

# Parish News

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

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

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



**August-September 2024**

**FREE**

## Friends Lunch 30th June 2024



### New Facebook Page for St Mary's

We now have a new Facebook page for St Mary's, Saffron Walden. Do visit us at [www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchsaffronwalden](http://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchsaffronwalden) and like and follow.



### St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

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There is a link to this at the bottom of each page of St Mary's website.

Hannah Razzell is kindly managing this page—[hannah.razzell@googlemail.com](mailto:hannah.razzell@googlemail.com)

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## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **October** issue is **Sunday 1st September**.

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*Cover photograph by Andy Colebrooke*

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

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## The Rector's Letter

**From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew**

**Jeremy writes...**

I don't know what your experiences were, but at my school careers advice was rather useless. The best bit of advice I ever received was at a family get-together for my father's side of the family. Everyone there was either a teacher or a chartered accountant (remember – no-one chooses their family). Their advice was; "Jeremy, whatever you do in life don't become a teacher or an accountant." It seemed like good advice and I took it.



August must be a blessed relief for teachers. At long last they've come to the end of a long academic year, and they have earned every minute of the break they're enjoying. Though, it is a relative break, as time off from children does not mean time off from preparation, paperwork and the like. Also, for many, it is not the profession they joined: children now face examinations almost from starting school to satisfy the neurosis of a control society; that very same society also demands that schools take up many of the basic educational tasks that were once the responsibility of society itself and especially the parents.

The culture of the Bible, and particularly the Old Testament, viewed children as one of God's greatest blessings, an unmerited gift whose existence blessed the whole of society in turn. With such a belief hovering in the background it is not surprising that the nurture and care of those children was seen as a shared responsibility, and not just the task of parents, or preferably qualified professionals. This is part of the reason that I value Church and other faith schools. Their existence demonstrates that the nurture of children is more than merely a devolved responsibility, but is fundamental to the human task, just as faith is fundamental to human meaning.

Maybe we can learn from this: to look at the tasks that others do and recognise that our welfare is in part dependent on their labour, and theirs on ours; and, to accept that this gives us a mutual responsibility one for the other. Maybe then we will not be so ready to offload our responsibilities on other people, but will be more willing to face the needs of our society collaboratively.

Best wishes

Jeremy



## Social Events in St Mary's

We would very much like to start organising some social events in and around the Church, both for our regular congregation and maybe for the wider community. As a starting point, we would like to invite you to the annual Macmillan coffee morning, being held in St Mary's Church Saffron Walden, on Friday 27th September from 9.30 - 12.00.

All monies to go to Macmillan Cancer Support, although this is intended as a social occasion as well as a fundraiser. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your friends!

Any offers of cakes etc etc would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Chris Cowling ( 07443 468907) or Sue Birchall ( 07813 947157) for further information.

If you have any other ideas for appropriate social activities you would enjoy, do please share them with Sue Birchall (contact details as above) or me, Vivian Falk (07811 165049).

## From the Departing Editor

I am now stepping down after 5 happy years in the job as editor of Parish News. My special thanks go to the team of people whose help has been invaluable to me over the years. Firstly, all those who have contributed articles, reports and pictures during my time, especially those who have done so on a monthly basis. Without you there would be no magazine. I think I have had more comments about the cover pictures than anything else, so thank you to the photographers who keep us supplied with images that are so attractive and striking to look at.

Then there are those who, month by month, check through the draft magazine and make helpful comments and corrections. Theirs is a Herculean task and they deserve special mention: Clifford Want, Martin Hugall, Chris Bishop, Hazel Colebrooke, and more recently John Pickthorn. And thirdly, I want to thank Gillian Brace, Rufus Barnes, and now Patrick Li, whose sterling efforts to attract and maintain our advertisers has been vital to the continuation of Parish News.

And, of course, thank you to all our readers, whether you take the print copies or read us on line. Long may you continue to do so! Finally, I must now thank John Pickthorn for taking over the reins, and I wish him every success in the future and trust he will enjoy the job every bit as much as I have.

