yours
Jeremy

A Prayer for April

provided by the Prayer Team

'God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out "Abba, Father" So you are no longer slaves, but God's children and since you are his children, he has made you also heirs'. (Galatians 4.6,7 TNIV)

So we can pray and sing:

Abba Father, let me be Yours and Yours alone,
May my will forever be evermore Your own.
Never let my heart grow cold, never let me go.
Abba Father, let me be Yours and Yours alone.



Whatever can I do?

We can no longer be unaware of the facts of the climate crisis: the never-ending news stories of fires, floods and disasters; the constant breaking of temperature records; the sequence of rain and storms that make roads impassable and scupper enjoyment of our gardens.

In the face of all this, many of us feel powerless. Far bigger forces are at work: powerful multi-national companies that hold the purse strings of political action; countries with populations and economies that dwarf our own.

'Whatever I do, it will make no difference,' is a common refrain. But not a very Christian one!

China is indeed a massive economy, but the average Chinese citizen does not have the carbon footprint that most of us do. They are manufacturing the vast majority of our clothing, phones, car components and white goods for us. However, they are far ahead of us in the manufacture of renewable technologies.

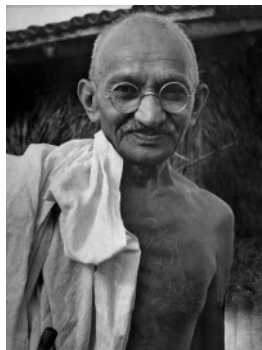
India is also a growing economy, keen to bring its people out of poverty and into some of the affluence that we enjoy. Of course they want to take the cheapest route to do that. Our moral duty must surely be to help them leap-frog fossil fuels to address poverty using clean energy.

Let's be honest. Aren't we just trying to continue life as normal when we claim to be a small and insignificant economy? We would all like to be exceptional. Some feel exceptional because they are so rich and powerful; others because they are so small and modest that 'whatever we do will make no difference.'

In the end it has to be about integrity. Firstly, National Integrity. We led the world into the Industrial Revolution, so surely we should be leading the transition to a new, healthy and harmonious world? We are already far behind many other nations in getting new technological concepts to market. If we actually took the lead in making the transition, we would be better placed when fossil fuels become part of our history.

And then Personal Integrity. Perhaps Gandhi's greatest saying was, 'be the change you want to see in the world,' or more accurately: 'We but mirror the world. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him.'

The challenge is to avoid being selfishly selective about the changes we make. Those who can't resist



flying regularly to exotic locations, often explain how assiduous they are in their recycling habits. That just won't cut the mustard!

In the end each of us needs to acknowledge our carbon footprint and then to take responsibility for it.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

New Editor of Parish News Needed

After 5 years in the role, I will be stepping down as editor of *Parish News* in September 2024. The right person to take over needs to have good word-processing skills and be happy to work to a monthly deadline. It's a job that might suit two working together as a team.

If no one comes forward by then I am willing to remain as *acting* editor for the rest of 2024 to honour our commitment to our advertisers.

After that, if still no new editor is found, sadly it would appear that Parish News will cease publication, certainly in its present form.

If you would like to know more, you can speak to me about the job, then to Martin Huggall, chairman of the Communications Committee.

Andy Colebrooke



The QuinquaQuiz took place in the Parish Rooms on February 10th to raise money for the Bishop's Lent Appeal and once again a Team from Ashdon called 'The Black Sheep' won the Cup. The Quiz raised £320.

Thank you to all the Teams who took part.

Chris Bishop, Quiz Master



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Proposed New Lighting Scheme – Come and give your views!

Following the report in the March Parish News, the Lighting Team are pleased to announce the details of our consultation meetings on the lighting proposals.

We shall be holding 4 consultation meetings in the church after Easter, for the congregation, the wider community of St Mary's, and the town. This will be **your** chance to hear about the proposals, ask questions, and help us move forward in the right direction, so please come and take part!

Reminders will be given in the Grapevine, the dates will be on the website and we shall also be issuing a Press Notice to the local press, but please put these dates in your diary now!

Wednesday 17 April	11 am
Wednesday 17 April	7.30 pm
Thursday 25 April	11 am
Thursday 25 April	7.30 pm

At each meeting we will explain the background to the proposals and progress so far, and show a short presentation which sets out the context and illustrates the 'look and feel' of the concept design. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions.

We will then invite your detailed written feedback. We need to be sure that there is clear support for the proposals before moving forward to detailed design, so please do take this opportunity of telling us what you think.

Please bear in mind, however, that **Doing nothing is not an option:** the existing lighting is already failing, and replacing it is becoming a health and safety issue as well as an environmental one, given its high energy use – and the cost that entails.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to speak to Steve, Paula or any of the Lighting Team if you have any questions.

Steve Hasler and Paula Griffiths

Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

Are you looking for a final resting place for a loved one? The Cemetery at Radwinter Road is an oasis in the town which is open 24/7 and there is tranquillity within.

Further information on burials is available from The Cemetery Officer at Saffron Walden Town Council, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HR Telephone: 01799 516501 or email enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk

Our local Cemetery is 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 also a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A small well-appointed Chapel is available to hire.

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



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Extracts from the PCC Meeting on 17th January 2024

The PCC gave thanks for well-attended Christmas services, a successful first Wiggle Service, and for the Christmas Fair. Christmas had been very encouraging; at one service and at a school service 1000+ had attended. Midnight service numbers were diminishing, although many people there were not regular congregants. The services were opportunities to bless people who come once or twice a year. Matt Williams said that the first Wiggle Church Service had gone well, with 24 attending, including parents.

The Property Committee had received a quote of nearly £8,000 from specialists to clean the windows: it was decided to postpone this. Advice has been received that the main electrical supply in the church should be protected against electrical surges, including lightning strikes. This work will be undertaken at a cost of £1000 plus VAT.

There followed a discussion on the 2024 budget. Although large legacies had been received, after these funds had been allocated to ongoing projects, reserves were decreasing. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that the trustees ideally ought to keep £65,000 in reserves. The requirement to cut expenditure and increase income for everyday running costs needed to be raised with both the church and the wider Saffron Walden community and various communication strategies were suggested. Jeremy suggested the church pay the Parish share this year (which covers the cost of clergy, central administrations and subsidises these costs in less well-resourced parishes who cannot afford to pay these). The PCC will readdress the issues at the next meeting. The PCC agreed how to use the legacy from Lawrence Gooderham's estate for various projects. The PCC noted that the budgeted deficit of £23,293 for 2024 excluded any outward giving. The PCC accepted the Finance Committee's proposal not to amend the Reserves Policy and therefore to seek to clear the 2024 deficit by having a robust stewardship appeal in February & then, if necessary, having a Gift Day in May / June and to recruit new members to regular giving.

The PCC considered the Church of England's prayers which can be used for the blessing of same-sex relationships within existing services. Prayers on similar themes had been used previously in the Church for covenanted friendships or for the blessing of a home. Clergy are encouraged to be sensitive to individual congregations so each PCC is invited to give an opinion. A discussion followed. Everybody who spoke at the meeting was in favour of the prayers.

The PCC renewed their commitment to the Saffron Walden Parish Safeguarding Policy. This is a legal requirement. A section on livestreaming had recently been updated and other guidelines will be reviewed when the Diocese has updated theirs. Since Kathryn Bennett has requested to step down as Parish Safeguarding Representative in the near future, a new candidate has been proposed. The PCC would be consulted again in February to give their consent before the person is appointed.