Andy Colebrooke

## An exercise in Futility

We have re-elected our MP. It was never going to be me, but I stood anyway to try to raise some sense of urgency about the Climate Crisis which was so studiously ignored during the General Election campaign.

A few weeks ago, after giving my usual talk on 'Adventure, Activism and the Climate Crisis' at a retirement home in Bury St Edmunds, an octogenarian asked me, 'What hope is there?'

It is the toughest question I ever face, because I have so little of it left. I started by replying: 'It depends on what you are hoping for.'

If you are hoping that Climate Crisis will go away, then I can assure you it won't.

If you think that technology will enable us to continue business as usual, then I'm afraid that is a false hope too. There *is* great technology out there, but the levels of investment to get it scaled up in time won't happen without political leadership.

And if you are hoping that it will all be over when we reach net zero (which we are not *remotely* on track to do by 2050) the fact is that net zero is just the *start* of the race your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will have to run to start reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, which will over decades and centuries start to cool the oceans.

My heart breaks when I see classes of young school children in their smart uniforms on the streets being shepherded by their teachers.

There *is* a better, fairer, more just and harmonious world out there, but we need the courage to choose it. An economy that works in harmony with nature. Where people don't build their wealth out of other people's poverty.

I am often accused of being unrealistic. But I know it is not possible to negotiate with storms, wildfires, droughts, floods and extreme weather events. Getting us out of this mess is going to be incredibly difficult, but let's start by distinguishing between the Realism of the Planet and the complexities of man-made constructs and start addressing the ways in which our economies and financial systems need to change. Nature recovers quickly, but only once we've stopped abusing it.

Sailing around the world in the Clipper Round the World yacht race, I experienced a profound, visceral connection with the energies of our small, overheated and deeply polluted planet. In the Arctic last summer, having witnessed the melting of icebergs and helming through waves thrown up by intense storms from Florida, my beard growing longer by the day, I began to see myself as The Ancient Mariner.

You will remember how he stops the wedding guest and 'holds him with his

glittering eye'. He has his tale of Man's abuse of Nature, symbolised in the albatross, and the price he and his crewmates had to pay as a result. Like him I have a terrible truth to tell that nobody really wants to hear!

The mariner found redemption when he blessed the watersnakes, seeing beauty in the lowliest and ugliest of God's creatures:

O Happy living things! No tongue  
Their beauty might declare:  
A spring of love gushed from my heart  
And I blessed them unaware;  
Sure my kind saint took pity on me,  
And I blessed them unaware.



I fear that will not be until we learn respect for the microbes in our soil and the phytoplankton in our seas, the creature at the bottom of our food chains, that humanity will find redemption.

So far man's greed, arrogance and selfishness have determined our course. Until that changes, I will play the Ancient Mariner, telling my inconvenient truth to whomever will listen.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by S.T. Coleridge. The picture is by Gustave Doré (1876)*

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## Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, *"It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian."* (From *Test of Faith*, Paternoster, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and he felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that *"I'm not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."*

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: *'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.'*

John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. *"I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of His cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."*

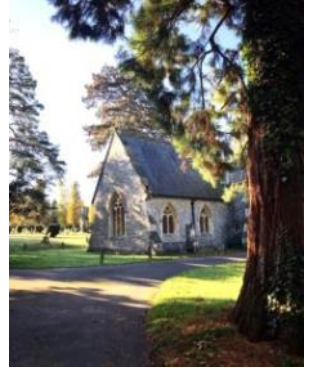
Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute, Cambridge. With thanks to Parish Pump

## 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](mailto: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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## Proposed New Lighting

Following the PCC's approval of the concept design for the new lighting scheme after public consultation, the Lighting Team have met again with the lighting designer and discussed with him the next steps, as well as asking him to address the comments which arose from the consultation meetings. The design team are making good progress – by the time you read this, we expect to have seen and discussed with them a mock-up of how the scheme would look and hope to receive a full bundle of documentation with the detailed design of the scheme by the end of July.

The PCC will be asked to consider this at its September meeting and, if they approve the details, we can move to the next stage - getting tenders; applying for faculty, including the consultations with conservation bodies, which that requires; and raising the necessary funds!

The Fundraising Team are working hard on identifying appropriate grant bodies and preparing applications: if you feel you could help with this, please do contact Steve Hasler.

We shall also be holding a Gift Day for the project in the church on Saturday 21 September, between 11 am and 4 pm. Please do come and support it. Members of the Lighting Team will be there to explain the project in more detail, answer any questions you may have, and update you on progress.

But most importantly please support the project with your prayers. This work is not for ourselves, but to enable us to spread the light of Christ to all who enter this church building, whether they come as pilgrims or tourists – or come just for a quiet space – by enhancing the setting for worship and providing an atmosphere where all may feel valued and welcome.

Four prayer sessions will be held in September and October, all in the North Chapel on the following Thursday evenings from 7.30 -8.15 pm:

19 September

26 September

3 October

10 October

Do come and join us.

Paula Griffiths and Steve Hasler

### A Prayer for the Lighting Project

*Jesus said "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*John Chapter 8, v 12*

God our Father, who spoke at the beginning of creation, saying, "Let there be light", we give you thanks for our church building and for the way it speaks of you. Help us, we pray, as we seek to bring new light to this building. May it be light which speaks of your Light; light which opens the eyes of all who come to worship or to wonder; light which illumines the building and our many activities and reflects your eternal glory.

Give your skill, we pray, to the design team; to all who will work to install the equipment; and give us your wisdom and encouragement in all our discussions, that this work may be completed to your praise and glory: in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Amen.



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## **FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH**

The Friends of the Parish Church is a very active group and has been so for over 90 years. We are able to help financially with minor and major projects at St Mary's. They range from the new Advent candle which we have just purchased to a substantial sum to help the proposed Lighting Project.

Almost 40% of our members have active and varied roles in the Church. We have a bookstand with an assortment of items on sale and next to that a dedicated noticeboard which will keep you up to date on our many activities. We are also on the Church website under "Groups" so do take a look.

If you would like to learn more, pick up a leaflet from the bookstand which also includes an application form to **join us**. Just hand it to any of the Friends Council members or pop in the Parish Office letterbox. If you feel that you would like to leave us a legacy there are forms available on the bookstand for this too.

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

**MEMBERS BRING & SHARE LUNCH** was well supported with 37 members in attendance some of them new members which was lovely to see. Denis gave a short report of ongoing work in which we are involved financially, and kindly said grace for us. As you can see from the photo (page 2) the food contributions were quite amazing and a good time was had by all with the help of a wonderful team of helpers and a glass of wine! See you next year.

**FUND RAISER:** We are still looking for ideas for an Autumn Fund Raiser, any ideas? Would you like to be involved in an event? Could you help at an event? Please let Pamela know so that we can get something started, maybe even something that could be turned into an annual event.  
pjmteddybear@btinternet.com

**THE FRIENDS CATHEDRAL TRIP** to St Albans Cathedral on 30<sup>th</sup> August is now fully booked and we look forward to a lovely day. See the October Parish News for a report. Watch this space for plans for 2025.

**THE FRIENDS AGM SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER** Note for your diary. Do come along to the AGM which will be after the 10.30am service at 11.45am in the Parish Rooms. Catch up on the latest news, bring your ideas along for the coming year including a fund raiser, yet to be arranged. Your participation is important to the Friends and your ideas are invaluable. See you there.