Steve Hasler introduced the proposed Lighting Project designs. Lighting is the church's largest component of electricity use. St Mary's is within the top 600 of 16,000 UK churches in terms of energy footprint. Changing the lighting to LEDs would lower electricity use. Current lightbulbs are inaccessible for changing and less effective which discourages potential hirers. Commercial LEDs would last at least 50 years. A discussion ensued as to the ethics of spending large sums on buildings when there were wider community needs. Jeremy explained that the church, as well as having wellbeing pastoral care responsibilities for its community also has an obligation to the town and others to look after the church building. Projected total sums were discussed, and possible savings, but any changes would have to come before the Diocesan Lighting consultant, who had already been consulted. The PCC approved the Concept Design for the Lighting for the church and the next steps on the project, which are to request feedback from DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and other statutory consultees and to consult the congregation. The designers would now develop the project further at an initial cost of another £20,000.

St Johns, Little Walden, had a Ukrainian themed service before Christmas. The Village Hall committee is deciding whether they will repair the Village Hall or whether the Church will become the central building for the Village, similar to what is happening in Littlebury Green.

St James, Swards End, had a good Christmas; with carol singing around the village Christmas tree followed by mulled wine in the hall. The Village Hall committee and church committee have some overlap. The Village Youth group is led by Matt.

A paper had been circulated from the Deanery Synod asking what challenges churches faced, what support would help and what resources they could share, and answers were prepared.

Date of the next meeting: Wed. 20th March 2024

Clifford Want



FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The Friends of the Parish Church is a very active group which has been working hard for St Mary's for 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.

Almost 40% of our members also help on a regular basis with the various activities in the daily running of the Church; you will note Welcomers wearing Friends badges at the 10.30am service. We have a bookstand offering postcards, prints and books for sale to our many visitors as well as our own congregation. On the social side, twice a year we travel around the country to visit different towns and cities to tour Cathedrals.

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 updates, news and activities. Should you wish to help the Friends further by leaving a Legacy there are leaflets to assist you in that process, also to be found on the bookstand.

Chairman: Denis Tindley, Secretary: Pamela Mugliston, Treasurer: Sandra Marsh

THE FRIENDS CATHEDRAL TRIPS

The trip to Rochester is fully booked with a reserve list. News and a photo from that trip will be in the May or June issue.

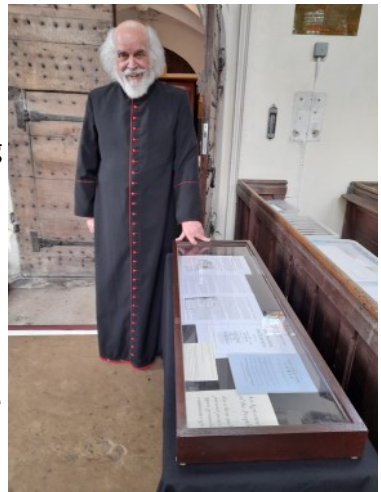
Our late summer trip (date to be notified soon) will be to St Albans Cathedral for a tour and then on to Ware for lunch and a trip along the river. Do hope you will be able to join us.

FRIENDS SHARED LUNCH

There will be a Friends shared lunch after a service during the summer, date to be announced after the next committee meeting 6th March. This will be in the Parish Rooms and we hope that as many members, especially new members, will be able to join us so that we can get to know you.

ARCHIVE BOX

Just in case you have missed the archive info see photo. Canon Chris Bishop is, as I am sure you know, our Archivist.



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Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

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Three very short but powerful proverbs on the subject of **TRUTH**.

From Germany comes: -

"The grave of one who dies for the truth is holy ground."

From Jugoslavia comes: -

"Tell the truth and run."

And a Latin Proverb says: -

"Time discovers truth."



The Calendar

This calendar is provisional. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

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 10.30am services.