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

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Regarding gossip and such like, a Spanish proverb says,



**'Whoever gossips to you will gossip of you.'**

The Chinese have a very colourful proverb which says,

**'A word rashly spoken cannot be brought back by a chariot and four horses.'**

# 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 10:30 services

### Thursday 1 August

10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel

### Sunday 4 August

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

### Sunday 11 August

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y]

### Sunday 18 August

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Living Stones service at All Saints, Wimbish, CB10 2XG

### Sunday 25 August

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

### Sunday 1 September

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.15am Wiggle Church

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm H2H - Youth-led service for all in Parish Rooms

### Thursday 5 September

10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel

### Sunday 8 September

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion: Patronal Festival [Y]

11.45am Friends AGM

6.30pm SMMA Festal Evensong

### Thursday 12 September

2pm Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Service



### **Saturday 14 September**

9am—5pm Ride and Stride  
6pm Words and Music concert

### **Sunday 15 September**

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
6.30pm Living Stones service at St Mary's, Saffron Walden (location tbc)

### **Saturday 18 September**

Stamp Sale in Saffron Community Link

### **Thursday 19 September**

7.30pm Prayer session in the North Chapel for the Lighting Project

### **Saturday 21 September**

11am-4pm Gift Day for the Lighting Project

### **Sunday 22 September**

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

### **Wednesday 25 September**

11.30 Coffee Concert

### **Thursday 26 September**

7.30pm Prayer session in the North Chapel for the Lighting Project

### **Friday 27 September**

9.30—12 Macmillan Coffee Morning

### **Sunday 29 September**

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

## **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 4 August

10.30am Morning Praise

### Sunday 18 August

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 1 September

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 15 September

10.30am Morning Praise



## St John's, Little Walden

### Sunday 11 August

10.30am Family Service

### Sunday 25 August

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 8 September

10.30am Family Service

### Sunday 22 September

10.30am Holy Communion



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

I was born and brought up on the Sussex Coast, the youngest child of a doctor and his wife. I was a "cradle Christian", both my parents being regular Church goers. It was a happy childhood and at the age of 11, at my choice, I went off to boarding school (I'd been reading too much Enid Blyton and fancied all those midnight feasts!). There we had twice daily chapel, seven days a week, so religious observance was built into my DNA.

When I left school, I came to London and trained as a secretary, at which I was singularly useless. In those days, pretty much the only career choices on offer for girls were teacher, nurse or secretary. I'd had enough of school so rejected the idea of teaching; my doctor father for some reason didn't want me to be a nurse, so I ended up as a secretary. I had a lot of fun in London, sharing flats with many different girls and eventually getting promoted to become Personnel Officer in a large shipping firm.

In 1971, I met my husband, Fergus Falk, and we got married in May 1973. Fergus was an accountant working for a large City Firm and was very involved with the Territorial Army. He was also Liberal Jewish, but had had a Christian education at school and used to boast (with some justification) that he knew more about the New Testament than I did, having done Scripture 'O' level! He was very happy for us to get married in Church, the ceremony being conducted by his Regimental Padre.

In 1976 we left London and moved to a cottage in Radwinter, not wanting to bring up children in London and his office being very near Liverpool Street station. Our three children were born whilst we were in Radwinter and we were all regular attendees at Ashdon Church. By 1984 we had outgrown the cottage and so moved to Little Canfield, just outside Dunmow. Sadly, in 1999, Fergus was diagnosed with Parkinson's, so in 2006, we moved back to Saffron Walden so that we could be in a town whilst he could still get about.

For the next fourteen years, my Church attendance was desultory as his illness



progressed and his care took up more time. He died in 2020, between lockdowns (considerate to the end!). Once the churches reopened, I started attending St Mary's; if I'm honest, as much to give me a reason for getting up on a Sunday morning as anything else, but soon found myself getting drawn into the wonderful, warm, welcoming Church community. I volunteered initially to help with the Christmas Fair, then for the Coffee rota, then as a Welcomer and occasional reader of Lessons until finally, in April this year I was honoured, humbled and more than a little daunted to be asked if I would consider becoming Church Warden.

Over the years I have been a volunteer in all sorts of fields, including School Governor, meals-on-wheels, Parish Councillor, CAB and Cambridge Samaritans, amongst many others. Consequently, I am lucky enough to have a wide circle of friends. I like to garden, play bridge, socialise and I am a regular attendee at Saffron Hall. You asked for a family motto. I have two - "*Semper Viridens*", which I believe translates as "Always Lively" and "*Essayez*", which means "Try". I do my best to live up to both!

## Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update

More than ever, wildlife and their habitats are under threat for survival. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy provides a new vision for our natural spaces and the draft strategy is being prepared for public consultation.

The primary aim of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy is to pinpoint the best locations for the creation and enhancement of habitats, ensuring the greatest benefits for biodiversity and the wider environment. By outlining key biodiversity priorities and proposed actions, the aim is to achieve a more connected, collaborative approach to nature recovery.

The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy draft has been developed in collaboration with farmers, landowners, environmental NGOs, local authorities, members of the public and more. The draft strategy is expected to go to public consultation later this summer.

Sign up to receive updates when the public consultation is live by scanning the QR code below or visiting:



<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/c-e/lhrs-public-consultation>

For more information of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy visit [www.essexnaturepartnership.co.uk](http://www.essexnaturepartnership.co.uk)



 **ESSEX  
LNRS** LOCAL  
NATURE  
RECOVERY  
STRATEGY



## A Prayer for August and September

*Provided by the Prayer Team*

Our Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for summer days of rest and recreation:  
time to set aside the normal activities of our lives;  
to enjoy the beauty of the natural world to inspire,  
renew and refresh us.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you came to bring us new life,  
and sent the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into your people,  
encouraging and equipping them for the service of your kingdom.

Dear God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
help us to walk more closely with you.  
Willing to follow where you lead; trusting you for the future;  
looking to you for the present  
in the knowledge that in all things and in all times  
we are held by your love.  
Amen



## God's Church and God's Creation

We are thrilled that Ed Walker, the Executive Director of *A Rocha International* will be at **All Saints Church, Wimbish on Tuesday evening October 8<sup>th</sup>** (actual time to be confirmed). This will be followed by refreshments. If you are involved in A Rocha Eco Church or generally interested in the global environment and climate change, this is for you!

Ed is married with three children. His background is in disaster management and he spent the first ten years of his career in Africa, working mainly in war-affected disasters. During that time he saw, time and again, the impact of a degraded environment on local communities. In 2008 he returned to England and spent the next 15 years working with the homeless. He set up and ran *Hope into Action* – an award winning charity which enables churches to house the homeless. As well as a degree in Geography he has an MBA and was awarded an MBE in the June 2022 honours list. Ed loves both the Church and God's creation. He is passionate about seeing churches and Christians live out the fulness of the gospel and this role enables him to marry that passion with his love of nature and the environment. Further details from [francesjohnson@meadowfield.uk](mailto:francesjohnson@meadowfield.uk)

## From the Registers

### Weddings

8th June

Simon Brady and Sonya Smith

22nd June

Peter Yates and Rosie Shennan

### Funerals

14th June

Adrian Wright (Sewards End)

18th June

Beryl Brunt

25th June

John Hurry

28th June

Thelma Jones



## Smile Lines

During a game of football, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "Okay," the coach continued, "do you also understand that when the referee makes a decision, you don't argue or curse or threaten to attack him, right?" Again, the boy nodded vigorously. "Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain all that to your mother."

## St Mary's Music News

What an end to the academic year! The popular and successful summer lunchtime concerts running throughout June and July have finished, Jonathan Scott's organ concert drew a large and enthusiastic audience, St Mary's hosted 5 organists during the Fete de la Musique, many of the choir participated in the Come and Sing performance of Handel's Dido and Aeneas at Abbey Lane masterminded by Phil Sunderland, and Oli King and Martin Huggett gave a concert ranging from Mozart and Brahms to Tom Lehrer and Flanders and Swann.



The audience relished the opportunity to join in the chorus of "Mud, mud, glorious mud!" as a counterpoint to the generally rather more sedate hymns experienced in Sunday worship. Whew! All of this in addition to the support regularly provided at services.