Thursday 4 April

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

Sunday 7 April

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.15am Wiggle Church in Parish Rooms

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm H2H: Youth-led Service for all in Parish Rooms

Sunday 14 April

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 21 April

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

4pm Living Stones in Parish Rooms



Sunday 28 April

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Taizé Service

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

St James', Swards End

Sunday 7 April

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 21 April

10.30am Morning Praise



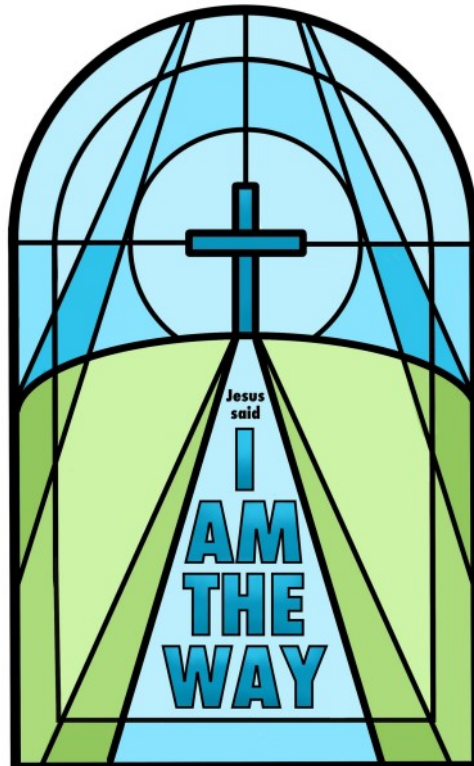
St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 14 April

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 28 April

10.30am Holy Communion



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

I was born in Harrogate, Yorkshire then moved to Buckinghamshire where I spent my secondary school years before going to Nottingham University to study French and Spanish. After completing my PGCE at Cambridge in 1985, I secured my first teaching post in Bishop's Stortford. I wanted to continue singing in a choir in Cambridge so looked on the map to see where a suitable place to live might be between Cambridge and Stortford and found this unfamiliar but delightful place called Saffron Walden. I bought a tiny flat in Church Street and, the first Sunday after I moved in, I attended my first service at St Mary's when I met Peter Harlow and some other friendly people including the deputy head at my new school. I was immediately made to feel welcome and have been worshipping there ever since – almost 40 years! I was confirmed in St Mary's in 1986, my three sons were all baptised there and sang in the junior choir. I was Chairman/Administrator of the SMMA from 2001-2009 and have been a member of the choir since 2000. My eldest son Alex was also organ scholar in 2006/7 and married Viktorija there in 2017. I was appointed Weddings Co-ordinator in 2014, the same year Peter and I celebrated the blessing of our marriage so St Mary's has been and continues to be a very special place to our family.



Particular highlights often involve music. I feel frequently overwhelmed by the power of music in such a profoundly spiritual and beautiful place. For example, singing "Lo, he comes" at the end of the Advent carol service with the full blaze of light, organ, choir or "Thine be the Glory" on Easter morning. Sometimes just singing a lovely hymn like "Just as I am" or "Angels voices ever singing" with the sun shining through the stained glass can be extremely powerful. One memorable occasion was when my youngest son, Bobby, sang the treble solo in Mendelssohn's Hear My Prayer and I caught a glimpse of my father, who had sung it as a chorister himself, sitting in the congregation, tears rolling down his cheeks.

I am asked what event sticks in my mind since I have lived here but there have been so many! I must single out our wedding blessing but also Peter Harlow's final service as Rector, David Tomlinson's installation and final services as well as Alex and Viktorija's wedding followed by the

procession of guests, our family and friends, from the churchyard to Bridge End Gardens for the reception, bells ringing, sun shining. Saffron Walden at its best!

Peter and I are so happy living in the town and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. Walking down Gold Street on a sunny day and seeing St Mary's stand majestically beyond the rooftops or wandering round the market on a Saturday morning bumping into familiar people or one of my wedding couples are particular pleasures.

As for a family motto - I have always tried to teach my sons to appreciate the value of family and friends and to be considerate and compassionate to others - so whatever that is in Latin!