Meanwhile, St Mary's has been actively recruiting youngsters for Joyful Noise and the Junior Choir, as they will be the bedrock for the future. David Razzell, with a little help from others, put together a lively and engaging video, which you can see at: [Video of Choir Opportunities at St Mary's, Saffron Walden \(stmaryssaffronwalden.org\)](https://stmaryssaffronwalden.org). 11 children attended a recruitment event for the Junior Choir, and enjoyed singing rounds, some hymns and an anthem. They



then went on a tour of the church, had a go on the organ and tried on robes before stoking up on cake to fortify themselves before putting on a mini recital. On 5 July the youngsters in Joyful Noise shared their end of year concert with family and friends. There are too many helpers to thank, but these events cannot take place without them. If you know any children who might be interested in joining the choirs, or indeed if you are interested in joining the adult choir yourself, please contact [music@stmarysaffronwalden.org](mailto:music@stmarysaffronwalden.org) .



The

anthem for July Choral Evensong at 6.30 on 14th July to celebrate Great Ringing Day will not follow the usual contemplative pattern. Instead the choir will be singing Stanford's "For lo, I raise up" with stirring references to "horses faster than leopards, and ... more fierce than the evening wolves"!

St Mary's musicians will be – largely – taking a well earned break over the summer, although the choir has already started working on some pieces for next term. The first SMMA event is an evening of "Words and Music", with poetry read by Edward Gildea and singing by Iestyn Edwards. Then the autumn series of coffee concerts starts on 25 September. As a wise elderly friend used to tell me: There may be no peace for the wicked, but there's precious little for the righteous! Whichever category we may consider ourselves to be in, the SMMA wishes everyone a very happy, warm and relaxing summer.

Ottillie Lefever

*Photographs by Patrick Li*

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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**

### **A report from August 1914**

Letters have been received by Mrs Mahon, from the Principal of St John's College Rangoon, and from Yaw Han, the boy who is maintained there largely by the offertory given at the children's service on the first Sunday in the month...I enclose a letter from the boy himself. His English of course is not perfect because English is a difficult subject in Burmese Schools, but I report it as he has written it...

*Dear Madam*

*It is my duty to acquaint you with the fact that I did not receive the letter which you sent to me last October. Had it come to hand, I would certainly have sent a reply to it. Before the receipt of your letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1914, I did not know your address.*

*We are now having rain almost every day. We school boys, play foot ball every evening whether shine or wet. This is the game I like best. We will be having inter-class foot ball tournament about the end of July or the beginning of August.*

*I am sure that you will be glad to hear of my promotion to the seventh standard . I am trying to get through the examination which will be in the month of March 1915.*

*I owe great kindness to you and the contributors for kindly giving me education which will help me to go out into the world safely.*

*We have morning and evening service in our school chapel; You and the children of the parish will not left out either from morning or evening prayers. Rev: Mr Rawlinson is our chaplain. He is kind to us. I shall write to you often now, since I have got your address.*

*May the blessings of the Almighty God be upon you and the children in the parish.*

*Hoping to hear from you often.*

*Your affectionate son*

*YAW HAN*



## ***What's in a name?***

Whenever I have moved into a new house, I have always been fascinated to find out why my road is so named. With so many new roads appearing on the map of Saffron Walden as new estates are built, I thought it might be interesting to say a little about why some of the street names have been chosen. Sadly, I won't be able to deal with all the roads on any given estate, but an explanation of some of the street names might encourage people to look into those I have not been able to cover.



*Photograph: John Pickthorn*

I thought I would start with the estate which has Huws Gray as a near neighbour. The three street names I have chosen are: Mapletoft Avenue, Archer Road and Fiske Close. These three jumped out at me as they were all important families in the eighteenth century, my specialist period. In any records of the period, all three names will appear among those of people who held important roles in the town.

Both Robert and William Mapletoft were mayors of Saffron Walden. Robert was an apothecary and surgeon, whilst William was a draper. The Mapletofts were sufficiently wealthy to have their wills proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Robert, for example, was able to pay a premium of £100 to apprentice his son Robert to a Chelmsford surgeon in 1768. £100 in 1768 is equivalent to over £20,000 today.