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All in the month of April



It was:

- 300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.
- 200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.
- 175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.
- 150 years ago, on 5th April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.
- 125 years ago, on 29th April 1899 that Duke Ellington, American jazz/swing pianist, composer and orchestra leader, was born.
- 100 years ago, on 17th April 1924 that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM) was founded when Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B Mayer Pictures merged.
- Also 100 years ago, on 23rd April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.
- 90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.
- 75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

- 70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.
- 60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.
- 50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.
- 40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.
- 30 years ago, on 6th April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began, when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day, and between 500,000 and one million people were massacred during the next 100 days.
- Also 30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.
- 20 years ago, on 1st April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.
- 10 years ago, on 14th April 2014 that the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

Parish Pump

Photograph: Eilis Garvey on Unsplash



St Mary's Music News - April 2024

St Mary's Music News – April 2024 - Life as a Choral Scholar There is never a dull moment in the music-making of St Mary's Choir. Even once the busy Christmas and Epiphany period is over, there's Easter to be working towards (which proves to be a wholly different level of dedication to music learning and note bashing). On Good Friday, there will be the usual Devotional Offering, which this year has Faure's beautiful Requiem as the main item.

Choral Evensongs are always an opportunity for some wonderful pieces of sacred music to be aired. February's service was no exception, with the singing of Herbert Sumsion's 'They That Go Down To The Sea In Ships' being the choir's offering for the anthem. There is always some incredible organ voluntary or choral anthem which proves to be the highlight of the month!

At the time of writing, the Coffee Concerts at St Mary's are in full flow. These are occasions when Saffron Walden music lovers can find some brightness in the often damp and overcast Spring mornings. A recent offering from SWCHS Music Academy provided not just an excellent opportunity for the community to witness the incredible skills of some Music A Level students, but also gave the young musicians an opportunity to prepare for their official recitals in the coming month.

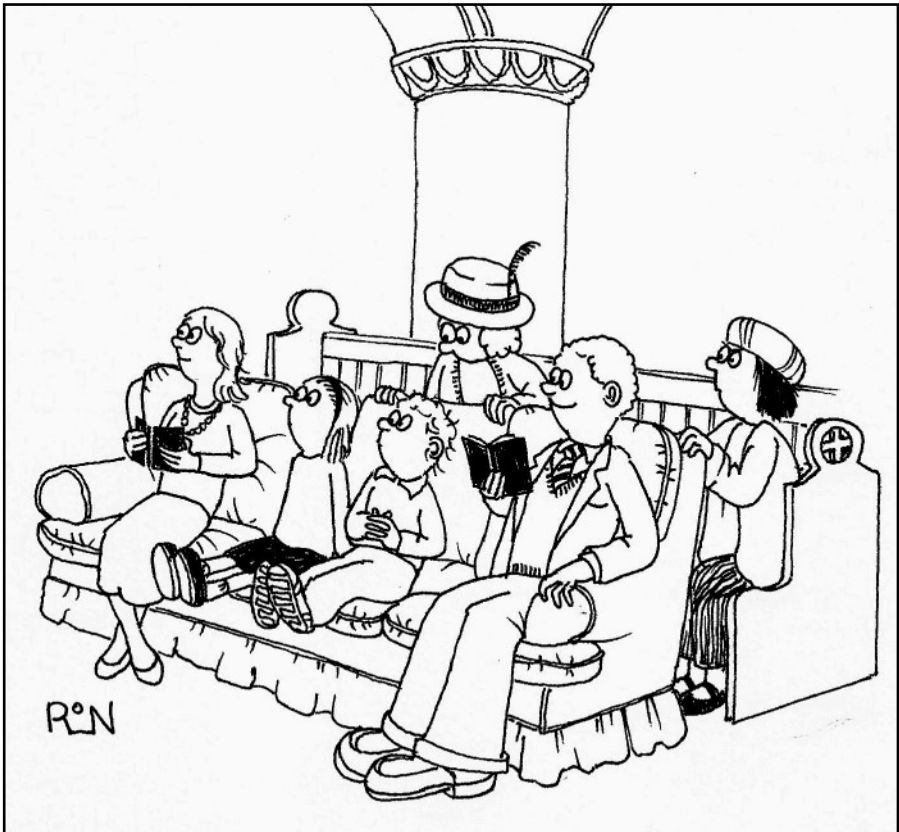
Being a Choral Scholar is both a rewarding and deeply enjoyable activity to partake in. The skills attained in music knowledge, reading, building up a repertoire and simply interacting with many other experienced musicians serve as invaluable building blocks for any music related careers/hobbies that may wish to be pursued in later years. Almost all of the current scholars have progressed from being in the Junior Choir, and it certainly feels odd swapping the familiar red robe and surplice for the blue robe and (eventually) the purple scholar ribbon. Being a scholar who has transitioned through all 4 SATB parts in the last 3 years, I can vouch that getting to sing alongside a mix of other new singers to the part and experienced performers allowed me to quickly and efficiently learn the new clefs associated with each voice part.