The Archers were another very influential Saffron Walden family. From relatively humble beginnings in the butchery trade, the Archer family flourished. The five sons of John Archer, butcher, who died in 1775, did well in business. Four followed trades related to butchery such as tanning and fellmongering, whilst the youngest, Henry, became a maltster at a time



when malting was the main source of Walden's wealth. His wealth enabled him to build Hill House in the High Street, a house later extended by George Stacey Gibson.

In the eighteenth century, eighteen of the mayors of Walden were Archers. The Fiskes were a family of surgeons: Charles, John and Samuel, all described themselves as gentlemen. In their wills, again proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, they described themselves as having the rank of Esquire. John served as mayor three times in the eighteenth century, Charles a little later. A relative, Thomas Hall Fiske, also served as both Town Clerk and Mayor.

Hilary Walker

## Extracts from the PCC Meeting on 5th June 2024

**Bells:** One of the bells (the Seventh) had broken. A small group of ringers and PCC members will prepare a costing plan to explore options.

**Appointments:** Gill Caswell and Trisha Troughton were elected to the Team Council. Matt Williamson and Oliver King were co-opted onto the PCC. Ralph Meloy and Carey Dickinson were elected as school governors at St Mary's School. It was agreed that Tricia Troughton should become an Authorised Local Preacher.

**Streaming services:** Two rooms in the Care Home in Newport now watch our live streams on Sundays and have asked for service sheets.

**Parish News:** The PCC had agreed to cover any shortfall in the costs of publication until the end of 2025. A shortfall of £360 was envisaged at present. The magazine used to cost 50p but is currently free. The PCC felt that no charge should be made.

**Facebook:** Lewis Colley and Martin Hugall have set up a new Facebook page for the church which Hannah Razzell will manage.

**Church guides:** We now have a Church guide in Ukrainian.

**Safeguarding:** Nathan Colley has been appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer, protecting vulnerable adults as well as children and youth. There have been changes to the Church of England Handbook which require the Parish Safeguarding Officer guidelines to be amended. We ask Nathan with Judith Hasler's help to work on keeping our guidelines and policies up to date.

**Finance Report:** The General Fund is down £7,969. Stewardship no longer covers the two main items of expenditure (there has been a shortfall for the last 3 months of £5,367). The financial shortfalls require either a rise in income or a fall in spending. The result of the Stewardship appeal was pleasing: an increase of £12,000.

**Lighting Project:** It is agreed that a gift day for the lighting project should be held in September or October. Prayers for the project will be drafted. At least two more people are needed for the lighting project team, ideally from the PCC. It was agreed to proceed with a detailed design and to tender for the installation.

**Property Committee:** someone needs to take on the project of re-hanging of the brass in the North Chapel.

**St John's, Little Walden:** A heating advisor has visited and outlined various options. There is a new Village Hall committee with a new very keen leader. It is hoped lots of people will contribute to costs.

**St James', Swards End:** There is to be a fete and a Patronal Festival village tea. There is now good cooperation with the Youth Club. Saffron Walden is fast approaching Swards End and there is talk of changing the town boundaries. Swards End could assist in outreach to the new estate near Tesco.

**Deanery Synod (15 th May):** Archdeacon Kate Peacock spoke of how she became a Christian, and asked how those present might tell their own faith-stories. She also asked for prayer for the Deanery. Discussions reminded everyone how important it is that our churches are welcoming to outsiders. Plans are progressing to appoint a worker for the Open the Book Project, which trains volunteers to go into schools to teach about the Bible, with a pre-agreed script. Funding is being sought to support schools work across the Deanery.

**Future events:** The Churches Together request to hold a General Election candidates' Hustings on Monday 1st July in St Mary's Saffron Walden was agreed.

**Next PCC Meeting:** Wednesday 11th September 2024

Clifford Want



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