I've also had to learn the art of being the crucifer in the 1st and 3rd Sunday services of the month (as well as Evensongs). Although a fairly straightforward role, it feels a massive responsibility setting the pace for the choir, and especially remembering when to retrieve the cross at the end of the service! It has recently become a requirement that all scholars

carry the cross for a service at least once a month, and despite the hardships, it should be very worthwhile for developing a deeper sense of internalising the music and the speed, as well as a good upper body workout.

The Annual General Meeting of the SMMA will be held in the Parish Rooms on Sunday 21st April after the 10:30 service. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Eden Faith



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

A Palm Sunday Reflection

Editor: During the dark days of Covid-19 lockdowns when going to church was not possible, local clergy took it in turns to write short reflections for The Grapevine. Here is one of Caroline Curren's.

For the crowds in Jerusalem, it was holiday time. A tense time indeed under Roman occupation, but for ordinary people a time of pilgrimage, time off work, and a chance to see this controversial new preacher entering the city. It was easy to get swept up in the excitement in a crowd that was in danger of becoming out of control. Yet there is more here than a warning about the fickleness of public opinion.

For Jesus was very much in control, not caught up by events, or surprised when they were to turn against him. He was making a point, fulfilling Hebrew scripture (Zechariah 9:9). He made careful preparation in practical terms of arranging the room in which to celebrate with his disciples. And spiritually this was the control of a man going willingly to his death to fulfil his unique mission. From a period of time when Jesus was active – teaching and healing – he now enters a time when he is vulnerable and helpless.

Jesus both accepted and embraced passivity and helplessness in this final week before his death. He knew that this was the place from which new life would come, and he had absolute trust in God, his Father.

Going deeper

Jesus is 'handed over' to the authorities. This neutral phrase is apparently a better translation of the Greek than the word 'betrayed'. In our lives there are times when we are, through circumstances, handed over into the control of others or of events. Jesus' acceptance of suffering and helplessness has much to teach us in a society where we value our independence. A crisis – even of ordinary personal illness, but especially in the current situation – makes us feel helpless, which is deeply uncomfortable. It is very hard to accept that we are not in charge of our own fate and our futures.

I wonder...

If we can ask God's help to trust Him through the current crisis, and to see it as the place from which new life will eventually come.

The Rev'd Caroline Curren

1st April 2020

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Muniments
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Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop

April 1917

One of our readers has sent us, and asked to publish the following recipes, which may be useful in this shortage of wheat flour.

Northumbrian Barley Cake.

Quantities: 1lb. Barley meal (can be obtained from some of the millers) 1 teaspoonful salt. Half teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, quarter teaspoon of cream of tartar, sufficient churned milk, or butter milk to make soft dough, firm into balls, press out with the hand until about the size of a cheese plate, put straight into oven on a biscuit sheet. Bake about 20 minutes in a quick oven. This may require turning over to brown on both sides. Two cakes usually broken not cut.

Barley Scones.

Quantities. Half pound of barley meal, 3ozs, white flour, 1 oz butter or lard, 1 and a half teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a pinch of salt. Mix flour and meal, rub in butter and baking powder and salt. Mix with a knife to a soft dough with about half a pint of milk, work it lightly into a ball on a baking board, then pat it out to about half an inch thick and bake on griddle or stove.

(Archivist. These magazines also contained news from neighbouring churches....food again)

Chrishall

The recent order to bakers to sell no bread less than 12 hours old will help to reduce the amount eaten. As I mentioned in the May Magazine last year our ancestors 100 years ago, about the time of the Battle of Waterloo, saved one sixth of the supply by only eating stale bread. The other day I came across the remark :- "Patriotic people do **not peel** potatoes"Not only are potatoes nicer to eat when boiled in their jackets, but they are also much more nourishing and easier to digest.

Canon Chris Bishop, Archivist

Film Club - Living



Our fourth meeting, the first of the new term, brought us together to watch “Living”, a gentle and poignant 2022 film set with remarkable authenticity in 1952 London. It comprises a Kazuo Ishiguro scripted remake of Akira Kurosawa’s 1952 production “Ikiru” (“To Live”) about a man dealing with a terminal illness. Directed by Oliver Hermanus, Bill Nighy is superbly cast in the lead role as Mr Williams who with Aimee Lou Wood as the young Miss Harris, give a deeply affecting performance.

Mr Williams is a softly spoken career bureaucrat working joylessly as head of a team in the Department of Public Works at London’s County Hall where mountains of paperwork accumulate due to inaction and obfuscation. In particular, a file on a well-presented petition from a desperately persistent group of women to build a small play area on a bomb site is routinely passed around other Departments only to be returned to Mr Williams’ pending tray where “We can keep it for now. It will do no harm”.

Mr Williams, in his private life is a lonely widower compromised by his unfeeling live-in son and irascible daughter-in-law whom he overhears arguing about their inheritance. Approaching a retirement as empty and without purpose as his dull career, he is confronted with a diagnosis of terminal cancer and short life expectancy which jolts him into the realisation that he is already effectively dead. He feels a desperate urge to make the most of whatever time is left to him. His initial response is to escape and “live a little” which he does by absenting himself from the office and fleeing to a seaside resort where, engaging with questionable company, he is encouraged to indulge in a night of boozy decadence from which he emerges with an increased sense of loss.

Returning to London, he has a chance meeting with the youthful Miss Harris, a junior in his team at County Hall, who seeks a reference to help her break away and take up a position at Lyons Corner House. An endearing platonic friendship develops with each having confessions to make: Miss Harris who secretly used to call him “Mr Zombie” (“dead but not dead”) which Mr Williams finds wholly appropriate, he confiding in her about his diagnosis and also expressing envy at her youth “to be alive like that for just one day”.

He resolves to return to County Hall determined to get the children’s play area built before death overtakes him. Through sheer will and to the

amazement of his colleagues he passionately drives the petition through all levels of the bureaucracy to poignantly deliver the completed project to the women and children of Chester Street.

Modestly gratified by his success, Mr Williams is astute enough in a sealed note left to Peter Wakeling (Alex Sharp), the intuitive new recruit to his team, to reflect that triumph may be short-lived and our strivings may not produce lasting results but we will have lived by playing our part. Following Mr Williams' death his colleagues made a pact to learn from his selfless example, but sadly, it was only a gesture before relapsing into former practice.

We were left to ponder our own mortality and to ask ourselves "are we living?"; then renew our efforts to "live a little" in the service of others.

Bill Rose

Illustration: Gino Crescoli from Pixabay

From the Registers

Weddings

24 February Harold Quansah and Angela Addae
(St Mary's Church)

Funerals

7 February Julie Start
22 February Georgina Start



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.

Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.

The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St Mary's, Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'.

Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St. Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature.

In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell!

Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665

Ken McDonald, Secretary



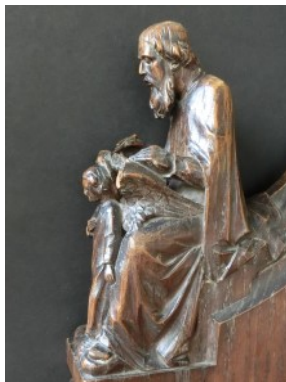
Hatfield Broad Oak



Bartlow



Ickleton



Linton



Much Hadham



Widford



Hatfield Broad Oak



Wendens Ambo

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